



MARATHON COUNTY FORESTRY/RECREATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 1:00pm

Meeting Location: Conference Room #5, 212 River Drive, Wausau WI 54403

MEMBERS: Rick Seefeldt (Chairman), Tom Rosenberg (Vice-Chairman), Jean Maszk

Marathon County Mission Statement: *Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business.*

Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Mission Statement: *Adaptively manage our park and forest lands for natural resource sustainability while providing healthy recreational opportunities and unique experiences making Marathon County the preferred place to live, work, and play.*

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public. Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the telephone conference beginning ten (10) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number: Phone Number: 1-408-418-9388 Access Code: 2493 123 0977. When you enter the telephone conference, PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!

Agenda Items:

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Public Comment (15 minute limit)** *(Any person who wishes to address the County Board, or one of its committees, during the "Public Comment" portion of meetings, must provide his or her name, address, and the topic he or she wishes to present to the Marathon County Clerk or chair of the committee, no later than five minutes before the start of the meeting.)*
3. **Approval of the Minutes of the Tuesday, December 5, 2023 Committee Meeting**
4. **Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination**
 - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
 1. 2023 Department Year In Review
 2. 2024 Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Workplan
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 - None
6. **Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee - None**
7. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**
 - A. Parks, Recreation and Forestry Law Enforcement Annual Report
 - B. WCFA Media and Marketing Campaign – Keep Wisconsin Forests Thriving
 - C. Update on Timber Sale Harvest Activity on County Forest Lands
 - D. Winter Recreation Program Update
 - E. Department of Natural Resources Liaison Report
 - F. Governor Evers Announces Approval of Largest Forest Conservation Effort in State History

8. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 1:00pm at 212 River Dr., Wausau, WI 54403, Room 5 or via Webex

- A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence
- B. Future Agenda Items: 2023 County Forests Annual Report, Forestry Division Expense/Revenue Report, 2023 Timber Stumpage Payments to Towns, Timber Sale Closeouts, Update on the WCFA Meeting in Madison

9. Adjournment

**SIGNED /s/ Thomas Lovlien
PRESIDING OFFICER OR DESIGNEE**

ANY PERSON PLANNING TO ATTEND THIS MEETING WHO NEEDS SOME TYPE OF SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE SHOULD CALL THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE AT 261-1500 OR E-MAIL COUNTYCLERK@CO.MARATHON.WI.US ONE BUSINESS DAY BEFORE THE MEETING.

EMAILED/FAXED TO: Daily Herald and other News Media Groups
EMAILED/FAXED BY: Jodi Luebbe
EMAIL/FAX DATE/TIME: January 26, 2024 1:50 p.m.

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE:
By: _____
Date: _____
Time: _____ a.m/p.m.

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.



Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry



2023 Year in Review

2023 was a very busy year for the department. Parks and programs were enhanced to continue to provide our citizens with amenities and activities to explore within 37 City Parks, 17 County Forests and 10 County Forest Units that make up 3,401 acres of parkland and 30,714 acres of County Forest.

-Our department has 44 FTE and 150+ seasonals.

-General operating budget of \$7,127,498 in expenditures and \$2,731,021 in revenues (city and county combined)

- 23,627 BOULEVARD TREES, INVENTORIED 2,908 PARK TREES

- PLANTED 524 TREES, REMOVED 519 NON-ASH & 384 ASH TREES, TREATED 1037 ASH (1/3 OF CITY)

- 579 SHELTER RENTAL DAYS AND 213 EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- MOWED 308.5 ACRES AND 81,920 FT OF TRAILS

- 2280 TOTAL SEASON PASSES SOLD (DISC GOLF, BIKING, BOAT LAUNCH, SKI, RANGE, ETC)

- COMPLETED 69-ACRE TIMBER SALE AT BIG EAU PLEINE PARK FOR A NET REVENUE OF \$72,830.62

- COMPLETED MULTI-YEAR FOREST INVENTORY OF ALL COUNTY PARKS OUTSIDE OF CITY LIMITS

- SECURED SPONSORSHIP FROM AQUA FINANCE TO HELP FUND OUR FIRST 400 BLOCK MOVIE IN THE PARK SERIES WHERE WE HOSTED 5 NIGHTS OF FREE MOVIES FOR THE PUBLIC ON A GIANT LED SCREEN

