



MARATHON COUNTY FORESTRY/RECREATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, January 31, 2023 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: 2482 508 5605. Please Note: If you are prompted to provide an "Attendee Identification Number" enter the # sign. No other number is required to participate in the telephone conference. 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, November 29, 2022 Committee Meeting**
4. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**
 - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
 1. Review and Consider Revisions to Marathon County General Code Chapter 16 Relating to Dogs Off Leash in County Forests
 2. 2022 Department Year in Review
 3. 2023 Park, Recreation and Forestry Workplan
 - B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration - None
5. **Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee – None**
6. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**
 - A. Marathon County Forest Program Review 2017 - 2021
 - B. Winter Recreational Program Update
 - C. Wisconsin County Forests Association Spring Meeting – March 21-23, 2023
 - D. Parks, Recreation and Forestry Law Enforcement Annual Report
 - E. Billerud Corporation Investments in North America Operations
 - F. Report on Timber Sale Activity on County Forest Lands and Revenue Assumptions

7. **Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 1:00pm at 212 River Dr., Wausau, WI 54403, Room 5 or via Webex**
- A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence
 - B. Future Agenda Items: 2022 County Forest Annual Report, Forestry Division Expense/Revenue Report, Timber Sale Closeouts, 2022 Timber Stumpage Payments to Towns

8. **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, 2023 1:30 p.m.

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

Members present: Rick Seefeldt (chair), Tom Rosenberg (vice-chair), Jean Maszk
Staff present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director, Joe Tucker-County Forester
Others present: Stacey Morache-County Board-(via Webex), Brandon Stefanski-DNR Wildlife Biologist

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 – Kelly Reith, 150097 Wineberry Lane, Wausau – His property borders Nine Mile Forest Recreation Area. He spoke about the safety and nuisance concerns he felt that unleashed dogs on the path near his property cause during deer and turkey hunting seasons. He asked that Committee consider prohibiting dogs running at large during these hunting seasons.
3. Approve Minutes – **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to approve the minutes from the November 1, 2022 regular Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

4. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Consider Timber Sale Contract Extension Requests – Rodney Hix Forest Products Contract 686-19. The sale will be three years old at the end of December and the contractor has cut over the completed volume already. There is a possibility the remaining fifteen acres will get cut before the end of the year but an extension will still be needed to finish the paperwork. Lovlien recommends a one-year extension with a ten percent increase in stumpage after January 1st. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to extend sale Contract 686-19 for one year with a ten percent increase in stumpage after January 1st. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0. Tigerton Lumber Company Contract 689-19. The sale will be three years old at the end of December and nothing has been cut. The contractor has expressed to Lovlien that he will not get the sale done this winter. Lovlien recommends a one-year extension with a twenty-five percent increase in stumpage. Questions were answered. **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to extend Contract 689-19 for one year with a twenty-five percent increase in stumpage. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

2. 2023 Forestry/Recreation Meeting Schedule – Lovlien explained that the dates will follow the schedule of the Environmental Resources Committee. The start time will remain the same at 1:00 pm. The February 28th Forestry meeting will be rescheduled to March 7th and the July 4th will be rescheduled to June 27th. **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to accept the meeting dates for 2023. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

3. Timber Sale Closeouts: Country Forest Products – Contract 682-19 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 995 and 1265.12 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$70,780.77. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract 682-19 and return their cash bond and balance in their account. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Maszk to closeout Contract 682-19 and return their cash bond and balance in their account. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0. Twin Forest Products Contract 711-22 – A closeout summary as previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 1407 and 872.00 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$82,250.44. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract 711-22 and return their original Letter of Credit. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Maszk to closeout Contract 711-22 and return their original Letter of Credit. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

4. Consider Timber Bids and Award Contract – Lovlien said one sale did not sell at the first bid opening. It was offered out to bid again and no bids were received. Now the sale can be sold direct at the appraised value. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to allow Lovlien to sell the sale per Wisconsin DNR regulations. 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

1. Review and Consider Approving the 2023 Wildlife Work Plan – Brandon Stefanski, DNR – The work plan had been previously distributed. Stefanski reported on accomplishments from 2022 and explained the 2023 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 2023 County Forest Work Plan – Lovlien reviewed the work plan. He gave highlights on upcoming work including timber management, road and trail maintenance, conservation aids projects, administration, GIS work and professional development. **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to approve the 2023 County Forest Work Plan which includes the 2023 Wildlife Work Plan and forward the Resolution and work plan to the Environmental Resource Committee for their consideration. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

3. Resolution: Application for County Forest Acreage 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. **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg 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 3-0.

