

Members present: Rick Seefeldt (chair), Tom Rosenberg (vice-chair)

Excused: Jean Maszk

Staff present: Tom Lovlien - Forest Administrator

Others present: Stacey Morache - County Board-(via webex)

1. Call Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order by Chair Seefeldt at 1:00pm, Rm. 5, 212 River Dr., Wausau. Official notice and the agenda for the meeting was posted publicly in accordance with State statutes.

2. Public Comment – none brought forward.

3. Approve Minutes – **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2023 regular Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.

4. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Timber Sale Closeout – Twin Forest Products Contract #714-22 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 3150 and 3514.87 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$83,270.27. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract #714-22 and return their Letter of Credit. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to close out Contract #714-22 and return their Letter of Credit. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.

2. County Forest Citizens Advisory Subcommittee Appointments – Lovlien explained that every September half of the Subcommittee member’s terms expire. This year four of the five members have expressed interest in staying on the Committee. Typically, if the members are in good standing they are re-appointed. There is one vacancy that will be advertised in a press release for the Forest Industry area. Questions were answered. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to re-appoint the four members to the Forest Citizens’ Advisory Subcommittee and advertise for the vacant Forest Industry representative. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.

B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration – None

5. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee – None

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Department of Natural Resources Liaison Report – Lovlien discussed a report that was provided by Jeff Sorenson. Sorenson has completed 78 hours of 660 time standard hours for the next fiscal year which started on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Sorenson is working with the County Forester on fall and spring timber sales. He and the Forester had also identified locations and presented historical information to a DNR team that was covering forest regeneration monitoring and scarification.

B. 2023 – 2025 State Budget Signed with Forestry Initiatives Included – The Wisconsin County Forest Association worked on the following increases to the State Budget. An increase of \$250,000 combined for the administration grant and sustainable forestry grant annually, an increase of \$550,000 annually for ATV/UTV enforcement aids to \$1.3M, double per mile reimbursement for UTV trail maintenance from \$200 to \$400, and no changes to Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program.

C. Status on Voluntary Carbon Market and Response from Anew Climate Solutions – Lovlien reached out to Anew Climate Solutions to see if the County’s project was still feasible. They told him that they currently have a sufficient number of Wisconsin projects and were not taking on any new projects of our size at this time. Lovlien said Anew Climate Solutions is the only company right now that would purchase county forest carbon credits at

this time. The voluntary carbon market program is relatively new and over time more will become known about it. Lovlien will continue to monitor the program and will bring this back to the Committee if the County becomes eligible.

D. Legislative Forestry Field Tour – The Wisconsin County Forest’s Association has set up a legislative forestry field tour for State Representatives and Senators in Washburn County on September 25, 2023. They will discuss why forestry and recreation are important in the Northwoods.

7. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Tuesday, September 5, 2023, 1:00 pm, Rm. 5 & Webex, 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – none brought forward

B. Future Agenda Items: Consider Entering Into an Agreement with the Department of Natural Resources on the Bat Habitat Conservation Plan, Consider Approving Fall Timber Sale Package, County Conservation Aids 2023 – 2025 Project Approval, Preliminary Results of Forest Certification Audit, WCFA Annual Meeting, DNR Liaison Report

8. Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.