- CREATED A JR. TENNIS LEAGUE TO KEEP MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL PLAYERS ENGAGED

- PARTNERED WITH MCPL TO HOST 3 CHILDREN'S PERFORMANCES AT OAK ISLAND PARK AND 6 STORY TIMES THROUGHOUT OUR PARK SYSTEM

- INCREASED SWIM LESSON REVENUE FOR A 3RD YEAR IN A ROW BY \$1,400 OVER 2022 REVENUES

- OFFERED 200 SWIM LESSON CLASSES FOR 673 STUDENTS ENROLLED THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER.

- HOSTED MOVING WITH THE MAYOR EVENTS KITE FLYING, MOONLIGHT SNOWSHOEING, AND SUNSET HIKE

- SERVED APPROX. 10,000 PATRONS AT SYLVAN TUBING HILL TOTALING CLOSE TO \$114,000 IN REVENUE

- SUCCESSFULLY PARTNERED WITH THE FAIR TO PROVIDE FAIR OPERATIONS

- CREATED A NEW DIGITAL RECREATION GUIDE REPLACING THE USE OF CITY PAGES TO DO THE GUIDES.

- HOSTED OUR FIRST BUS TRIP TO THE PACKER FAMILY NIGHT

- HOSTED OVER 3000 PARTICIPANTS AT CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL IN NEW LOCATION AT MPB BUILDINGS

- PARTNERED WITH PEYTON'S PROMISE TO HOST A "CHANGE FOR GOOD" DRIVE RAISED \$1,000 WHICH WAS MATCHED BY PEOPLES BANK FOR A TOTAL OF \$2,000 FOR PEYTON'S PROMISE

- SECURED \$3,000 OF SPONSORSHIPS TO THE CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL ALLOWING US TO ADD FEATURES

NEW WATERMAIN & LATERALS AT MARATHON PARK



**Completed on time and
under budget**

TIMBER SALES

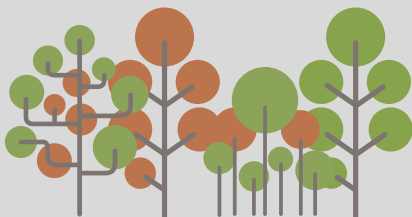


7 sales sold totaling 587 acres with
16,388 cords

\$495,764.00

Gross revenue

\$347,034 Net Revenue to County





2023 Year in Review - Projects

CITY PARK PROJECTS

- 16 FRUIT TREES PLANTED IN 10TH STREET PARK WITH EARTH DAY VOLUNTEERS
- TRANSPLANTED 14 FRUIT TREES TO 3-M PARK AND 5 PLUM TREES TO PLEASANT VIEW PARK
- INSTALLED LINCOLN TOT LOT PLAYGROUND FUNDED BY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT
- 2 ROUNDS OF GOAT VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AT BARKER STEWART ISLAND
- ATHLETIC PARK VIDEO SCOREBOARD INSTALLATION
- SERVED APPROXIMATELY 40,000 PATRONS AT POOLS, SOLD 886 ANNUAL SWIM PASSES
- CONTINUE TO ADD NEW ADOPT-A-PARK MEMBERS TOTALING 8 ADOPTEES.
- HELD ONE POP-UP SPLASH PAD WITH THE WAUSAU FIRE DEPARTMENT
- MASONRY WORK COMPLETED AT STEWART PARK ON THE WALLS AND STEPS
- REPLACED FOUL NET BEHIND HOME PLATE AT ATHLETIC PARK
- NEW KIOSK AT SCHOFIELD PARK BOAT LAUNCH INSTALLED. PROJECT IN CONJUNCTION WITH WSD.
- BARKER-STEWART ISLAND BRIDGE DECKING REPLACED
- DEMOLITION OF RESTROOM AND THE START OF INSTALLATION OF RESTROOM AT OAK ISLAND
- ATHLETIC PARK BULLPEN PLUMBING TIED INTO MAIN SUPPLY
- OUTFIELD FENCE REPLACEMENT AT BOILEAU FIELD
- ADA COMPLIANT PATHS INSTALLED AT RIVERSIDE AND TENTH STREET PARK
- KAYAK INFORMATION SIGNS INSTALLED AT GILBERT, SCHOLFIELD, RIVERLIFE, OAK ISLAND & MEMORIAL
- PLEASANT VIEW SHELTER HAS A NEW STEEL ROOF