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

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Fall Timber Bid Summary – Lovlien reported on a summary of the three sales that were sold. He said 254 acres were sold for a value of \$217,162.00 which is \$854.97 per acre. He is hopeful that the fourth sale will get sold which would raise the total value for the fall timber sales.

B. 2023 – 2025 Wisconsin State Budget Requests – Lovlien said WCFA is still trying to get proposal requests into the Governor's budget. The main requests are to increase budget support for DNR Forestry programs, increase ATV/UTV trail and law enforcement funding, and to reauthorize the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program.

7. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Tues., Jan. 3, 2023, 1:00pm, Rm. 5 and Webex, 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54401

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – none brought forward

B. Future Agenda Items:

8. Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

11/28/2022

To: Marathon County Forestry/Recreation Committee

From: Kelly Reith, 150097 Wineberry Lane, Wausau, WI 54401 – Cell 715-409-9187

Hello:

My wife and I are owners of 9 acres of land that borders the Nine Mile County forest along its northern boundary, at the end of Wineberry Lane. There is a forest walking path that goes past our land that starts at the parking lot on the end of Laurel Lane and continues eastward past our property, then eventually turns south into the forest.

What I am contacting you about today is my concerns with a "Safety" issue, as it relates to "recreational" dog walking on this path during Hunting Seasons. I am also attaching my recommended language to add to the County Forest Use Regulations Sec. 16.06, to perhaps avoid a tragedy and this un-necessary conflict.

Here is the Back Story to this request.

The forest, on this north end, has a very large subdivision of homes within walking distance to this path off Laurel Lane. In the last few years there has been a significant and noticeable increase in the amount of dog walkers within our subdivision(s), and the amount of dog walkers utilizing this path off the Laurel Lane parking lot has increased significantly as well.

Directly behind our house, we have a direct view of this walking path as it is only a few feet into the forest at this point. With this proximity to the path come all kinds of un-wanted and un-invited dogs running-at-large and trespassing all over our yard, while the owners "scream" to get them back on the path. (They are NEVER on a leash!) I have had these running-at-large dogs bark at me in my own yard. I've had numerous occasions in the last few years, when my dog was alive, where a male dog has come into the yard off the path and attempted to breed my dog. In all but one case, the owner had to trespass to come over and drag his dog by the collar off my dog and back to the path. Real nice hey? We have sat on our deck and watched dogs run the deer paths into our land and then had to listen to the owners "scream" and "whistle" to get them back. Some quiet relaxing evenings those were? I have hands-on caught dogs in our yard that got so far away from their owners that they had no idea where they went, and were out driving the subdivision looking for them. I am not alone in that many of my neighbors have had dogs running-at-large on their properties as well.

These "nuisance" issues above could be enough to get the ordinance changed but how about that safety issue I mentioned?

Please read on. The Nine Mile is open to Hunting and I hunt our land and also the Nine Mile adjacent to our land for Turkey Hunting and Deer Hunting.

Twice now while I was out turkey hunting, I have had a running-at-large dog, well out in front of its owner, (remember no leashes) come right up on my turkey decoy. The one time it was a black dog and the angle was perfect as it was walking directly towards me. I swore it was a "black" turkey, until it started "BARKING" at me and my decoy. I ALMOST SHOT THAT DOG IN THE HEAD FOLKS! (And I am a 48 year experienced hunter with my hunter training certificate!) What happens with perhaps an "inexperienced and excited" hunter the next time??

That BLACK dog and a BLACK turkey may look enough alike that an inexperienced hunter and that dog owner may have to live with that tragedy for the rest of their lives.

The other "Safety" issues occurred while I was deer hunting recently, with the most recent, last night at the near close of the 9 day gun deer hunt.

I have been deer hunting on my own "adjacent" property for the last few weeks, for both bow and gun deer hunting. I have had 6 or 7 hunts in this time that have been "compromised" and/or my term would be "RUINED" because of several different "recreational" dog walkers utilizing the path adjacent to our property, and allowing their dogs to run free off the path, across the short distance of forest and onto my property and right under my tree stand in one case.

