

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

Staff present: Tom Lovlien - Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley - Director, Jeff Sorenson - DNR Forest Liaison

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 30, 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. Timber Sale Closeout – Flannel Fleet Logging Contract #721-23 - A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 5310 and 5133.45 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$179,802.97. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract #721-23 and return their original Letter of Credit after their final payment is received. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Maszk to close out Contract #721-23 and return their original Letter of Credit after their final payment is received. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

2. Nine Mile Forest Springbrook Road Red Pine Harvest, History and Revenue – Lovlien put together information for County Board at Committee’s request. He gave history that 60 acres at Nine Mile were planted around 1940. Starting in 1970 ten individual selection thinning’s and one final harvest of all trees was done. This 60 acres was replanted this spring. The cost to reforest was about \$33,879.00 or \$564.65 per acre. Revenue from all harvests on the 60 acres was almost \$450,000 or \$7,500 per acre. Other benefits of County owned lands include economic, social, environmental, recreational, wildlife habitat, and watershed protection. Questions were answered and discussion occurred. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to direct Lovlien to contact Rebekah Luedtke from the Wisconsin County Forests Association to give a presentation at a subsequent County Board meeting. 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. Spring 2024 Timber Sale Summary – Sorenson reported this last bid opening was remarkable in terms of the increase in value. All five timber sales were sold with 31 bids received from 14 different contractors. The value of the acres sold was \$351,659.00 which is \$1,233.89 per acre. Questions were answered.

B. Department of Natural Resources Liaison Report – Sorenson reported that the 2023/2024 time standard hours had been met. He has assisted the County Forester with marking a hardwood timber sale in the Burma Forest Unit, pulling Garlic Mustard in the Burma Forest Unit, and conducting habitat classification typing. He will be assisting the County Forester with oak wilt control treatments at Nine Mile and with a musclewood/ironwood control project on a timber sale this summer.

C. Springbrook Road Tree Planting Video and Pictures – Lovlien discussed the pictures and video he had taken of the planting done at Springbrook Road. There were nine planters and one supervisor who planted about 56,000 trees in less than 9.5 hours. They used containerized seedlings which have an extremely good survival rate.

D. Billerud Cancels Plans for Escanaba Mill Upgrade – Lovlien said about a year ago Billerud had said they were going to convert the Escanaba mill to different type of packaging and create more jobs but have since backed away from upgrading it. They still are going to invest in the mill but will not be creating more jobs.

E. Wisconsin County Forests Association State Budget Priorities – The Wisconsin County Forests Association is working on support for areas in the DNR budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2027 which include the County Forest Administration Grant, the Sustainable Forestry Grant, the Wildlife Habitat Grant and Time Standard Hours.

F. Nine Mile Forest Events in 2024 – Lovlien discussed the events which include TREK WORS race June 14-16, WEMS Bike Race June 28-29, Wausau 24 Bike Race July 26-28, NICA Girls Bike Retreat August 10, Mosinee Cross Country Race September 3, Marathon Cross Country Race September 5, Ragnar Running Race Sept. 19-21, DC Everest Cross Country Sectional October 19, and the IronBull Granite Grinder Bike Race October 19.

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

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – none

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. Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.