COUNTY PARK/FOREST PROJECTS

- COMMUNITY ARBOR DAY EVENT AT MARATHON PARK - TRANSPLANTED HUNDREDS OF PINE TREES
- NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT IN MISSION LAKE PARK, CHEROKEE PARK AND BLUEGILL BAY PARK
- ASH TREES REMOVED FROM BLUE GILL BAY PARK - 5 NEW TREES PLANTED
- 21 HAZARD TREES REMOVED FROM WEST CAMPGROUND EAU PLEINE PARK
- PLANNED AND ORDERED PLAYGROUNDS FOR AMCO AND MARATHON PARK CAMPGROUND
- BROUGHT IN \$3,500 IN NEW REVENUE FROM OFFERING SWIM LESSONS DURING THE WINTER AT NCHC
- INCREASED REVENUE BY \$6,200 IN WATER EXERCISE BY OFFERING IT YEAR-ROUND AT NCHC
- ADDED ADULT PICKLEBALL LADDER LEAGUE, CHALLENGER SOCCER CAMP, YOUTH CHESS CLASSES, AND YOUTH BRICK BUILDERS WORKSHOP TO OUR RECREATION PROGRAM OFFERINGS
- CREATED A NEW VALENTINE'S SKI DATE NIGHT EVENT AT NINE MILE COUNTY FOREST. (DID GET RAINED OUT BUT HAD GOOD PARTICIPATION IN REGISTRATION.)
- INSTALLED NEW BATTING CAGES AT SUNNYVALE SOFTBALL COMPLEX
- DC EVEREST RESTROOM DEMO AND INSTALLATION OF NEW RESTROOM (NOT FINISHED)
- NINE MILE GARAGE RENOVATION
- BEP SOUTH UNIT PARKING LOT RESURFACING
- ADA COMPLIANT PATH INSTALLED AT BLUEGILL BAY PLAYGROUND
- ADA KAYAK LAUNCH INSTALLED AT DC EVEREST PARK
- SOUTH BOAT LAUNCH AT DC EVEREST UPDATED TO COMPLY WITH ADA CODE
- 1 DOCK AT BLUEGILL REBUILT AND ADA COMPLIANT
- CULVERTS REPLACED AND BEACH ROAD/PARKING LOT REPAVED AT DELLS
- ELK TARGET SHELTER INSTALLED AT SHOOTING RANGE
- KAYAK INFORMATION SIGNS INSTALLED AT WISCONSIN RIVER FOREST UNIT, BLUEGILL AND DC EVEREST
- EASTGATE HALL BOILER UPGRADE
- IMPLEMENTED A PERMANENT FAT TIRE BIKE SEASON AT NINE MILE
- COMPLETED AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN
- COMPLETED A LAND SWAP AT DELLS OF EAU CLAIRE TO CLARIFY LAND OWNERSHIP
- ESTABLISHED A TRIAL ARCHERY DEER HUNT AT BIG EAU PLEINE PARK

CAMPING

Camping had another busy season

Gross Revenue \$271,446.40

1.5% 

Increase in revenue over 2022
Gross Revenue





Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry

2024 Work Plan



County CIP Projects

- Eastgate Hall Renovation
- Dump Station Installation at Dell of Eau Claire
- Nine Mile Septic System Replacement
- Amco & Marathon Park Campground Playground

County Small Projects

- Blue Gill Bay dock replacement
- DCE Park Restroom Completion
- DEC manger cabin update
- DEC group campground well
- Extend cart path at Peoples Sports Complex

Riverlife/400 Block

- Concession Fence Replacement
- Leaper Jet Repair/Replacement
- Fountain Push Button
- NE Park Sign

Plan department consolidation - Pardee St Review



Ice Arena Feasibility Study



Forestry Work Plan

- Administer 24 timber sales on 1874 acres
- Plant 60,000 red pine trees on 60 acres
- Establish and advertise 600-625 acres of timber for sale
- Establish another timber sale at Big Eau Pleine Park