This is all ok with the "totally oblivious" dog walkers. As long as they can see their dog from the path and as long as they can whistle/scream/yell loud enough to get them back to the path for awhile it is ok. Most of this "weekday" run-your-dog-at-large in the forest occurs right at prime evening hunting hours. The weekend dogs running-at-large come both first thing in the morning and then sometimes the very same dogs and their owners come right back at night too. They have turned this portion of the Nine Mile Forest into their own personal dog park. Hit the entrance gate and let them run!!

The Safety issue comes in here due to the fact that these dogs could get mistaken for deer. One idiot, (yes he must be) continues to walk his "BROWN" lab out on this path during deer hunting. This is the dog that came onto our land and under my stand. I know the difference, but does everyone else? (I knew this was a dog even BEFORE I saw him because I had to listen to the idiot yelling and whistling the whole way up and back down the path.) This is a SAFETY issue AND a NUISANCE Issue all-in-one for me.

That BROWN dog and a BROWN deer may look enough alike that an inexperienced hunter and that idiot dog owner may have to live with that tragedy for the rest of their lives.

Yesterday afternoon/early evening, on the last day of the 9 day gun deer hunting season, I was out on my deer stand that sits not far from this walking path. I had deer moving towards me in the distance. Exciting!! That was until I heard the woman coming down the path yelling at her dog to “come”! Needless to say, the deer bolted and I was FURIOUS!!! Another hunt ruined by recreational dog walkers during deer hunting and also the dog had no leash so I had to listen to the screaming and yelling far before I saw them and long after they were out of sight again. I have talked to several other hunters that utilize this north end of the forest and many have had similar unsafe encounters or ruined hunts with dogs running-at-large. I am not at all alone in these concerns of these dogs.

I think you all can see very clearly the picture I am trying to help you envision. Eight years ago, this issue wasn't anywhere near what I am seeing in these last couple years and especially this year. I strongly believe that you folks need to take a very serious look at this. I know you may not live in this district/area and may not know firsthand what I am describing, but I am honest in telling you that I had a Tragedy almost unfold at one pull of my trigger on that black turkey (dog). Please do not make anyone have to suffer through that.

For your consideration, I have included my rendition of “proposed” language to be added to Sec. 16.06 – County Forest Use Regulations, which has utilized your already established similar format and verbiage in the regulations from Chapter 19 – County Parks Use. This language could be simply added as a Paragraph 7.

The first part of my proposed change would help prevent a tragedy during deer or turkey hunting. The second part would still allow dog walkers access to the forest for the remainder of the year but would eliminate the rest of the neighborhood from having to listen to them scream, yell and whistle the whole time to get their dog back on the walking path.

Out of our numerous county forests, the Nine Mile has the most housing developments surrounding it, and for that reason, I think consideration of these regulations seems highly appropriate here. With there being a existing Dog Park in Rib Mountain that is even being expanded, and all the other county forests to utilize, dog walkers and people wanting to train hunting dogs, have 24/7/365 access to areas where they can still take their dogs and let them “run-at-large” wherever they want. (Even if it's the April or May Ground Nesting Season for Birds? – Ugh!!)

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter and please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Kelly Reith

Sec. 19.07. - Animals.

(1) *Animals in public facilities.*

(a) *Restricted.* No person having immediate custody, care or control of a dog or other animal, shall permit said animal to enter and/or remain in any public park building, bathing beach, the Marathon County Sports Complex, the Marathon Park Amphitheater or playground safety surface area in any County park, except assistance dogs or animals being used or trained to assist emergency services workers or as authorized by the Commission or their designee.

(b) *Definitions.* The following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

Assistance dog. Any dog that has been or is being trained as a guide dog, hearing dog, or service dog. Such terms are further defined as follows:

Guide dog. Any dog that has been or is being specially trained to aid a particular blind or visually impaired person.

Hearing dog. Any dog that has been or is being specially trained to aid a particular deaf or hard of hearing person.

Service dog. Any dog that has been or is being specially trained to aid a person with a disability other than sight or hearing.

(2) *Animals running at large.* No person shall allow a dog or other animal to run at large in any County park. The animal shall be considered as running at large unless it is on a leash no more than 16 feet in length, is in or upon a vehicle, is in or on the property of its owner or another who does not object to the presence of such animal, or is part of a 4-H project, is on a display for judging purposes, is in an itinerant or transient carnival, circus or other like show, is in a dog or cat show or trial, or is part of the program of a public or private educational institution as authorized by the Commission or in designated areas as set by the Commission.

