



MARATHON COUNTY FORESTRY/RECREATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, July 2, 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: 2496 426 9381. 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, April 30, 2024 Committee Meeting**
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
 1. Timber Sale Closeout – Flannel Fleet Logging Contract #721-23
 2. Nine Mile Forest Springbrook Road Red Pine Harvest, History and Revenue
 - 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. Spring 2024 Timber Sale Summary
 - B. Department of Natural Resources Liaison Report
 - C. Springbrook Road Tree Planting Video and Pictures
 - D. Billerud Cancels Plans for Escanaba Mill Upgrade
 - E. Wisconsin County Forests Association State Budget Priorities
 - F. Nine Mile Forest Events in 2024

8. **Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 at 1:00pm at 212 River Dr., Wausau, WI 54403, Room 5 or via Webex**
A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence
B. Future Agenda Items: Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee Appointments, Department of Natural Resources Liaison Report, County Forest Timber Sale Revenue Through July 30, 2024.

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 TO: Daily Herald and other News Media Groups
EMAILED BY: Jodi Luebbe
EMAIL DATE/TIME: June 25, 2024 11:00 a.m.

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE:

By: _____
Date: _____
Time: _____ a.m/p.m.

Members present: Jean Maszk, Rick Seefeldt (chair), Tom Rosenberg (vice-chair)
Staff present: Tom Lovlien - Forest Administrator

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 April 2, 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 - None
5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution
 - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
 1. Review Timber Bids and Award Contracts – Lovlien reported that thirty-one bids were received on five tracts from fourteen different bidders. On tract 1-24 Welter Forest Products did not include a ten percent bid bond. **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to reject Welter Forest Products bid on tract 1-24 for not following the bid specifications. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0. On tract 1-24 Smola Enterprises and Midwest Hardwood did not bid on one or more species. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Maszk to reject Smola Enterprises bid and Midwest Hardwoods bid on tract 1-24 for not following the bid specifications Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0. On tract 4-24 Al Mann Logging did not bid on one or more species. **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to reject Al Mann Logging bid on tract 4-24 for not following the bid specifications. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0. On tract 5-24 Smola Enterprises did not bid on one or more species. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Maszk to reject Smola Enterprises bid on tract 5-24 for not following the bid specifications. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0. The County has worked with the high bidders except for one and Lovlien has contacted their references and discussed the sale with them. **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to award the spring timber sale tracts 1-24, 2-24 3-24, 4-24 and 5-24 to the high bidders. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.
 2. Timber Sale Closeout – Futurewood Contract #670-18 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 3,125.00 and 5,176.66 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$96,523.44. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract #670-18 and return their original surety bond. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Maszk to close out Contract #670-18 and return their original surety bond. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.
 3. Consider Timber Sale Extension Requests – Lovlien explained that this last winter had been short effectively ending January 31 and the DNR has decided to give one free year extension on all of the contracts. Most other Counties are also doing the same. He said Schreiner Forestry Contract #703-21 completed 30% and Briarton Logging Contract #704-21 completed 0% of their winter only sales and are requesting a first extension. Briarton Logging Contract #694-20 completed 40% of their winter only sale and requesting a second extension. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to grant a one year extension with a zero percent increase in stumpage for Schreiner Forestry and Briarton Logging contracts due to the poor logging conditions during the 23-24 winter. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.
 4. Establish Remaining 2024 Committee Meeting Dates/Times – Members decided to keep the remaining 2024 committee meeting dates and time the same as the Tuesday before the 1st Thursday of the month at 1:00pm. If needed in the future, new dates and times can be discussed.

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. Department of Natural Resources Liaison Report – The DNR completed approximately 580 hours of 660 time standard hours for 2023/2024. Sorenson and Hunt have helped mark timber sales and with the Red Pine planting at Nine Mile. They will start some recon and hope to do some habitat classification typing with the County Forester in June.

B. Wisconsin County Forests Association Summer Tour – Lincoln County June 19-20, 2024 – Lovlien mentioned some of the preliminary planned activities and welcomed members to attend.

C. Spring Timber Bid Summary – tabled

D. Spring Recreational Trail Opening Dates – Lovlien noted that the Burma Forest ATV/UTV trails, Nine Mile County Forest mountain bike and horse trails; Kronenwetter and Leather Camp County Forest horse trails; and Big Eau Pleine County Park mountain bike and horse trails opened for the season on Friday April 26th.

