

Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
December 7, 2012
West Entrance

Present were Chuck Zenner, Dave Bizer, Myron Brooks, Mike Roiger, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present was Scott Lindow, DNR. Mark Berglund, Star News, joined us late in the meeting.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to approve the meeting minutes from November 9th and the agenda with one addition (# 13) Ice Age Trail beaver problem. Motion carried.

No bills.

Aszmann updated the Committee on timber sale activity. Smola Bros. is finishing work on one sale and will start work on one of their other timber sales.

Aszmann reviewed Timber Sale #611, B & M Logging for close-out; select and clear-cut timber with good utilization and final payment is due. They had a logging truck overturn on a forestry road and the site has been remediated by REI. REI will send a report of closure. Bizer motioned to close-out Timber Sale #611 B & M Logging contingent on final payment received, Roiger second. Motion carried.

Ruesch reviewed the Timber Sales for renewal: #595 Steve Dassow, has a patch of tamarack to finish, recommends a 3 month extension; #602 Smola Bros., cutting is done on it, need billing and payment, recommends a 3 month extension; #603 Smola Bros., summer sale, one year extension recommended; #604 Smola Bros., winter sale, road is opened up with intent to start sale, 6 month extension recommended; and #605 Wiitala-Vozka Logging, winter job, 6 month extension recommended. Bizer motioned, Brooks second, to renew #595 Steve Dassow & #602 Smola Bros. 3 month extensions; #603 Smola Bros. one year extension; #604 Smola Bros. and #605 Wiitala-Vozka Logging six month extensions; \$50 renewal fee for all sales with no increase in stumpage fee. Motion carried.

Ruesch reported on the ATV/UTV Trail/Route development project. He has had discussions with Jess Sackmann, Highway Commissioner, regarding sign placement and approved routes. Jess will be ordering signs for the first 3 priority routes and the ATV Clubs will need to pay for them. There are nine proposed routes with one route put on hold. There will be issues with the age limit as at least one township has different wording on their town ordinance regarding age limits. He will again be sending letters to town chairman requesting copies of their ordinances for updating ATV maps.

Ruesch reported with the minimum flow on the gate opening at Miller Dam the ice was tight to the gates & spillway (when we had the cold spell). He reported these gates were not built to withstand ice formation. Terry Cummings, DNR, was contacted and his recommendation per other similar dam installation problems was to install bubbler to keep water open. Ruesch contacted Jump River Electric for pricing on power installation to dam. Jeff Ludwig was then contacted to explore other options for getting power from the security light to where the bubbler would be located. The project is estimated to cost between \$4000 and \$5000 to complete. Bizer motioned to have Ruesch go ahead with proposed project to install bubbler on Miller Dam, Roiger second. Motion carried.

Ruesch reported he met with members from the Ice Age Trail Foundation on beaver damage to their trail through the County Forest. After discussion, motion by Bizer, second by Roiger, to send letter to Foundation recommending they find a trapper to dispose of the beaver problem. Motion carried.

Aszmann reviewed the bids for the fall sales: #5-12 marked selection cut area, summer sale, Twin Forest Products high bidder; #6-12 tamarack/spruce strips with regeneration areas, also hardwood/aspen cut, Gumz Logging high bidder; and #7-12 winter sale, long haul road, Smola Bros. high bidder. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve timber sales to the highest bidders. Motion carried. Total sale value is \$84,270 which brings the 2012 total to \$228,304.

Scott Lindow reported his immediate supervisor, Greg Mitchell, has taken another position in the DNR and his position will need to be filled.

The next meeting will be January 4, 2013 at 10:00 AM in the West Entrance.

Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to adjourn at 10:15 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary

Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
November 9, 2012
West Entrance

Present were Chuck Zenner, Dave Bizer, Myron Brooks, Mike Roiger, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present was Scott Lindow, DNR.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to approve the meeting minutes from October 5th and the agenda with one addition 1) Forest Audit Report (2009 – 2011). Motion carried.

Ruesch presented bills: J.J.'s Brush Cutting Service of \$1680.00 for mowing grass & brush on forest road sides and WCFA \$70.00 for Aszmann & Roiger to attend 2012 Annual meeting. Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to approve payment of bills. Motion carried.

Aszmann updated the Committee on timber sale activity. B & M Logging is finishing work on one of their timber sales. He is continuing work on timber sales for the spring sale.

Aszmann reviewed Timber Sale #612, B & M Logging for close-out; good job done, winter sale that they were able to work on because of the drought conditions and final payment is due. Bizer motioned to close-out Timber Sale #612 B & M Logging contingent on final payment received, Roiger second. Motion carried.