PLEASE ADD PARAGRAPH 7 TO THE REGULATIONS AS FOLLOWS:

Sec. 16.06. - County forest use regulations.

(1) *Recreation use.*

(2) *Timber cutting.*

(3) *Tree stands, trail cameras and ground blinds.*

(4) *Firearms, bows and arrows.*

(5) *Throwing or shooting projectiles.*

(6) *Waterfowl hunting and watercraft.*

(7) *Animals in the Nine Mile County Forest.*

No person shall allow a dog or other domesticated animal to enter the Nine Mile Forest during the period of the year when Deer Hunting and Spring Turkey Hunting season(s) are open, except assistance dogs or animals being used to assist a human to access the Forest while hunting in accordance with applicable State statutes and applicable provisions of the Wisconsin Administrative Code setting forth regulations of the Department of Natural Resources, or trained to assist emergency services workers or as authorized by the Commission or their designee.

(a) Definitions. The following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

Assistance dog. Any dog that has been or is being trained as a guide dog, hearing dog, or service dog. Such terms are further defined as follows:

Guide dog. Any dog that has been or is being specially trained to aid a particular blind or visually impaired person.

Hearing dog. Any dog that has been or is being specially trained to aid a particular deaf or hard of hearing person.

Service dog. Any dog that has been or is being specially trained to aid a person with a disability other than sight or hearing.

(b) No person shall allow a dog or other domesticated animal to run-at-large in the Nine Mile Forest, except while small game or waterfowl hunting in accordance with applicable State statutes and applicable provisions of the Wisconsin Administrative Code setting forth regulations of the Department of Natural Resources. The animal shall be considered as running at large, unless it is on a leash no more than 16 feet in length.

I DO NOTICE THAT "SPECIAL TREATMENT" WAS GIVEN TO THE CROSS COUNTRY SKIERS, PER THE REGULATIONS LISTED BELOW. This was probably added because animals and their owners caused a little "nuisance" to the skiers.

(17) *Animals on ski trails.* No person shall allow a dog or any other animal on cross-country ski trails during that period of the year when such trails are open for cross-country skiing in Nine Mile County Forest, except while hunting in accordance with applicable State statutes and applicable provisions of the Wisconsin Administrative Code setting forth regulations of the Department of Natural Resources.

(18) *Hiking, walking or running on ski trails.* No person shall hike, walk or run on cross-country ski trails during that period of the year when such trails are open for cross-country skiing in Nine Mile County Forest, except while hunting in accordance with applicable State statutes and applicable provision of the Wisconsin Administrative Code setting forth regulations of the Department of Natural Resources.

The language I am looking to add is very much due to "SAFETY" issues.

Please don't let a Dog get shot before you change these regulations!

Or please let me know if I need to "cut" a cross country ski trail on this path (and all the paths over here) and have them ALL closed for ALL activities except hunting per Section 17 and 18 above??

"No person shall allow a dog or any other animal on cross-country ski trails."

"No person shall hike, walk or run on cross-country ski trails..."

Memo

To: Tom Lovlien, Marathon County Forest Administrator
From: Mike Puerner, Corporation Counsel
Date: January 25, 2023
Re: Public Request for Dog Leash and Ban Ordinance

Mr. Lovlien,

You asked me to review a citizen request for the following ordinances:

1. A County Forest Use regulation banning dogs or other domesticated animals from entering Nine Mile County Forest during hunting seasons.
2. A County Forest Use regulation requiring dogs or other domesticated animals to be leashed.

In reviewing this request, I have reviewed the citizen request along with a thorough summary of forest regulations provided by Deputy Michael Van Offeren. I also reviewed applicable statutes relative to a county's ordinance and enforcement authority in county forests.

In short, I find that a county likely does not have authority to implement the ordinances as written, and that enforcement of such ordinances would be extremely difficult given the state laws applicable to the use of forest land by hunters.

Applicable Legal Authority

Wis. Stat. § 28.11(3) defines the powers of a County Board relative to the administration of county forest land. Wis. Stat. § 28.11(3)(b) allows a county board the general authority to “[e]stablish regulations for the use of the county forests by the public and to provide penalties for their enforcement.” In Marathon County, these regulations are set forth in Chapter 16 of the Marathon County General Code of Ordinances. Specifically, Section 16.06 establishes regulations for county forest use and Section 16.08 defines general offenses within county forest land.