E. Nine Mile Tree Planting Update – Lovlien reported that 57,000 red pine trees had been planted at Nine Mile by a contracted planting crew. He mentioned there had been eleven timber sales on that property since 1970. He discussed the total revenues of those sales which comes out to about \$7,500 an acre. The cost to reforest the land was about \$575.00/acre with a net gain of \$6,925 an acre is a great return. The Committee directed Lovlien to provide a summary of the revenues and costs to reforest to be shared with the County Board when all information is available.

F. Marathon County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) Meeting Recommendations – CDAC voted to set the antlerless quota at 6000. They are offering 2500 private land and 300 public land bonus permits for purchase. The Council is attempting to maintain the deer population.

8. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Tuesday, June 4, 2024, 1:00 pm, Room. 5 & Webex, 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – A meeting will not be held on June 4, 2024 unless needed.

B. Future Agenda Items: None

9. Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Maszk to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

CLOSE OUT TIMBER SALES

Sale 721-23

FLANNEL FLEET LOGGING

	Estimated	Cut	
Aspen Pulp	230 Tons	394.33 Tons	Aspen Pulp
Mixed Hardwood Pulp	470 Tons	833.93 Tons	Mixed Hardwood Pulp
Oak Pulp	3400 Tons	2808.57 Tons	Oak Pulp
Red Pine Pulp	210 Tons	381.01 Tons	Red Pine Pulp
White Pine Pulp	250 Tons	326.88 Tons	White Pine Pulp
White Spruce Pulp	750 Tons	388.73 Tons	White Spruce Pulp
	5310 Tons	5133.45 Total Tons Cut	
Red Maple Sawlogs	4 MBF	3.49 MBF	Red Maple Sawlogs
Mixed Hardwood Sawlog	2 MBF	285.80 MBF	Red Oak Sawlogs
Red Oak Sawlogs	230 MBF		
	236 MBF	289.29 Total MBF Cut	

Total Revenue for Sale: **\$179,802.97**

Balance: \$4,802.97

Bond Amount: \$40,669.38

Bond Type: Letter of Credit

Recommendation: **Close sale. Return original Letter of Credit following final payment \$4802.97**

SPRING BROOK ROAD RED PINE
NINE MILE FOREST UNIT

HIGHLIGHTS:

- 60 Acres Planted in 1940
- 80 Years Old
- Overmature Trees Requiring Clearcut To Capture Economic Value Before Mortality

HARVEST HISTORY:

- 11 Timbersales Completed Beginning In 1970
- 10 Individual Selection Thinnings
- 1 Final Harvest Of All Trees In 2020

REVENUE FROM ALL HARVESTS:

- \$449,670.00 Or \$7,494.50 Per Acre

REFORESTATION COSTS:

- Site Preparation (Disc Trenching And Herbicide)	\$11,102.00
- Seedlings (55,800 Red Pine/930 Trees/Acre)	\$16,182.00
- Planting Contract	\$ 5,308.80
- Delivery/Shipping/Cold Storage (Estimate)	<u>\$ 1,286.20</u>
Total Reforestation Costs	\$33,879.00
	\$564.65 Per Acre

FUTURE HARVESTS:

