

Members present: Tom Rosenberg (vice-chair), Jean Maszk

Excused: Rick Seefeldt (chair)

Staff present: Tom Lovlien - Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley – Director

Others present: Don Nelson

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 Maszk / Rosenberg to approve the minutes from the October 31, 2023 regular Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. **Motion carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.

4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee - None

5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee - None

B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration

1. Review and Consider Approving the 2024 Wildlife Work Plan – Brandon Stefanski, DNR Wildlife Biologist – The work plan had been previously distributed. Stefanski reported on accomplishments from 2023 and explained the 2024 work plan. Work includes flowage maintenance, dike maintenance, cattail management at the Bern Flowage, wild rice seeding, alder and invasive species management, and forest opening maintenance. Stefanski discussed the Nickel-An-Acre budget. Questions were answered.

2. Review and Consider Approving the 2024 County Forest Work Plan – Lovlien reviewed the workplan that had been previously distributed. Upcoming work includes timber management, road and trail maintenance, conservation aids projects, administration, GIS work and professional development. **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to approve the 2024 County Forest Work Plan which includes the 2024 Wildlife Work Plan and forward the Resolution and work plan to the Environmental Resource Committee. **Motion carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.

3. Resolution: Application for County Forest Acreage Share Payment – Lovlien explained that this interest free loan is based upon the number of County forest acres at 50 cents for the purchase, development, preservation, and maintenance of county forest lands. In the last several years, the loan has mainly been used to match the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grants to purchase land. The loan is paid back through a twenty percent severance tax on timber. In 2007 this interest free loan was at 1.9 million dollars and currently is at \$825,000. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Maszk to approve the Resolution for the Application for County Forest Acreage Payment and forward it to the Environmental Resource Committee. **Motion carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.

4. Resolution: County Fish and Game Projects – Lovlien said this resolution for County Conservation Aids funds County wide fish and game projects. Every year the County receives a matching grant of \$4,314. Past projects have been for fish and wildlife habitat, archery and gun range projects, repairing boat landings, and others. Questions were answered. **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to approve the Resolution for County Fish and Game Projects and forward it to the Environmental Resource Committee. **Motion carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.

6. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee

A. 2021 – 2035 County Forest Comprehensive Plan Amendments – Lovlien said most of the changes to the plan were minor. He discussed each amendment to the plan and the reason for the change. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Maszk to approve the 2021 – 2035 County Forest Comprehensive Plan Amendments and forward it to the Environmental Resource Committee. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.

7. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Department of Natural Resources Liaison Report – Lovlien discussed the report provided by Jeff Sorenson. The DNR has completed 305.5 hours of their 660 time standard hours for the County. A sale in Harrison/Hewitt is framed and about a third marked. Sorenson has been working with the County Forester to determine most of the spring 2025 sale stand locations and will begin working on musclewood and ironwood control in some of the current sales.

8. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Thursday, January 4, 2024, 1:00 pm, Rm. 5 & Webex, 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – Don Nelson said he is the wood procurement manager for Domtar Mill in Rothschild. He is on the Forestry and Transportation Committee for the Wisconsin Paper Council and will be attending various county forest committee meetings.

B. Future Agenda Items: None at this time.

9. Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.