The monthly meeting of the Rusk County Land and Forestry Committee was called to order Monday, February 14, 2011. Present from the committee were: Pete Boss, Phil Schneider, Bob Nawrocki and Tony Hauser. Absent was Roger Svoma. Also present were: Paul Teska, Forest Administrator; Terry Tappon - DNR Forester. From the public; Bob Grunseth – Hawkins ATV Club, and Don Mansky.

Motion by Hauser to approve minutes of the previous meeting, and adjust the agenda as necessary 2nd by Nawrocki, carried.

ATV Trail - Bob Grunseth – has not heard from the DNR yet regarding wetlands on the proposed new ATV Trail. Not in favor of putting off the application for the new trail because they feel it takes too long to get trail funding anyway. Their request to apply for new trail funding stands at getting it in this year by the April 15, 2011 deadline. Teska would like to have a meeting with Price County, Flambeau River State Forest and Rusk County. Grunseth was in agreement and Teska will set up a meeting March 10 or 11. Discussion held on the application process. Town of Big Bend ATV Trail Proposal of connecting to Chippewa County’s Trail System; Teska reported that Chippewa County will not go along with it so there is no sense in going forward with this project.

Timber Sale Contracts Closeouts and Renewals – Motion by Hauser 2nd by Boss to take the following action on the following timber sale contracts, carried.

Contract #2317 Joe Dick Logging - Close out and cancel the letter of credit.
Contract # 2295 – Bruce Burmeister – Close out and cancel the letter of credit.
Contract # 2310 – Johnson Timer – Close out and cancel the letter of credit when the final stumpage payment is made.
Cont # 2293 - Tony Smugala - Return the cash bond in the amount of $4,608.75

Tim Vacho has 2 sales that are the oldest sales we have. He is working one and will not even get ½ done. Sales will be 6 years old in April. This winter he could have finished one of the sales but has not. He has letters of credit on the jobs. There is also a Pacific Coast job that will be 5 ½ years old in April; they are not even trying to get it done. A Park Falls Hardwood Job that will be 5 years old in April, they keep saying they are getting someone into the job to cut it but have not. Jim Poyda has 2 jobs that will be 4 years old in April. We need to get back to our regular policy of renewals. Loggers will be asking for more “no increase” renewals. Not fair to the logger who is doing it right and following the policy and getting the jobs cut. Loggers cannot bid on new sales if they have a job that is over 4 years old.

Parks Supervisor - Committee went over applications. Interviews will be Friday, February 25 at 1:00 P.M. 3 of the people we will interview have been past summer interns with the Forestry Dept. Motion by Nawrocki to Interview 4 candidates. Verdegan, Maine, Ponsler and Macholl. 2nd by Hauser, carried.

Deer Lake Gravel Pit – North end of the Fire-Lane. Haven’t used it for many years, but have a timber sale that we will be closing out in that area soon. Need to shave stumps and top soil off the top of the hill. Motion by Hauser, If any township wants gravel for their town roads, the County will give the gravel to them at no charge. 2nd by Nawrocki, Carried. Abstaining - Pete Boss. Teska reported that it is to our advantage to give the townships gravel to maintain the roads for logging trucks to travel on.

Eric Koens Access Letter - Motion by Hauser to approve and send letter to Koens stating that Rusk County will be responsible for any damage to his property done by loggers by allowing Access to County logging jobs through his property, 2nd by Boss, carried.

Legal Surveying – Regarding the County Surveyor not doing any survey work on County Forest Land. Teska asked Surveyor in January 2011 if he was going to get two survey projects completed. We are waiting for these to get timber sales done. Has been waiting 3 years for these survey’s. Informed Teska that he is not doing any survey work for Forestry because we have not paid a bill of around $2,500.00 from the Surveyor for his extra help. Teska
has researched minutes of Finance, Personnel, Land Information and there is nothing on record stating that he can charge other departments for his extra employee. Forestry was never informed that the Surveyor would be charging for his work and we have not budgeted for this billing. $100,000 Range of timber that we could be selling of the surveying were done.

2011 Park Aids Project – Park Development Budget Amendment Carry Forward Resolution.

2011 County Owned Dam Budget Amendment Carry Forward Resolution.

Motion by Boss, 2nd by Hauser to approve and recommend to County Board for Approval, carried.

Motion to go into Closed Session by Nawrocki, 2nd by Hauser. Voting: Boss – yes, Schneider – yes, Hauser – yes, Nawrocki – Yes. Randy Tatur – County Board Chairman was also present. CLOSED SESSION.

Motion to go into Open Session by Hauser, 2nd by Boss, carried. Voting: Boss – yes, Schneider – yes, Hauser – yes, Nawrocki – Yes. Carried. OPEN SESSION

Motion to approve bills by Hauser, 2nd by Nawrocki, carried.

Motion to adjourn at 11:00 A.M., by Boss, 2nd by Nawrocki, carried.