Aszmann reviewed the fall timber sales: #5-12 off Bear Ave, marked selection cut area, summer sale; #6-12 off Trout Ave, tamarack/spruce strips with regeneration areas, also hardwood/aspens cut; #7-12 off Bear Ave, winter sale, long haul road. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve timber sales for advertising. Motion carried.

Ruesch reported the Ordinance to Amend Chapter 44, County Snowmobile/All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)/Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) Regulations, Taylor County Code, was approved at County Board with one change. The change was the age of riders must be 16 or older. He also reported there has been discussion on map preparation. He will need to talk with towns for their routes and also work with the Highway Committee where prospective routes will be determined. Route signs should include wording on the age limits in Taylor County. The ATV Club will have to pay for the new signage.

Ruesch reported he has reduced the gate opening at Miller Dam from ½" to ⅓" and after checking the water elevation yesterday the water level is the same as a week ago. Ayres information has been received, reviewed and calculations questioned. After discussion with Ayres they have corrected the report and provided low/high water calculations. Terry Cummings, DNR, has reviewed and agreed with the calculations. These will be incorporated into the Emergency Action Plan.

Ruesch reported Ayres quoted \$1000 for the Miller Dam rate curve. Motion by Roiger, second by Brooks, to approve payment of Ayres bill when received. Motion carried.

Ruesch handed out the Resolution on US Forest Service Management of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. It would require the US Forest Service to utilize the Forest in a more responsible manner with more scheduled timber sales. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve resolution and forward to the County Board for their approval. Motion carried.

Aszmann and Roiger reported on the WCFA Annual Meeting held on November 2 in Chippewa Falls. Discussed was the Forest Certification Audit, County participation, and enforcement of OSHA regulations (which the County should not have to do.) Roiger was elected to another term as director.

Ruesch updated the Committee on the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Memorandum of Understanding. This means we are eligible to receive this funding.

Ruesch reported on the 2009-2011 Forest Audit Report. Everything was good except for the habitat money which he has since used to install gates on the County Forest and he has ordered new gates also. The habitat money can only accrue for a two-year period. The Audit also gave commendations for work done in the County Forest.

The next meeting will be December 7, 2012 at 10:00 AM in the West Entrance.

Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to adjourn at 11:03 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary

Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
October 5, 2012
West Entrance

Present were Chuck Zenner, Dave Bizer, Myron Brooks, Mike Roiger, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present were Greg Mitchell, DNR and Mark Berglund, Star News.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Bizer motioned, second by Roiger, to approve the meeting minutes from September 7th. Motion carried.

Bizer motioned, second by Roiger to approve the agenda with two additions 1) Review & approve 2013 County Forest Work Plan and 2) Discuss Miller Dam minimum flow. Motion carried.

Ruesch presented Ayres bill of \$2100 for payment of Miller Dam inspection. Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to approve payment of bill. Motion carried.

Aszmann updated the Committee on timber sale activity. B & M Logging is working on one of their timber sales. It is $\frac{3}{4}$ completed; it's a large sale & they are able to work on it due to dry conditions. They will be starting another of their sales very soon.

Aszmann reviewed Timber Sale #601, Smola Bros. for close-out; good job done, three mill slips are outstanding, and still need to be billed. Roiger motioned to close-out Timber Sale #601 Smola Bros. contingent on final billing and payment received, Brooks second. Motion carried. Timber Sale #613, Twin Forest Products was reviewed for close-out; good job done, selection cut sale, all paid up. Bizer motioned to close-out Timber Sale #613 Twin Forest Products, Roiger second. Motion carried.

Aszmann reported he has three timber sales established that need paperwork completed; and he's is hoping to have additional sales ready for the fall sale.

Ruesch reported he has worked with Corp Counsel Schmiede and the Highway Committee on the ATV/UTV ordinance which updates Chapter 44 County Code. It will give the Highway Department authorization to establish ATV/UTV routes on County Highways. It will benefit the trail systems in the County and give direction to the towns for their own ordinances regarding ATV/UTV usage.

Zenner reported he does not agree with the age requirements; he does not want to see anyone less than 16 years of age able to ride on County Highways.

Roiger motioned to approve An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 44, County Snowmobile/All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV)/Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) Regulations, Taylor County Code, second by Bizer. Motion carried (Zenner-No). The Ordinance will go to the Highway Committee for their approval and if received, will be forwarded on to County Board.