Wis. Stat. § 28.11(4)(f) states that the “general public shall enjoy the privilege of entering such lands for the purpose of hunting, fishing, trapping

and other recreation pursuits subject to such regulation and restrictions as may be established by lawful authority.”

Wis. Stat. § 174.042(1)(b) indicates that “[a] dog that is actively engaged in in a legal hunting activity, including training, is not considered to be running at large if the dog is monitored or supervised by a person and the dog is on land that is open to hunting.” Further, Administrative Code Section NR 10.07(i) permits the hunting of free-roaming wild animals with the aid of dogs during certain periods of the year and as allowed under permit.

Analysis

1. A County Forest Use regulation banning dogs or other domesticated animals from entering Nine Mile County Forest during hunting seasons.

In my review of applicable law, I believe the County would have limited authority to prohibit dogs or other domesticated animals from entering Nine Mile County Forest during hunting seasons and that any such regulations would create serious enforcement issues. While Wis. Stat. § 29.11(3)(b) allows a county board to establish regulations for the use of county forests by the public, counties are also required to allow public to enter county forest land for recreational pursuits, including hunting, subject to regulations and restrictions.

In Marathon County, those restrictions on hunting in county forest land include restrictions on the use of firearms, bows and arrows in designated forest areas that are posted (Gen. Code 16.06(4)(a)). Additionally, specific to Nine Mile County Forest,

No person shall discharge any firearm or use a bow and arrow within Nine Mile or Wisconsin River County Forests . . . except while hunting in accordance with applicable state statutes and applicable provisions of the Wisconsin Administrative Code setting forth regulations of the Department of Natural Resources.

Gen. Code 16.06(4)(b).

Under Wisconsin law, counties generally cannot regulate in a way that is more prescriptive than what is allowed under the grant of state law. While the County’s authority in regulating in county forests is relative broad, regulations cannot contradict state law. As outlined above, state law does allow the use of dogs in certain hunting activities and, as also outlined herein, hunting activities are allowed in certain areas of our county forests. Because dogs are allowed to be used in certain hunting activities and because hunting is open in certain county forest areas, any ordinance banning dogs would either be too convoluted, and with too many

exceptions, to enforce, or would be so broad as to be likely be found to exceed a county's legal authority.

2. A County Forest Use regulation requiring dogs or other domesticated animals to be leashed.

Wisconsin law prohibits a dog owner from negligently permitted a dog to run at large and defines a running at large to be a dog that is "off the premises of its owner and not under the control of the owner or some other person." Wis. Stat. § 174.042. Marathon County has a dog-at-large ordinance in its public peace and order regulations (Gen. Code 9.82). This ordinance prohibits any person from owning or keeping a dog and allowing such dog to run at large and indicates that a dog is considered as running at large when it is not on the premises of the owner, unless it is on a leash, or being exercised, is in a motor vehicle, or is on property of another who does not object to the presence of the animal. This ordinance could be enforced as applicable on county lands; however, this ordinance would not apply to dogs being walked or exercised within and under the control of the dog's owner. In my review of statute, I do not believe the County could easily adopt and implement a more specific regulation applicable to county forest lands without these exercise and off-leash exceptions and that such an ordinance could be found to be contrary to state law.

Wis. Stat. § 174.042(1)(b) makes enforcement within county forest lands difficult, as a dog that is actively engaged in a legal hunting activity, including training, is not considered at large. A county would be unable to enact a regulation that contradicts this requirement. Because the public is allowed to utilize certain forest land for hunting, and because dogs are able to engage in certain hunting activities, enforcement of a stricter regulation would be extremely difficult and could be found to be contrary to state law.



Michael Puerner

Marathon County Corporation Counsel



Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry



2022 Year in Review

In 2022 our parks saw a significant increase in usage for a third year in a row compared to years prior to COVID-19. During the COVID-19 pandemic our citizens continued to explore our 3,401 acres of parkland and 30,714 acres of County Forest to recreate.

-Our department has 44 FTE and 150+ seasonals.