Other Projects

- Install new drinking fountains
- New well at Dell of Eau Claire
- Barker Stewart Island Vegetation
- Lincoln Tot Lot Fall Zone
- BEP Boat Launch Repair
- MP Stand Pipe Boxes



Treat & remove ash trees
plant 400 + trees

Expand Recreation Programs & Events
Open Gyms Tot Time
Partnership with Children's Imaginarium

Install AED
Save Stations/
Train all FT 
Staff in CPR

City Small Projects

- Memorial & Schulenberg Slide Restoration
- Stewart Park wall cap & tuckpointing
- Athletic Park Cap Repair
- Athletic Park Ascension Deck Staining
- Brockmeyer Soccer Field Improvements
- Brockmeyer Press Box Rebuild

City CIP Projects
-Build Skatepark
-Complete Oak Island Restroom
-400 Block Safety Bollards



Lulu B Jacobs Park
Reestablishment

Plans/Grants to Complete

- County CORP Update
- Rib Falls Master Plan
- Big Rapids Dam Removal
- AED/Save Station Grant
- Athletic Park Clubhouse Review

Secure Field Sponsors
PSC

Parks, Recreation & Forestry Law Enforcement Annual Report (01/01/2023-12/22/2023)

Parks:

Patrols: Times where Mike, Tyler or Brian entered a park without being called there for a specific complaint. This does not include other sheriff's deputies checking out at the parks during their shifts. Numbers are from the Sheriff's CAD System. They indicate the number of times we check out at a specific park for a Patrol.

Patrol can vary widely from driving through the parking lots and checking passes, to foot patrols through the park. They can be 15 minutes or hours in length.

These are also only the times we actually physically checked out at a park, there are also times we are at various parks and do not check out. The times we do not check out are usually very quick patrols where there it is discovered there are very few people at the park. (Only 0-2 vehicle's in lot, etc.)

Criminal Complaints: Times where Mike, Tyler or Brian entered a park after being called by either the parks department or a witness for a specific complaint or issue. This does not include other sheriff's deputies being dispatched to parks when Mike, Tyler or Brian are unavailable.

Complaints can vary on types of complaints. Majority of complaints are for camping registration violations, noise complaints, and littering complaints. Others include, complaints of entering prohibited areas, pay tube break-ins, domestic animal violations, and wild animal complaints.

Patrols

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Marathon Park: | 37 |
| DC Everest: | 36 |
| Bluegill: | 51 |
| Big Eau Pleine: | 62 |
| Dells of Eau Claire: | 26 |
| Sunnyvale: | 70 |
| Rib Falls: | 9 |
| Mission Lake: | 19 |
| Ashley: | 0 |
| Big Rapids: | 6 |
| Cherokee: | 2 |
| Amco: | 3 |
| Brokaw: | 8 |
| Gilbert: | 2 |
| Memorial: | 0 |
| Oak Island: | 0 |
| Schofield: | 1 |
| <i>Total:</i> | <i>332</i> |

Criminal Complaints

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Marathon Park: | 7 |
| DC Everest: | 8 |
| Bluegill: | 8 |
| Big Eau Pleine: | 12 |
| Dells of Eau Claire: | 5 |
| Sunnyvale: | 3 |
| Rib Falls: | 2 |
| Mission Lake: | 1 |
| Ashley: | 0 |
| Big Rapids: | 0 |
| Cherokee: | 1 |
| Amco: | 0 |
| Brokaw: | 0 |
| <i>Total:</i> | <i>47</i> |

Citations and Warnings: Number of times a person was issued a citation or written warning for a Parks ordinance violations. This does not include verbal warnings which makes up the vast majority of enforcement means and are not able to be tallied. This does not include State Criminal Charges, or State Citations. This also does not include Violation Notices issued.

| Citations | Written Warnings |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Deface, Remove, Destroy: 0 | Littering, Dumping, Refuse: 1 |
| Fail to Pay Fee: 24 | Enter Prohibited Area: 0 |
| Vehicle Violations: 3 | Animal Violations: 0 |
| Littering, Dumping, Refuse: 4 | Vehicle Violations: 3 |
| Animal Violations: 0 | Soliciting: 0 |
| Camping Violations: 1 | <i>Total: 4</i> |
| Obstructing Officer: 0 | |
| Permit Violations: 0 | |
| <i>Total: 32</i> | |

