

Members present: Jean Maszk, Rick Seefeldt (chair), Tom Rosenberg (vice-chair)
Staff present: Tom Lovlien - Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley – Director Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department-(via Webex), Joe Tucker-County Forester, Michael Puerner-Corporation Counsel, Michael VanOfferen - Sheriff’s Lieutenant
Others present: Jeff Sorenson – DNR Liaison, LeRoy Knase

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 Maszk / Rosenberg to approve the minutes from the March 5, 2024 regular Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. **Motion carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Request for Motorized Access Permit by Persons with Disabilities – Mr. LeRoy Knase – Puerner discussed his legal opinion that had been included in the agenda packet. Lovlien explained that based upon his opinion related to safety, user conflicts and environmental concerns he had a proposal for Committee to consider. The first decision pertained to Knase’s request to install game cameras starting August 1. Current ordinance says that trail cameras can be put in the woods seven days prior to any bear or deer season and seven days after which this year is August 29, 2024 to January 12, 2025. Members were not in favor of changing the current trail camera ordinance so this request was denied. Lovlien explained that the original request was for ATV motorized access to Leathercamp, Kronenwetter and Ringle Forest Units for approximately seven and a half months beginning June 1 to be able to scout and hunt deer. Lovlien gave reasonings for his proposal which would be for a one-month ATV motorized access permit beginning August 1 on the hardened trails at either Kronenwetter or Leathercamp Forest Units, (not both at the same time), at one specific entry point. Ringle Forest Unit access would not be granted due to wetness and environmental concerns. With Lovlien’s approval the permit could be renewed monthly by phone. Lovlien discussed the other current regulations in the permit that would also apply and be required to follow. He also offered Knase the option of using the Burma Road Forest Unit which is a motorized area without needing a permit unless it’s during October, November or March when trails are closed to ATV’s. **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to approve staff’s proposal for the disabled motorized access permit for Knase. **Motion carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Review and Consider Approving Spring 2024 Timber Sale Package – The spring timber sale package had been distributed to Committee for review. The County forest sales offers 285 acres of timber on five tracts with an estimated volume of 12065 tons and 343.0 thousand board feet. Tucker discussed all the sales. The sales will be advertised and the bid opening is April 29, 2024. Questions were answered. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to approve and advertise the spring 2024 timber sale package. **Motion carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

2. Timber Sale Closeout – Twin Forest Products Contract #713-22 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 3970 and 3,579.96 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$147,178.61. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract #713-22 and return their original Letter of Credit. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Maszk to close out Contract #713-22 and return their original Letter of Credit. **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

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

7. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Billerud – Wisconsin Rapids Heads Towards Liquidation – The Verso Mill in Wisconsin Rapids had been bought out by Billerud and has sat idle for nearly four years. It's going to be purchased by Capital Recovery Group and the equipment and assets will be sold off. Hopefully the building can be repurposed and reused. This is unfortunate as the mill had been taking thirty percent of Marathon County's pulpwood.

B. Department of Natural Resources Liaison Report – Sorenson reported as of March 25 the DNR had completed 502.25 hours of 660-time standard hours for 2023/24. He assisted Tucker with marking two 2025 Oak thinning's in the Kronenwetter Forest Unit and will be marking sales in Kronenwetter and Burma Forest Units this spring.

8. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Tuesday, April 30, 2024, 1:00 pm, Room. 5 & Webex, 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – Lovlien said that Superior Tree Service will be planting 60,000 trees at Nine Mile and he will have a report next month.

B. Future Agenda Items: Review Timber Bids and Award Contracts, Timber Bid Summary, Timber Sale Closeout, Timber Sale Extension Requests, Establish Remaining 2024 Committee Meeting Dates/Times, Department of Natural Resources Liaison Report, WCFA Summer Tour – Lincoln County, Department Overview and Committee Orientation

9. Adjourn – Motion / second by Rosenberg / Maszk to adjourn the meeting at 1:40 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.