-General operating budget of \$7,150,384 in expenditures and \$2,754,948 in revenues

- SUCCESSFUL FIRST ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT APRIL 16, 2022

- SECURED 5 YEAR SPONSORSHIP BY FESTIVAL FOODS FOR THE PLAYGROUND OF PEOPLES SPORTS COMPLEX

- PLANTED 403 TREES, REMOVED 437 NON-ASH TREES (MANY FROM STORM DAMAGE) & 312 ASH TREES, TREATED 873 ASH (1/3 OF CITY)

-NEW PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT IN RIVERSIDE PARK, BIG EAU PLEINE PARK AND DELLS OF EAU CLAIRE PARK

- PARTICIPATED IN THE UPDATE/APPROVAL OF THE RIB MOUNTAIN STATE PARK MASTER PLAN

- 896 SHELTER RENTAL DAYS BOOKED AND 280 DAYS BOOKED (INCLUDING SETUP AND TEAR DOWN) FOR EVENTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

- MOWED 308.5 ACRES AND 81,920 FT OF TRAILS

- 2433 TOTAL SEASON PASSES SOLD (DISC GOLF, BIKING, BOAT LAUNCH, SKI, RANGE, ETC)

- BEGAN WINTER SWIMMING LESSONS AND WATER EXERCISE AT THE NCHC INDOOR POOL

TIMBER SALES

9 sales sold totaling 623 acres with
19,661 cords

\$790,176.00

Gross revenue


\$553,124 Net Revenue to County



CAMPING

Camping had another busy
season

Gross Revenue \$267,684

9% 

Increase in revenue over what was
budgeted.

NEW ROAD @ BIG EAU PLEINE



3.4 Miles

WESTSIDE MASTER PLAN

Community input and year long
planning process





2022 Year in Review - Projects

CITY PARK PROJECTS

- 34 PARKS, 26,000 STREET TREES
- RECEIVED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FOR LINCOLN TOT LOT PLAYGROUND
- VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AT BARKER STEWART ISLAND 
- PREPARED FOR ATHLETIC PARK VIDEO SCOREBOARD INSTALLATION
- RECEIVED BALANCE OF CATASTROPHIC STORM GRANT \$15,374.50
- CITY DOG PARK SHELTER COMPLETED, SPONSORSHIP SIGNS INSTALLED
- 9 MEMORIAL BENCHES INSTALLED
- MOVIN WITH THE MAYOR EVENTS - BOLLYWOOD DANCE PARTY, SNOW TUBING, DOG WALK
- 751 SWIMMING LESSON STUDENTS, ADDED EVENING LESSONS (50% INCREASE AGAIN)
- SERVED APPROXIMATELY 38,565 PATRONS AT POOLS, SOLD 791 ANNUAL SWIM PASSES
- ADDED ESPORTS PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NTC ESPORTS - 67 PARTICIPANTS
- RESTRUCTURED ADOPT A PARK PROGRAM
- HELD TWO POP UP SPLASH PADS WITH THE WAUSAU FIRE DEPARTMENT
- HOSTED 1ST SKATE JAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CENTRAL BOARD SHOP
- INSTALLED ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICE AT THE 400 BLOCK
- REPAIRED THE 400 BLOCK STAGE PILLARS
- CO2 INJECTOR SYSTEMS INSTALLED AT THE POOLS
- ENGINEERED WOOD FIBERS WERE INSTALLED AT RIVER HIGHLANDS & WESTVIEW TERRACE
- MASONRY WORK COMPLETED AT STEWART PARK ON THE WALLS AND STEPS
- PARTNERED W/ CITIZENS TO REMOVE INVASIVE SPECIES ON BLUFF OF MEMORIAL PARK
- WORKED WITH CITIZENS TO PLANT TREES AT MEMORIAL PARK FOR EARTH DAY

COUNTY PARK/FOREST PROJECTS

- 17 COUNTY PARKS AND 10 COUNTY FOREST UNITS
- INSTALLED BIG EAU PLEINE VAULT TOILET
- LIGHTING UPGRADE IN ICE RINK 1 OF THE ICE ARENA
- VESTIBULE HEATERS INSTALLED AT ICE ARENA
- ICE ARENA BRINE PUMP REPLACED
- ICE ARENA ROOF MEMBRANE REPAIRED
- PAVED THE ROAD OF MISSION LAKE PARK
- PLANNED AND ORDERED PLAYGROUNDS FOR CHEROKEE, BLUE GILL BAY & MISSION LAKE
- COMPLETED UPDATE TO SUNNYVALE SOFTBALL COMPLEX FENCES, CONCESSION, ETC.
- SUCCESSFULLY PARTNERED WITH THE FAIR TO PROVIDE FAIR OPERATIONS
- ACQUIRED 39.085 ACRES OF COUNTY PARK LAND TO ADD TO BROKAW PARK
- NEW DECKING ON DELLS OF EAU CLAIRE HIGH BRIDGE
- REPLACED ROOFS OF CATTLE BARN 1 & 2
- PICKLEBALL FENCE REPAIRED
- PERRY'S FIRESIDE MEMORIAL AND WILCOX MEMORIAL INSTALLED AT NINE MILE
- IMPLEMENTED TRIAL FAT TIRE BIKE SEASON AT NINE MILE





Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation & Forestry

2023 Work Plan

County CIP Projects



- DC Everest Restroom Replacement
- DEC Beach Parking Lot Paving
- Marathon Park Water System Update
- BEP Parking Lot Paving South Area

County Small Projects

- Blue Gill Bay dock replacement/redesign
- DEC group campground shelter removal
- DEC manger cabin update
- MPB lighting update
- Extend cart path at Peoples Sports Complex

Playground Replacements



- Lincoln Tot Lot
- Blue Gill Bay
- Cherokee
- Mission Lake
- Amco
- Marathon Park Campground

Coordinate and implement ARPA project(s) if approved



Plan 5 year CIP

Forestry Work Plan

- Administer 22 timber sales on 1737 acres
- Site preparation for red pine planting
- Establish and advertise 600-625 acres of timber for sale
- Evaluate trial season of fat tire winter biking



Other Projects



- Install new drinking fountains
- New well at BEP
- Big Rapids dam repair or removal
- Press box replacement (SunnyVale & Brockmeyer)

Treat & remove ash trees
-plant 400 + trees

Expand Recreation Programs & Events



Plan department consolidation



City Small Projects

- River Edge Trail paving and culvert replacement
- 3M trail construction
- Stewart Park west wall tuckpointing
- Pleasant View shelter roof
- Riverlife Sign installation & playground surface sealing
- Install final signage at dog park

City CIP Projects

- Redesign and build Skatepark
- Replace Oak Island Restroom

Nine Mile
-Garage renovation
-Boiler line replacement

Plans to Complete

- Levy Support Analysis (Sustainability)
- Rib Falls Master Plan
- Ice Arena/Indoor Sports Feasibility CIP Request



Secure Field Sponsors
PSC



November 29, 2022

Mr. Rick Seefeldt, Chair
Marathon County Forestry/Recreation Committee
183466 County Road II
Eland, WI 54427

Subject: Marathon County Forestry Audit (2017-2021)

Dear Mr. Seefeldt,

Attached for your consideration are the Marathon County Forest Program Review and Audit Report prepared by Hillary Keller (Rhineland) and Leeann Iskra (Financial Specialist, Trout Lake). The audit/program review occurred on August 30-31, 2022, and it was specific to the State Aid Forestry Fund activity, the Timber Sale Program accountability, and the Wildlife Habitat Management Program for the period of January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2021.

Comments were received from the Marathon County Forestry Office at the time of the audit. Their input and cooperation were noteworthy in developing this final document. Marathon County Forestry personnel have instituted ideas that have made the Marathon County Forestry Program unique and successful within Wisconsin. The cooperative effort to strive for the best "on the ground" forest management practices will benefit the County and future generations. We are pleased that Marathon County has an outstanding forestry program, and the staff displays a positive attitude toward program improvements. We welcome the opportunity to work with you to realize the goals and objectives of your forestry program while providing the maximum benefits to Marathon County.

The audit/program review team appreciated the open discussion and exchange of ideas made possible by this type of program review. It is our hope that it proves to be a constructive influence in strengthening the partnership principle in the County Forest Program. We appreciate the courtesy and cooperation extended to the audit team and look forward to working with Marathon County in the future.

Sincerely,

James K. Warren
Director – Bureau of Forestry Field Operations

CC: Tom Lovlien – Marathon County Forest Administrator
Hillary Keller – DNR Forestry Staff Specialist
Leeann Iskra – DNR Financial Specialist
Doug Brown – DNR County Forest and Public Lands Specialist
Jeff Sorenson – DNR County Forest Liaison
Jill Nemec – DNR Team Leader
Joe Schwantes – DNR Area Forestry Leader
Ryan Severson – DNR Northeast District Forestry Leader

Marathon County Forest
Date of Review: August 30-31, 2022
Program Review (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021)
Executive Summary

The review was conducted in three parts: a programmatic evaluation of timber sale accountability, a fiscal review of the county's State Aid Forestry Fund account and associated grants / loans, and a review of Marathon County's progress on forest certification initiatives.