Criminal Charges and Arrests: Number of times a person had criminal charges brought against them or was arrested for a criminal offense by Mike, Tyler or Brian for a violation at a park or during a recreational motor vehicle patrol. This does not include other arrests made by deputies at a park, if any occurred. This also does not include arrests made by Mike, Tyler or Brian for non-park related complaints.

| Criminal Charges | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Warrant Arrests: | 0 |
| OWI Related Arrests: | 0 |
| Check Fraud: | 0 |
| Lewd Behavior: | 0 |
| Criminal Damage to Property: | 0 |
| <i>Total:</i> | <i>0</i> |

Forestry:

Patrols and Complaints: Times Mike, Tyler or Brian were at a Forest Unit for either a complaint called in by Forestry Staff or citizen, or a general patrol.

| Patrols and Complaints | Patrols | Tree Stand/Trail Camera Enforcement |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Vehicle Violations: 2 | Nine Mile: 94 | Monitoring: 6 |
| XC Ski Patrols: 12 | Burma: 12 | Tree Stands/Camera Confiscated: 15 |
| Vandalism: 1 | Ringle: 8 | Boat Confiscated: 2 |
| Misc. Criminal: 5 | Kronenwetter: 3 | No Stand Located: 3 |
| Illegal Dumping: 4 | Leathercamp: 5 | Citations: 4 |
| Lost Hiker/Hunter: 0 | Wisconsin River: 2 | <i>Total: 30</i> |
| | Harrison Hewitt: 10 | |
| | Bern Wetland: 3 | |
| <i>Total: 24</i> | <i>Total: 137</i> | |

Citations: Times Mike, Tyler or Brian issued a citation for violations of Forestry Ordinance. This does not include violations notices issued.

| Citations |
|-----------------------|
| Vehicle Violations: 2 |
| Abandoned Vehicle: 0 |
| Misc: 5 |
| <i>Total: 7</i> |

Recreation Motor Vehicle Patrols:

Hours, Citations, and Warnings Submitted to DNR for recreational motor vehicle patrols. Snowmobile data is from 2022-2023 snowmobile season. Boat Data is taken from the 2023 season. ATV data is for patrols from May 2023-December 2023, due to DNR considering any patrols prior to May as 2022 data and December logs are not completed yet. These hours at the total hours from all deputies working the grants.

| Type | Hours | Citations | Warnings |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Snowmobile: | 276.5 | 16 | 24 |
| Boat: | 223 | 5 | 22 |
| ATV: | 548 | 24 | 46 |
| <i>Total:</i> | <i>1047.5</i> | <i>45</i> | <i>92</i> |

Report numbers are based off of Brian for the whole year. Mike is from January 1 to June 23rd. Tyler is June 23rd until the end of the year.

Marathon County Forestry Committee

January 4th, 2023 Meeting

- As of 12/30/23 the DNR had completed ~393.5 hours of 660 time standard hours for '23/'24. ~60% of total through ~50% of the time (6 of 12 months). Sorenson ~319 hours of 525 hours ~60%
- I finished up the field work on the DNR's 87 acre hardwood sale (Fall 2024 bid opening) in the Harrison/Hewitt unit.
- The upcoming winter months workload will include recon updates, helping out Joe with sale administration and muslewood and ironwood control on the Einstein sale.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Sorenson

Jeff Sorenson

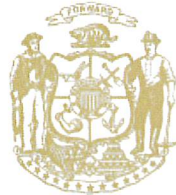
Wisconsin DNR – Marathon County Forest Liaison

1/26/24, 8:21 AM

Press Release: Gov. Evers Announces Approval of Largest Fores

Press Release: Gov. Evers Announces Approval of Largest Forest Conserv

State of Wisconsin sent this bulletin at 01/23/2024 07:16 PM CST



Tony Evers

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 23, 2024

Contact: GovPress@wisconsin.gov

Gov. Evers Announces Approval of Largest Forest Conservation Effort in State History

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers tonight, during his 2024 State of the State address, announced the approval of an additional conservation easement covering 54,898 acres of the Pelican River Forest to complete one of the largest conservation projects in Wisconsin history. Altogether, over 67,000 acres of the Pelican River Forest will be protected, ensuring the forest will remain open to the public in perpetuity for outdoor recreation activities such as fishing, hunting, skiing, trapping, and hiking.