Ruesch reported the Ayres inspection of Miller Dam has been done. The off-site dikes have been mowed & brushed; Bob Meyer, County Surveyor, has completed elevations on dikes and Kurt Staab has completed concrete maintenance on the dam face. Terry Cummings, DNR, has sent his letter of approval for Operational and Emergency Action Plans.

Ruesch reported the DNR has contacted him regarding the downstream water flow from Miller Dam. There is a minimum flow requirement by law which needs to be met. He indicated he has been in touch with Terry Cummings (DNR) and requested a letter indicating legal amount of water to be released. Ayres has also been contacted to determine how much flow should be released. When Cummings sends letter, the Star News & WIGM/WKEB will be given copies. Ruesch will open one gate $\frac{1}{2}$ " today.

Ruesch reported on DNR 3 Year Audit. The nickel an acre funding can be accrued for 3 years and the County is beyond the time limit. He has requested an extension through the end of this year. Ruesch reported Kent Laher has installed 5 new gates and stabilized 2 gates on the County Forest. Also, Freudenthal Manufacturing will be contacted to order new gates. These projects utilize the nickel an acre funding and will remedy the time issue.

Ruesch handed out the agenda for the WCFA Annual Meeting to be held in Chippewa Falls on November 2, 2012. Roiger, Ruesch & Aszmann may attend.

Ruesch reviewed the 2013 County Forest Work Plan which includes the addition of a road graveling project. Roiger motioned to approve the 2013 County Forest Work Plan, second by Bizer. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be November 9, 2012 at 10:00 AM in the West Entrance.

Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to adjourn at 10:55 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary

Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
September 7, 2012
West Entrance

Present were Chuck Zenner, Dave Bizer, Myron Brooks, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Mike Roiger was excused. Also present were Scott Lindow, DNR, Mark Berglund, Star News, Dave Lemke, Tourism Committee and Jim Hartl, Taylor Made ATV Club.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Bizer motioned, second by Brooks, to approve the meeting minutes from August 3rd. Motion carried.

Bizer motioned, second by Brooks to approve the agenda as mailed. Motion carried.

Ruesch handed out a letter from Bruce Strama on behalf of the Tourism Committee in support of the utilization of acreage offered by Robert Thompson as parking area for snowmobilers when accessing the Rail Trail and to also approve the early opening of the Pine Line Trail. This would allow snowmobiling on the trail without the rest of the snowmobile trails in Taylor County being open. After discussion, motion by Brooks, with second by Bizer, to support this request for early opening of the Pine Line for snowmobiling on a one year trial basis. Motion carried.

Ruesch reported, along with Jim Hartl (Taylor Made ATV), on the current ATV trail system on the County Forest and the possibility of expanding the trail system to include using forest roads/woods trails and more of the snowmobile trail system. This trail system would connect the Camp 8 ATV trail and Spirit Lake area. The State is working to define forestry road/trail system (Trouts) to receive funding for maintenance on these roads. Motion by Bizer, second by Brooks, to approve updated ATV trail routes. Motion carried.

Ruesch reported 4-WHEELIN with FEELIN has requested use of the trail system in the County Forest for a March of Dimes event. He reported they are a good group, have their own insurance and are conscientious regarding use of the trail system. They held the same event in 2009. Motion by Bizer and second by Brooks, to approve the event on the County Forest. Motion carried.

Ruesch updated the Committee on the ATV/UTV ordinance updating Chapter 44 County Code which will be brought to the Highway Committee Meeting on September 18th for their approval and then brought to the Forestry Committee.

Bills presented were Brad Ruesch \$63.26/groceries for lunch for Forest Certification; Wisconsin County Forests Association \$1953.95/2013 membership dues; Brad Ruesch \$5.36/Merrill meeting lunch; Highway Dept. \$587.89/mowing brush on Miller Dam dikes; and Kyle Komarek \$320.00/gravel on timber sale roads. Motion by Bizer, second by Brooks, to approve payment of bills. Motion carried.

Aszmann updated the Committee on timber sale activity. B & M Logging and Smola Bros. are working on their respective timber sales. Janko Logging and Wiitala/Vozka Logging will be starting road work into their timber sale. He is working on setting up timber sales for the fall sale.

Aszmann reviewed Timber Sale #585, Smola Bros. for close-out; good job done, all paid up. Bizer motioned to close-out Timber Sale #585 Smola Bros., Brooks second. Motion carried. Timber Sale #594, Smola Bros. was reviewed for close-out; good job done, pipeline sale, all paid up. Bizer motioned to close-out Timber Sale #594 Smola Bros., Brooks second. Motion carried. Timber Sale #616, Twin Forest Products was reviewed for close-out; good job done, paid up and used new access from County Rd D. Brooks motioned to close-out Timber Sale #616 Twin Forest Products, Bizer second. Motion carried.

