

Members present: Rick Seefeldt (chair)-(via Webex), Tom Rosenberg (vice-chair), Jean Maszk
Staff present: Tom Lovlien - Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley - Director

1. Call Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Rosenberg 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 Jean Maszk / Rick Seefeldt to approve the minutes from the September 5, 2023 regular Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.
4. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution
 - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
 1. Consider Timber Bids and Award Contracts – Lovlien said four bids from two bidders on the three tracts were received. All bids were below the appraised value so they cannot be sold. The second bid opening will take place at 1:30pm on October 25, 2023. Lovlien’s recommendation is that Committee reject all the bids in their entirety and open bids again on October 25, 2023. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Maszk to reject all the bids from the first timber sale bid opening and reopen bids on October 25, 2023. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.
 2. Consider Approving Revisions to the Nine Mile County Forest Event and Use Regulations – Lovlien explained that revisions to the regulations include an updated date for harvesting related to DNR species guidance, updated mountain biking and horseback riding dates, and clarifications for the fat tire bike and snowshoe trails and season. It was unanimously passed to send the revisions to this Committee at the September Forest Citizens’ Advisory Subcommittee meeting. **Motion** / second by Maszk / Seefeldt to approve the revisions to the Nine Mile County Forest event and use regulations. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.
 - 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. 2024 Parks, Recreation and Forestry Budget Update – Polley said overall there was a budget decrease of .6 percent from 2023 in the Department’s budget. She gave detail on expenses and revenues. Polley asked if there were any recommendations from this Committee about the budget. They would be given to the Environmental Resource Committee who will then make any recommendations for budget amendments to the Human Resources and Finance Committee. Lovlien said the forestry division expenses and revenues stayed pretty much the same from 2023 to 2024. Questions were answered.
 - B. DNR/County Partnership Meeting, Minutes and Discussion – Lovlien explained that County and DNR staff met to discuss past and future work. Items discussed were County forest time standards, 2021 wildlife update, county conservation aids project updates, forest certification, land use issues, forest health, and forest management. Questions were answered.
 - C. Ragnar Trail Wisconsin Update – The race is well organized and registration for the event was closed because it was considered full. Polley discussed the race itself.

D. DNR Liaison Report – Sorenson was unable to attend the meeting and will email his report to members directly.

7. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Tuesday, October 31, 2023, 1:00 pm, Rm. 5 & Webex, 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – Thoughts were given to Seefeldt who sits on the Rules and Review Committee and questioned if this Committee should have five people or stay with three.

B. Future Agenda Items: Consider Timber Sale Extension Requests, Consider Timber Bids and Award Contracts, Agreement with DNR on the Bat Habitat Conservation Plan.

8. Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Maszk / Seefeldt to adjourn the meeting at 1:50 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.