Relevant excerpts from Gov. Evers' 2024 State of the State address are available below:

“Conserving and protecting our natural resources and land continues to be a top priority for my administration. I’m also excited to announce tonight I’m approving the largest forest conservation effort in state history. In partnership with the Biden Administration and the Conservation Fund, we’ve approved the conservation easement for the Pelican River Forest’s remaining acres to protect the forest for generations of future Wisconsinites to use and enjoy. This is a big deal, folks.”

Following this announcement, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is moving forward with the acquisition of the easement with the Conservation Fund, which is expected to be completed by the end of the week.



“This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to protect nearly 70,000 acres of forestland provides greater access to nature, strengthens local economies, and enhances climate resiliency,” said Clint Miller, central Midwest regional director at The Conservation Fund. “The Conservation Fund and its partners are very grateful to the Richard King Mellon Foundation for their bridge financing loan and for the individual, foundation, and corporate support that helped provide a match for federal Forest Legacy Program funds—including a \$600,000 lead grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation through Walmart’s Acres for America Program. Because so many worked so tirelessly to get this project done, Pelican River Forest will stand tall for generations to come.”

In addition, the Pelican River Forest conservation project has broad support from local governments, Native Nations, outdoor advocacy groups, local businesses, and thousands of individual Wisconsinites. The approved acreage under this conservation easement has been modified to address concerns from one local town in the Pelican River Forest footprint to accommodate future economic development growth and align with their comprehensive land use plan. All other townships within the footprint of the easement have language in their land use plans in support of industrial forest and recreational opportunities as an important component of their long-term vision.

The conservation easement will be funded by a grant from the U.S. Forestry Service Forest Legacy Program (FLP). In April 2023, Republicans on the Joint Committee on Finance voted to prevent the use of Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program funding to complete the conservation easement after months of inaction and obstruction. In response to this and other instances of abuses of power by Republicans, in October, Gov. Evers and Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul [filed a lawsuit](#) against Republicans in the Wisconsin State Legislature for obstructing basic government functions, including the blocking of conservation projects through the Stewardship Program. Despite attempts from Republicans to block this project, the Evers Administration has continued to work cooperatively with [The Conservation Fund](#) to complete the conservation easement and protect these valuable lands.

Strategic conservation of the state’s valuable natural resources is expected to have positive benefits on the local and regional economy, including minimal to no impact on property tax revenues and maintaining high timber harvest and tourism revenues. Conserving the Pelican River Forest also makes significant progress towards Gov. Evers’ [Trillion Trees Pledge](#), which includes conserving 125,000 acres of forestland by 2030. According to the DNR, the Pelican River Forest conservation easements will achieve 55 percent of the governor’s goal. In addition, the Pelican River Forest conservation easement will:

- Protect 58 miles of rivers and streams and 22,334 acres of wetlands;
- Protect more than seven miles of Class I and II designated cold-water trout streams;
- Ensure the land remains forested and is sustainably managed as a working forest;
 - The property is third-party certified under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, adhering to strict social and environmental standards.
- Store approximately 19 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MTCO_{2e});

1/26/24, 8:21 AM

Press Release: Gov. Evers Announces Approval of Largest Fores

- Annually, it is estimated the property will sequester 125,000 MTCO₂e over the first five years of management. Permanently secure public access and open 56 miles of roads designated for motorized vehicle use
- Permanently secure public access and open 56 miles of roads designated for motorized vehicle use;
- Connect important snowmobile/ATV/UTV trail routes to Oneida County's 1,100-mile trail network; and
- Protect the headwaters of the Wolf River, which supplies clean drinking water to over 40,000 people who live downstream in cities and towns like Wausau, Merrill, Keshena, and New London.

An online version of this release is available [here](#).

###

Office of the Governor • 115 East Capitol, Madison, WI 53702

Press Office Email: GovPress@wisconsin.gov



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