Ruesch reported the Ayres inspection of Miller Dam has been reviewed and also Terry Cummings, DNR, has reported he has read the report. The maintenance has been completed on the dikes at Miller Dam. They have been brushed, mowed and cleaned-up. Ruesch also reported the face of the dam needs concrete work done on it. He has contacted Kurt Staab to look at the job & come back with an estimate for the work needed. Bizer motioned, Brooks seconded, to approve getting the concrete work done on Miller Dam. Motion carried. Ruesch reported Terry Cummings, DNR Dam Safety Engineer, needs to send letter approving the inspection report for Miller Dam. The Emergency Action Plan & Operational, Inspection & Maintenance Plans have been updated. Ruesch has worked on needed plan updates. Updates need to be reviewed and signed by the Sheriff, Emergency Management and Forestry & Recreation Administrator. Brooks motioned, Bizer seconded, to approve Operational, Inspection and Maintenance Plan and Emergency Action Plan updates for Miller Dam. Motion carried.

Ruesch reported on August 9, 2012 audit for FSC & SFI Certification. Preliminary indication is it was an excellent review but has not received final report. Recent report has indicated some corrective action needed to enforce OSHA regulations are followed by contractors.

Ruesch also reported Ron Smugala, a logger with a job across the line in Price County, is looking for possible access through a timber sale in Taylor County. More information will be needed.

The next meeting will be October 5, 2012 at 10:00 AM in the West Entrance.

Brooks motioned, second by Bizer, to adjourn at 11:15 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary

Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
August 3, 2012
West Entrance

Present were Chuck Zenner, Dave Bizer, Myron Brooks, Mike Roiger, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present was Scott Lindow, DNR.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Bizer motioned, second by Brooks, to approve the meeting minutes from July 6th and the agenda with two additions; 1) Review & approve 2013 Budget proposal and 2) Price Electric underground line easement) as mailed. Motion carried.

Aszmann updated the Committee on timber sale activity. Smola Bros. are completing work on Timber Sales #594 & #585 and Twin Forest Products has completed work on Timber Sale #616 and started on Sale #613. He should have three sales for close-out next month.

Ruesch reported to the Committee that he has been working with Corp Counsel Ken Schmiede on the ATV/UTV ordinance update. He hopes to bring it to the Highway Committee Meeting on August 21st for their input and when completed it will be brought to the Forestry Committee.

Ruesch reported Ayres Associates conducted the Miller Dam safety inspection on July 17th. No major work has to be completed on the dam. There are superficial repairs that need to be done to the concrete on the spillway. The off-site dikes need maintenance done also; brushed, mowed and cleaned-up.

Ruesch also reported there are several updates that need to be done to the Emergency Action Plan & Operational, Inspection & Maintenance Plan. They will be done when we receive the inspection report from Ayres Associates.

Ruesch reported on the billing for the crane mats that were received. Smola's used them on the timber sale they just completed. Billing for 4 mats is \$1500 plus \$50 transport fee for a total bill of \$1550.00.

The DNR conducted their 3 year audit on July 23-24. They reviewed timber sales, revenue, grant programs and interviewed personnel. They had concerns regarding the ORAP Fund which the County can bank for no longer than 3 years.

Ruesch reported on August 9, 2012 Taylor County will be audited for FSC & SFI Certification. They will review eight timber sales; including closed/active/not started timber sales. There will be three auditors and various DNR personnel. Ruesch is preparing packets for the auditors and a lunch will need to be provided.

Ruesch handed out information on the Secure Rural Schools Act which shows the townships that have Federal Forest (Chequamegon/Nicolet) lands in their townships. The information shows the amount received in 2012 & proposed 2013 proceeds. If Congress fails to act on this Act, the amount received will revert back to the 25%. Also these funds are split into Title 1 – 85% and Title 2 – 15%. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve staying with the guaranteed payment and leave the Title 1 and Title 2 splits as they are. Motion carried.

Ruesch handed out the proposed budgets for 2013. He reviewed each line item for changes with only one increase of \$15,000 to be allocated for road projects on the County Forest. Motion by Bizer, second by Roiger, to approve the budget as submitted. Motion carried.

Ruesch reported he met with Price Electric regarding an underground line easement on Olah Lane. A portion of the line needs to go through the County Forest. Motion by Bizer, second

by Roiger, to approve easement for Price Electric in SW¼ NE¼, Section 16, T33N-R2E.
Motion carried.