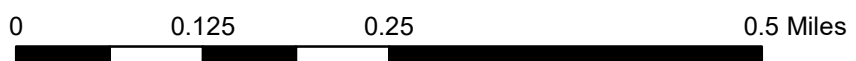
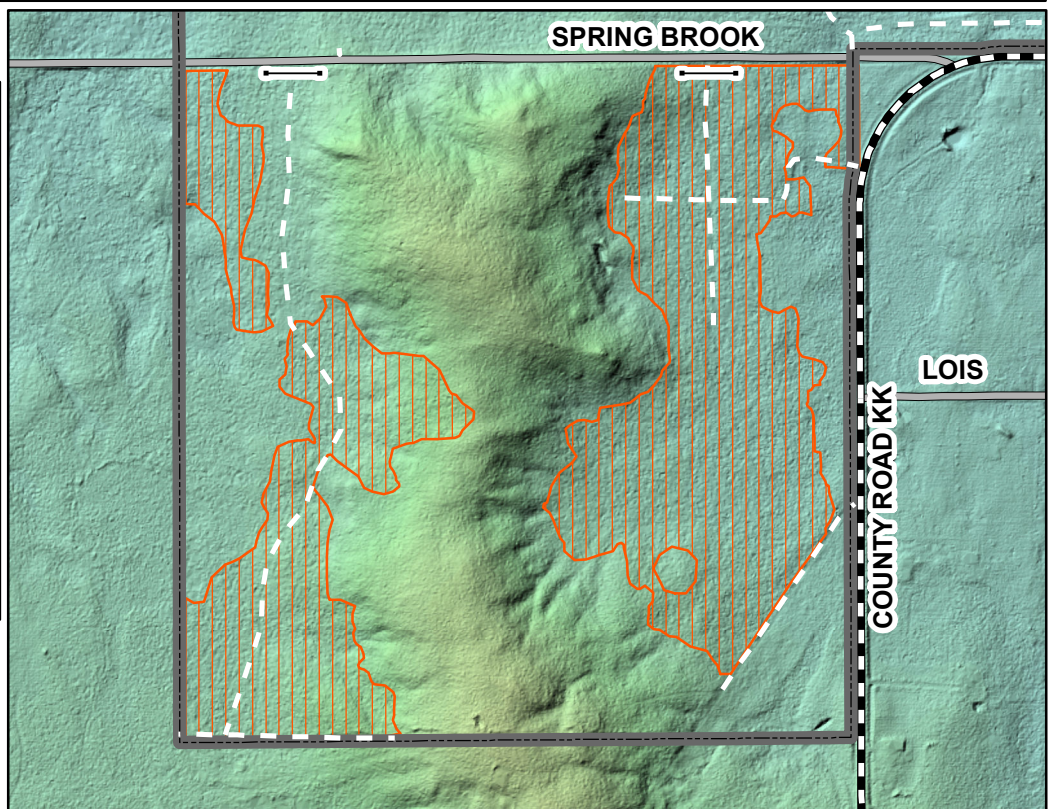
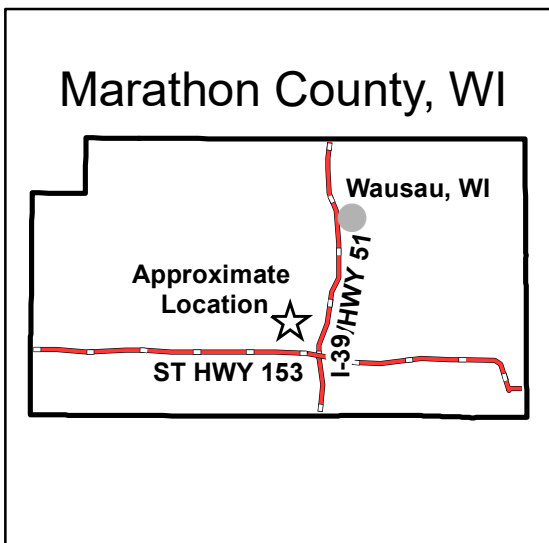
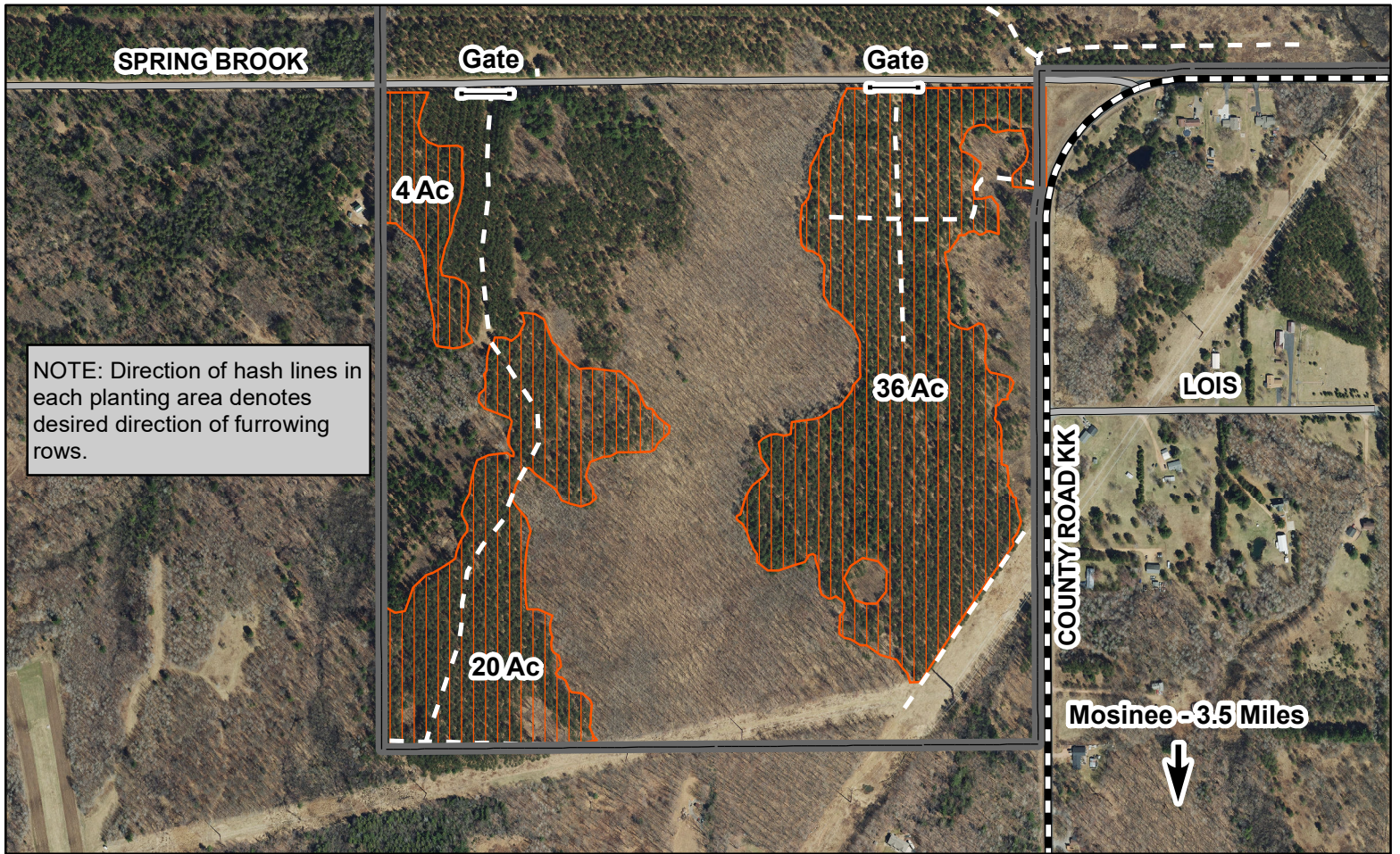
- First Thinning Expected ≈ 2050
- 5-6 Individual Selection Thinnings Expected
- Final Harvest Of All Trees Remaining ≈ 2104
- County Revenues ???

