The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Forestry Committee was called to order at 8:00 A.M., Wednesday April 17, 2019.

Present from the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee were: Phil Schneider, Jerry Biller, Lyle Lieffring, Allan Rathsack and Terry Dusell.

Also present: Jeremy Koslowski – Forest Administrator, Mike Zimmer – Parks Manager, Jerrad Macholl – Assistant Forest Administrator and Derek Jochimsen - DNR Liaison Forester. Andy Albarado – Administrative Coordinator.

Present from the Public:
Bob Grunseth, George Sishman, Lionel Klein, Tim Vacho, Don Mansky, Ben Hanson

Approval of Minutes:
Motion by Biller/Lieffring to approve March 20, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion carried

Public Comment:
Public comment was given in regards to the Chippewa Property.

Closed Session:
Forestry Bond Revocations or Confiscations, Chair announces closed session for negotiating sale of city/county owned property: Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session, WI Stats 19.85(1) (e).

Motion by Lieffring/DuSell to enter into closed session. Roll Call: Voting Yes – Lieffring, Biller, DuSell, Rathsack and Schneider. Motion carried.

Also present: Derek Jochimsen – DNR Liaison Forester, Jerrad Macholl – Assistant Forest Administrator, Mike Zimmer – Parks Manager.

Entered into Closed Session at 8:03 a.m.

Motion by a Lieffring/Rathsack at 8:31 a.m. to return to open session.

Timber Sale Extensions and Closeouts:
Lionel Klein-Contract #2469 – Lionel asked the Committee for a special 1 year extension with a 10% increase to finish Contract 2469. Discussion held.

Vacho Trucking-Contract #2481 – Tim would like the Committee to collect partial bond only based off of amount of sale cut. Discussion held.

Ben Hanson (Futurewood)-Contract #2478 – Futurewood is willing to forfeit bond as per contract language but would like to retain bidding privileges. Discussion held.
Information provided to committee based off of contract language.

**CONTRACT #** | **LOGGER** | **6 MONTH EXTENTION**
---|---|---
2489 | CFP Transit | 4th Extension
*2496 | Peter Kron | 4th Extension
2497 | S&S Forestry Plus | 4th Extension
2507 | Dvorak Lumber | 3rd Extension
2514 | Burmeister Logging | 2nd Extension
2516 | Ron Olynick | 2nd Extension
2525 | Kreier Forest Product | 2nd Extension
2526 | Kreier Forest Product | 2nd Extension
2527 | Kreier Forest Product | 2nd Extension
2529 | Allen Suzan | 1st Extension
2530 | Allen Suzan | 1st Extension
2532 | JW Logging | 1st Extension
2535 | Ron Olynick | 1st Extension
2537 | S&S Forestry Plus | 1st Extension
2538 | JW Logging | 1st Extension
2540 | Kendall Logging | 1st Extension

**OUT OF EXTENSIONS**

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<tr>
<td>*2496</td>
<td>Peter Kron</td>
<td>collect bond</td>
<td>partial</td>
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Motion by Biller/Lieffring to provide extensions and collect bonds as presented. Discussion held on bond collection. Rich Summerfield, Corporation Council for Rusk County, gave a legal opinion. Biller rescinded his motion.

Motion by DuSell/Rathsack to approve all 6th month extensions as presented and closeout and collect bonds on Contract #2478-Futurewood, #2472-Park Falls Hardwoods and #2496-Peter Kron with no penalties. Motion carried.

Motion by Rathsack/DuSell to give Lionel Klein a special 1 year extension with a 10% increase on Contract #2469 until 4/30/20. Motion carried.

Motion by Biller/DuSell to collect partial bond ($7,700) and closeout contract #2481-Vacho Trucking. Motion carried 4-1. Schneider voted against.

Motion by DuSell/DuSell to bring contract #2496-Peter Kron back on the floor. Motion by Biller/DuSell to collect partial bond ($20,000) and closeout contract #2496-Peter Kron. Motion carried 4-1. Schneider voted against

Motion by Lieffring/DuSell to approve the Spring Timber sales as presented. Motion carried.
Parks Report:
Mike, Parks Manager gave an update on Parks.
- The old pavilion at Audie Lake Campground has been dismantled.
- Logs have been harvested from the County Forest for Audie Lake and Perch Lake pavilions.
- Electricity and plumbing still has to be hooked up at Perch Lake Campground which should only take 2 more days.
- Water at the parks will be turned on in a week or so.
- Recreational grants have been submitted for 2019.

Timber Sale Report:
Jerrad, Assistant Administrator gave an update on timber sales.
- No logging in the County Forest due to spring breakup.
- Some wood is decked and will sit until road bans are off.

Administrators Report:
Jeremy, Administrator gave an update in the Forestry Department.
- Jeremy and Jerrad attended MSHA training last month in Phillips.
- NoRTAC strategic planning meeting has been postponed.
- The hiring process for the Executive Director position with the Wisconsin County Forest Association is moving along.
- A local consultant forester contacted Jeremy to possibly partner with a private timber sale to provide access to a land locked county forest piece. Jeremy is looking into it and will inform the Committee of his findings.
- Drone was taken out by Lea Lake to see the alder shearing that DNR wildlife has completed.
- Capital improvement planning – replacement schedule for 5 years.
- Governors fishing opener will be in Rusk County on May 4th, 2019. Josie Creek will be a gathering place for the event.

Resolutions:
Two resolutions were presented to the Committee:
- 15 year Plan Amendment
- Parks Forest Ordinance Amendment

Motion by DuSell/Lieffring to pass both resolutions as presented and forward to the County Board. Motion carried.

Mowing Plans and Possible Purchase:
Westlake has informed the Forestry Department that they will no longer be mowing at our parks. Jeremy would like approval to hire a 3rd intern and purchase 2 lawn mowers. Property Committee had approved contingent upon Forestry Committee’s decision. Discussion held.

Motion to by Lieffring/Dusell to approve the 3rd Intern and purchase 2 mowers for the Forestry Department. Motion carried.
Black Bear Research:
Jeremy read a letter from Josh Speigel, DNR Wildlife Biologist, on upcoming Black Bear genetic research. 10 sites on the County Forest will be utilized.

Motion by Dusell/Rathsack to approve up to 10 sites on the County Forest for the Black Bear genetic research project. Motion carried.

Review and Approve Bills:
No report was given.

Adjourn:
Motion by Rathsack/Biller to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be May 15, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at the Law Enforcement Center.