The next meeting will be September 7, 2012 at 10:00 AM in the West Entrance.

Bizer motioned, second by Roiger, to adjourn at 11:15 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary

Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
July 6, 2012
County Board Room

Present were Chuck Zenner, Dave Bizer, Myron Brooks, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present was Scott Lindow, DNR. Mike Roiger was absent.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Bizer motioned, second by Brooks, to approve the meeting minutes from June 1st and the agenda with one addition (Cross-training potential) as mailed. Motion carried.

Aszmann updated the Committee on timber sale activity. Smola Bros. are continuing work on Timber Sale #594 and Steve Dassow was working on Timber Sale #595 but will have to finish job later this winter.

Ruesch reported to the Committee that he has been working with the Highway Committee on ATV/UTV Route establishment on county roads. He is also working on changes to Chapter 44 Taylor County Code; which is basically being rewritten. He is working with Corp Counsel Ken Schmiede. Regarding Chapter 18, this was incorrect; the correct chapter is 27 for placement of Highway Department authority to manage this ATV/UTV Route program.

Zenner reviewed the potential for cross-training which was brought up due to the impending retirement of Larry Peterson, Zoning Administrator. The departments effected would be the Surveyor, Forestry and Recreation & Land Conservation. There are two tests that would have to be taken to be able to review soil tests and PLB2 (sanitary inspector). The County would pay for training.

Ruesch (per Department Heads meetings) reported that it is recommended the departments remain the same with no consolidation. Zenner reiterated keep operating as we have been.

Ruesch reported Ayres will conduct a Miller Dam safety inspection on July 17th. He has sent a letter to US Forest Service (Paul Strong) letting them know about inspection and also in regards to a Stewardship program project for a four-season road to the dikes on Miller Dam. They could use fill and leveling out as they would have to be used in an emergency on the flowage.

Ruesch also reported there are several updates that need to be done to the Emergency Action Plan & Operational, Inspection & Maintenance Plan. They will be brought to the next meeting.

Aszmann reported on the crane mats that were just purchased. They are used as temporary bridges over small creeks and small soft areas on logging roads. Smola's are using them right now on the timber sale they are working on. Cost should be \$400 per mat with a total of four purchased and \$50 transport fee. We have not received billing.

The DNR will be conducting their 3 year audit on July 23-24. They review all facets of the Forestry Program.

Ruesch reported Taylor County is one of the forests chosen for FSC & SFI Certification audit. They review timber sale files and go to the woods and review the actual timber sale. This audit will be conducted on August 9, 2012.

Ruesch reported Twin Forest Products Letters of Credit have been received for Timber Sales #613 & #616 and also for Timber Sale #597 renewal. We have also received signed contracts and the contract renewal along with the renewal fee.

The next meeting will be August 3, 2012 at 10:00 AM in the West Entrance.

Bizer motioned, second by Brooks, to adjourn at 10:50 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary

Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
June 1, 2012
County Board Room

Present were Chuck Zenner, Dave Bizer, Mike Roiger, Myron Brooks, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present was Scott Lindow, DNR and Mark Bergland, Star News. Guests were Bob Hennes and Andy Meyers, US Forest Service.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to approve the meeting minutes from May 4th and the agenda as mailed. Motion carried.

Aszmann updated the Committee on timber sale activity. Smola Bros. moved in on Timber Sale #594 and Steve Dassow is continuing work on Timber Sale #595. Bruce Dassow has made final payment on Timber Sale #599.

Aszmann reviewed bids received for the spring timber sales: #1-12 (\$52,858.40) off North Loop Rd, summer sale, Twin Forest Products high bidder; #2-12 (\$38,420.25) off North Loop Rd, aspen, Janko Logging high bidder; #3-12 (\$23,121.00) off Fawn Ave, small clear-cut, winter sale, Janko Logging high bidder; #4-12 (\$29,635.00) off County Rd D, Ice Age Trail, Ski Trail run through, selection cut, Twin Forest Products high bidder. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to award timber sales to high bidders. Motion carried. Summary attached. Sale total: \$144,034.65.

Ruesch reviewed Twin Forest Products Timber Sales #597 for renewal. With wet conditions they were unable to complete the job. Bizer motioned, seconded by Brooks, to approve one year renewal, no increase in stumpage, \$50.00 renewal fee for Timber Sales #597 Twin Forest Products. Motion carried.