BENEFITS OF COUNTY OWNED LANDS:

- Economic
- Social
- Environmental
- Recreational
- Wildlife Habitat
- Watershed Protection
- And Much More

Marathon County Forest

Springbrook Road Red Pine Planting Site - 60 Acres
NENE, NWNE, SWNE & SENE, Section 7, T.27N. - R.7E.
Mosinee Township, Marathon County, WI



MARATHON COUNTY FOREST Spring 2024 BID OPENING RESULTS

SPECIES	TONS	HIGH BID	LOW BID	Weighted Average of All Bids	Weighted Average of High Bids	Wt. Av. High bids Fall 2023	Wt. Av. High Bids Spring 2023	Wt. Av. High Bids Fall 2022
ASPEN	2930	\$19.50	\$1.00	\$6.95	\$14.01	\$6.63	\$6.92	\$11.87
MIXED HWD	2410	\$23.00	\$2.10	\$15.00	\$20.96	\$7.20	\$10.49	\$10.36
OAK	1155	\$14.70	\$2.10	\$8.43	\$13.74	xxxx	\$14.02	\$5.59
BASSWOOD	80	\$6.25	\$1.00	\$3.21	\$6.25	\$4.10	\$8.22	\$2.69
RED PINE	3250	\$34.05	\$8.00	\$21.80	\$29.91	xxxx	\$38.51	xxxx
MBF								
RED OAK	182	\$475.00	\$180.00	\$347.24	\$472.12	xxxx	\$384.90	\$309.75
RED MAPLE	110	\$475.00	\$150.00	\$306.53	\$454.55	\$179.17	\$247.99	\$307.30
ASH	22	\$425.00	\$150.00	\$217.89	\$322.73	\$142.50	\$197.67	\$167.11
MIXED HWD	5	\$475.00	\$150.00	\$240.96	\$460.00	\$170.00	\$350.00	\$200.00
BASSWOOD	4	\$220.00	\$100.00	\$153.33	\$220.00	\$110.00	\$139.72	\$150.00
HARD MAPLE	20	\$500.00	\$160.00	\$343.33	\$500.00	\$180.00	\$190.00	\$198.00
BIOMASS Tons								
All Species	1750	\$0.00	\$0.00	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	\$0.50
Number of sales sold				5/5				
Acres sold				285				
Value of sales sold				\$351,659.00	\$101,793.50	\$355,409.70	\$242,605.00	
Appraised value of sales				\$210,204.00	\$126,441.00	\$231,750.00	\$181,884.50	
\$ / acre sold				\$1,233.89	\$396.08	\$1,077.00	\$744.19	
Ton eq. sold				11608	14500	16771	17926	
\$ / ton ave.				\$30.29	\$7.02	\$21.19	\$13.53	
Cord eq. sold				4967	6406	7066	7800	
\$ / cord ave.				\$70.80	\$15.89	\$50.30	\$31.10	