Bob Hennes, US Forest Service, introduced himself and Andy Meyers. Hennes gave an overview of the current staff of the Park Falls & Medford offices. Andy Meyers is the timber management specialist for the Chequamegon/Nicolet Forest. Hennes reported there are 2 timber sales in the Medford aspen project and there are no other sales at this time in the Taylor County portion of the forest. They are working on timber sales in the Price County area. In the future they will be looking at red pine management. Stewardship projects were also discussed. The projects need to be submitted and they will be reviewed to see if they fit into set guidelines. They will keep the County updated as to changes/updates to the Chequamegon/Nicolet Forest.

Ruesch handed out year-end account balances and reviewed carry-over allocations. Motion by Bizer, second by Roiger, to approve line item allocations. Motion carried.

Ruesch updated the Committee on ATV/UTV's and the meeting of the advisory group which reviewed the ordinance (reviewed Price County Ordinance). It was decided to go with the sample ordinance provided by the State. This will give continuity with the State program. Zenner remarked that he is opposed to 12 year olds on roads. Linda Daniels is working with Corp Counsel Schmiedege on ordinance. The Highway Department Committee would have the authority to approve routes as they become available.

Ruesch reported there is no need for an ordinance to participate in the UTV program.

There was discussion on the Knowles-Nelson Land Acquisition Grant Program which is funding based upon DNR appraisal. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer to approve Resolution Approving a Memorandum of Agreement with the Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry to Participate in the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Land Acquisition Grant Program. Motion carried. Resolution will be forwarded to County Board for approval.

Ruesch reported Ayers submitted a proposal for \$2100 to inspect the dam at Miller Dam. Motion by Bizer, second by Roiger, to approve Ayres bid for inspection of Miller Dam. Motion carried.

Aszmann requested attendance at two training sessions, one in Spooner and one in Stevens Point. Motion by Roiger, second by Brooks, to approve attending training sessions. Motion carried.

Ruesch reported on purchasing temporary bridge mats. Several loggers are purchasing the mats and with combined shipping it would be a good time to purchase as the old ones have rotted. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve purchasing 2 sets (4 mats at \$400 a mat). Motion carried.

The next meeting will be July 6, 2012 at 10:00 AM in the West Entrance.

Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to adjourn at 11:17 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary

Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
May 4, 2012
West Entrance

Present were Chuck Zenner, Dave Bizer, Mike Roiger, Myron Brooks, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present was Scott Lindow, DNR and Mark Bergland, Star News.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to approve the meeting minutes from April 6th and the agenda as mailed. Motion carried.

Bills: None.

Myron Brooks was welcomed as the new Committee member. An overview of the Committee and the Forestry and Recreation Department was given.

Aszmann updated the Committee on timber sale activity. No loggers are working on the County Forest right now with the wet conditions. He has begun to mark timber for the fall sale.

Aszmann reviewed Timber Sales for close-out. #588 Janko Logging is completed, good job done & all paid up. Motion by Roiger, 2nd by Bizer, to approve close-out of Timber Sale #588 Janko Logging. Motion carried. Timber Sale #598 Bruce Dassow is completed; Jon Bube did the work with no problems and it is all paid up. Motion by Roiger, 2nd by Bizer, to approve close-out of Timber Sale #598 Bruce Dassow. Motion carried. Timber Sale #599 Bruce Dassow was completed right at end of winter season, good job done, waiting for final payment. Motion by Roiger, 2nd by Bizer, to approve close-out of Timber Sale #599 Bruce Dassow pending final payment. Motion carried.

Aszmann reviewed the spring timber sales: #1-12 off North Loop Rd, marked selection cut area, 2nd time through area, summer sale; #2-12 off North Loop Rd, clear-cut area, aspen, near Lincoln/Price County lines; #3-12 off Fawn Ave, small clear-cut, predominantly aspen, frozen or very dry condition sale; #4-12 off County Rd D, Ice Age Trail, Ski Trail run through, selection cut. Motion by Roiger, second by Bizer, to approve timber sales for advertising. Motion carried.

Ruesch updated the Committee on possible consolidation of the following departments Surveyor, Land Conservation, Real Property Lister, Zoning and Forestry & Recreation. The following items have prompted the review 1) cost savings & 2) efficiency in helping the public. Retirements may play a factor in the decision.

Ruesch updated the Committee on ATV/UTV's and the possibility they may use County Highways. Zenner remarked that the Highway Department has voted to keep looking at the issue. A sub-Committee has been established (Scott Mildbrand, Bruce Daniels, Don Liske and Brad Ruesch) to look at the use of State Statutes, age of riders, time period when usage would be permitted. They also have to look at established town routes. The UTV program is now a permanent, separate program. Taylor County would have to pass an ordinance/resolution to participate in the program. Camp 8 and the US Forest trails (35 miles of trail) are not wide enough for UTV's and funding would be required to expand and improve trails. Also new, the State is requiring license plates on all ATV/UTV's. They will not be provided so the owners are responsible for getting plate & number (which is the same as your registration number).

Ruesch has a draft resolution for the Knowles-Nelson Land Acquisition Grant Program. This is a federally funded program which could be used to pay up to 50% of purchase price of

land to be enrolled into the County Forest. Ruesch will bring back to the Committee an updated resolution to reflect Taylor County's participation.

Ruesch handed out information on the WCFA Summer Tour to be held in Iron County on June 14 – 15. Reservation deadline in May 31, 2012; Aszmann & Roiger will be going.

Ruesch reported that Andy Meyers is the new Timber Management Assistant for the US Forest Service. He will set-up a date for him to join us at our June/July Committee Meeting.

The next meeting will be June 1, 2012 at 10:00 AM in the West Entrance.

Roiger motioned, second by Brooks, to adjourn at 11:08 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary

Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
April 6, 2012
West Entrance

Present were Chuck Zenner, Dave Bizer, Mike Roiger, Scott Mildbrand, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present was Scott Lindow, DNR and Mark Bergland, Star News.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Mildbrand motioned, second by Bizer, to approve the meeting minutes from February 24th as mailed. Motion carried.

Bizer motioned, second by Mildbrand, to approve the agenda as mailed with one add-on (Timber Sale contract amendment.) Motion carried.

One bill was presented: \$165.00 for attendees Brad Ruesch, Mike Roiger & Chuck Zenner to the Wisconsin County Forests Association 2012 Spring Administrators Meeting. Bizer motioned to approve payment, second by Mildbrand. Motion carried.

Ruesch reported that Andy Meyers is the new Timber Management Assistant for the US Forest Service. We will set-up a date for him to join us at an upcoming Committee Meeting.

Aszmann updated the Committee on timber sale activity. No one is working on the County Forest right now with the wet conditions. He is continuing to mark timber for the spring sale, with 4 sales being ready for the May/June sale.

Aszmann reviewed Timber Sales for close-out. #584 Janko Logging is completed, good job done & all paid up. Motion by Mildbrand, 2nd by Bizer, to approve close-out of Timber Sale #584 Janko Logging. Motion carried. Timber Sale #592 Smola Bros. is completed with no problems and it is all paid up. Motion by Bizer, 2nd by Mildbrand, to approve close-out of Timber Sale #592 Smola Bros. Motion carried. Timber Sale #600 Wiitala-Vozka is completed, good job done on over story removal, all paid up. Motion by Mildbrand, 2nd by Bizer, to approve close-out of Timber Sale #600 Wiitala-Vozka Logging. Motion carried.

Ruesch reviewed converting cords to tons, which most counties are already doing. The software program will need to be changed to reflect this. He would like to have this set-up in time for the Fall Timber Sale. Motion by Roiger, 2nd by Mildbrand, to approve using tons instead of cords with a notice to be included in the spring sale packet to notify the loggers of this upcoming change. Motion carried.

Ruesch updated the Committee on UTV's and the possibility they may request to use the ATV Trails. But with the width of most UTV's our current trails would not be able to accommodate them. If this were to change, landowners would have to be notified and agreed upon. Townships may allow them to use their roadways. A new law passed requires ATV's & UTV's to display license plates using the same number as on their decal.

Ruesch reviewed/handed out a sample resolution for the Knowles-Nelson land Acquisition Grant Program. This is a federally funded program which could be used to pay up to 50% of purchase price of land to be enrolled into the County Forest. It was thought we should have this program in place for possible land acquisition. You don't have to use it but if a window of opportunity opened up it would be there. Ruesch will bring back to the Committee an updated resolution to reflect Taylor County's participation.

Zenner reported on the Spring Conference attended. Some of the items discussed were: legacy trees, prevailing wage laws, soil disturbance and ephemeral pond projects to name a few.

Ruesch reviewed the timber contract sale language amendment to incorporate OSHA requirements regarding standing dead/snag trees. Motion by Roiger, 2nd by Mildbrand, to approve adding language to contract. Motion carried.

The next meeting will be May 4, 2012 at 10:00 AM in the West Entrance.

Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to adjourn at 11:05 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary

Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
February 24, 2012
West Entrance

Present were Chuck Zenner, Dave Bizer, Mike Roiger, Scott Mildbrand, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present was Scott Lindow, DNR and Mark Bergland, Star News.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Mildbrand motioned, second by Bizer, to approve the meeting minutes from January 6th as mailed. Motion carried.