This bid opening was for five county forest timber sales.
 Received 31 bids from 14 separate bidders. Five bids were rejected for not submitting a proper bid.
 Four sales were summer/fall chance.

Marathon County Forestry Committee

July 2nd, 2024 Meeting

- As of 6/15/24 the DNR had completed 673 hours of 660 time standard hours for '23/'24. ~ 102% of total through 96% of the time (11.5 of 12 months). Sorenson 559 hours of 525 hours ~ 106%
- John Hunt and I helped Tucker mark a hardwood timber sale on the Burma Forest Unit in May.
- Helped Tucker pull Garlic mustard on the Burma forest Unit in May.
- Conducted habitat classification typing with Tucker on various stands in May.
- Plan to assist Tucker with oak wilt control treatments on the Nine Mile forest unit in June.
- Plan to assist Tucker with musclewood/ironwood control project on the Einstein timber sale this summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Sorenson

Jeff Sorenson

Wisconsin DNR – Marathon County Forest Liaison

BILLERUD CANCELS PLANS FOR ESCANABA MILL UPGRADE

Billerud cancels plans for Escanaba Mill upgrade, Previously Approved State of Michigan Appropriation off the Table

This morning TV6 in Marquette reported that Billerud will no longer be moving forward with their major cartonboard expansion, slated to begin in 2025.

Here is a link to the full article: <https://www.uppermichiganssource.com/2024/05/21/billerud-cancels-plans-escanaba-mill/>

MAKE SURE TO LISTEN TO THE AUDIO RECORDING AT THE BEGINNING OF THE ARTICLE. It offers details directly from Billerud President & CEO Ivar Vatne about why Billerud has backed away from this expansion, and where they're headed going forward.

Billerud's planned upgrade was going to be funded in part by a \$200 million appropriation from the State of Michigan. According to Billerud President and CEO Ivar Vatne, "The discussions we've had with the State of Michigan is off the table [now]."

Some of Mr. Vatne's statement includes:

"We've worked long and hard over the past 18 months to find a solution...we've reviewed many different scopes...we looked at different ways we can phase this out. Now the conclusion is pretty clear; the investment level remains a massive challenge. The discussions we've had with the State of Michigan's is off the table [now]..."

The positive news is that Vatne states that Billerud isn't going anywhere. He goes on to say that they will slowly phase into packaging, and they can't imagine a future without their North American assets. However, for the Upper Peninsula's loggers truckers and mills, as well as many in northern Lower Michigan and northern Wisconsin, this news comes as a terrible blow.

Big thanks to TV6 for their excellent reporting.

NINE MILE FOREST SCHEDULED EVENTS FOR 2024

- ^1. TREK WORS Race – June 14-16, 2024
- ^2. WEMS Bike Race – June 28-29, 2024
- ^3. Wausau 24 Bike Race – July 26-28, 2024
4. NICA Girls Bike Retreat – August 10, 2024
5. Mosinee Cross Country Race – September 3, 2024
6. Marathon Cross Country Race – September 5, 2024
- ^7. Ragnar Running Race – September 19-21, 2024
8. DC Everest Cross Country Sectional – October 19, 2024
9. IronBull Granite Grinder Bike Race – October 19, 2024

^Nine Mile Trails Closed to Public During Event