Roiger motioned, second by Mildbrand, to approve the agenda as mailed. Motion carried.

A bill from the County Surveyor (\$1789.12) was presented for the survey completed on the north end of the County Forest. The survey established the property line between Price/Taylor Counties. The line was used for timber sale establishment. Roiger motioned to approve payment, second by Bizer. Motion carried.

Aszmann updated the Committee on timber sale activity. Janko Logging has finished cutting on Timber Sales #584 & 588 and have timber from one sale yet to be hauled. Jon Bube has finished cutting on Bruce Dassow Timber Sale #598 and is working on #599. Wiitala's have completed work on Timber Sale #600 but have more trucking to do. Smola's have finished cutting on Timber Sale #592 but have wood to haul. We are waiting from mill slips from all jobs. Ruesch discussed closing out these jobs when all mill slips are received so loggers can have their Letter-of-Credit returned. Bizer motioned to approve close-out of timber sales when all sales have been completed and paid for, second by Roiger. Motion carried.

Ruesch reviewed the County Forest Financial Report for 2011 with possible changes when County's books are closed. It was noted over the seven year period the county is consistent with sale establishment acreage figures and bid values. Roiger motioned to approve Financial Report and send on to the County Board, second by Bizer. Motion carried. The Annual Report for 2011 accomplishments was reviewed, with this also to go to Board members.

Ruesch reviewed logging conditions on the County Forest over this past winter. Twin Forest Products was going to start on their Timber Sale # 597 three weeks ago and there were lowland issues so they were discouraged from beginning the sale with the option to receive a time extension without penalty. Steve Dassow called regarding wet conditions on his Timber Sale #595 and he was also offered the time extension without penalty.

Roiger reported on the County's membership in the Lake States Resource Alliance. Both Roiger and Ruesch feel the organization is good but not accomplishing as much as previously completed. The member ship fee is \$100. Mildbrand motioned, second by Bizer to approve the County's membership in the LSRA for another year. Motion carried.

Zenner reported on the meeting he and Ruesch attended with the US Forest Service on February 14, 2012. The stewardship program was discussed which would essentially be the stumps from a timber sale on the USFS could go towards a project in the County. It enables most of the revenue to stay locally. Discussion was held on whether to invite Paul Strong (USFS) to speak to the Forestry Committee. It was decided to wait until after he speaks to the Town's Association in May at Chelsea Town Hall.

Ruesch handed out the agenda for the Spring Administrator's meeting to be held in Wausau on March 22-23rd.

The next meeting will be April 6, 2012 at 10:00 AM in the West Entrance.

Bizer motioned, second by Mildbrand, to adjourn at 10:50 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary

Forestry & Recreation Committee Meeting
January 6, 2012
West Entrance

Present were Chuck Zenner, Dave Bizer, Mike Roiger, Russ Aszmann and Brad Ruesch. Also present was Scott Lindow, DNR and Mark Bergland, Star News. Scott Mildbrand was excused.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman Chuck Zenner. Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to approve the meeting minutes from December 2nd and the agenda, with one addition (US Forest Service Resolution inaction response) as mailed. Motion carried.

Bill presented from Town of Rib Lake (\$1380.00) for grading and County Surveyor (\$1347.43) for surveying portion of County Forest. Roiger motioned to approve payments, second by Bizer. Motion carried.

Aszmann updated the Committee on timber sale activity. We have two crews working (Jon Bube/Bruce Dassow & Janko Logging) at this time. Conditions are less than ideal, but the loggers are making progress.

The County Surveyor has nearly completed a survey in Section 16, T33N-R2E on Olah Lane. When complete there will be some issues to discuss with adjacent property owners.

Ruesch reported that all contracts and letters of credit have been received for the new contracts and existing contract extensions.

The new truck ordered by the Department should be received in several weeks.

A letter which was drafted as a follow-up to a Resolution adopted by the County Board at its October 2011 session was reviewed. Motion by Roiger and second by Bizer to approved the letter and have it submitted with the County Board Chairman's signature. **Motion carried.**

Ruesch reported there will be a meeting with the US Forest Service on February 14, 2012. Taylor County should be well represented at the meeting as it deals with the management of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest. This is a semi-annual meeting between the Counties, Towns and US Forest Service.

The next meeting will be February 3, 2012 at 10:00 AM in the West Entrance (if needed).

Roiger motioned, second by Bizer, to adjourn at 10:35 AM. Motion carried.

Brad Ruesch, Secretary