COMMENDATIONS

The audit identified the following program areas that were particularly well done and worthy of mention.

1. Marathon County is commended on collecting revenue for timber sales in the amount of \$2,266,497.44 during this five-year review period. The timber sales not only bring revenue into the county and townships, but also stimulate the local economy.
2. All payments made to the Marathon County townships were paid by the required January 31st date and the statutory amount of 10% of the gross receipts from the stumpage for the timber sales the county received. The total revenue paid to the townships totaled, \$308,226.25.
3. Timber sale files reviewed in this audit were well organized, comprehensive, and consistent. Forestry staff were very accommodating during the review and provided all requested information.
4. Marathon County did a good job of updating their timber sale contract in 2021 to add more structure to the contract and set expectations for the contract holders.
5. There is good documentation of correspondence related to communication with contractors and adjacent landowners, including for a sale that was resold.
6. Marathon County has only 6.5% recon older than 20 years.
7. County staff have developed strong relationships with external partners, which is exemplified by the county's handling of unique Nine Mile Trail and Recreation Area that encompasses over 4,900 acres. The County Staff have provided opportunities for a variety of forest management activities, and good communication and cooperative maintenance efforts have enhanced the recreation area.
8. County staff have built strong relationships with the public by holding educational presentations and providing opportunities for the public to interact with the county through a Citizen Advisory Committee. This committee receives information on timber sales and forest policy, and it provides opportunities for the public to ask questions and give input.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The audit also revealed areas for improvement and possible changes that would improve the county's management and accountability of the County Forest program.

1. The DNR will decrease the amount of the Administrator Grant in 2023 by \$332.26 to adjust for the annual discrepancies during the audit period resulting in an overpayment.
2. The County should continue to provide the salary and fringe information for the Administrator Grant application. Continue to submit annual work plan and salary breakdown of the county forest administrator position. Deposit grant money in the state aid forestry fund and draw upon it for administrator's salary as required in NR47.0(4)(b), Wis. Adm. Code.
3. Any sale modified, particularly with additional species or products added, should have some

documentation that includes signatures and dates from both the Seller (County) and the Purchaser for consistency and transparency.

4. In instances where +20% error in accuracy of timber sale volume estimates occur, please justify reason(s) in the comments on form 2460.

MANDATORY

1. The County must ensure that all financials are completed and audited before completing the 2460 in WisFIRS as the final step in the close-out procedure so that all the information is accurate and agrees with the file final ledger/journal balances. This was a recommendation in the last program review. This is also an internal DNR finding. DNR personnel approving closing of sales must ensure volumes/values match.

DNR may follow up on audit recommendations by requiring additional information from the county to demonstrate progress toward fixing any problems or potential problems noted in this audit.

PART I: EVALUATION OF TIMBER SALE PROGRAM AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The question addressed in this portion of the Marathon County Forest Program Review was "What degree of control and accountability does the county maintain over its timber sales program through its administrative efforts?"

A number of activities are involved in addressing this total question. The various aspects are specifically outlined in s.s. 28.11(6) of the County Forest Law which deals with the approved methods of conducting timber sales.

Although the statutes establish the legal limits within which timber sales are authorized to be conducted, the aggressiveness of the administrative policies of the individual county really determines the degree of accountability that is maintained.

In order to determine the degree of timber sales accountability maintained by the county we examined 10 sale folders, severance tax billings and payments, and reviewed county procedures. Seven review items were examined. Our review findings and recommendations for each item are shown below.

Item 1: VERIFICATION OF COUNTY PAYMENT TO TOWNS OF 10% OF GROSS TIMBER SALE REVENUE PURSUANT TO ss. 28.11(9)(d). Wis. Stats.

The county clerk's and forest administrator's records were examined for the years 2017 through 2021 to verify that the County annually paid the appropriate townships the statutory 10% of the gross receipts which the County received from timber sales on lands entered as County Forest.

- All initial severance payments for this audit period were paid timely by the January 31st required date.

Item 2: VERIFICATION OF COUNTY PAYMENT OF THE 20% SEVERANCE TAX TO THE STATE PURSUANT TO s.s. 28.11(9)(a) Wis. Statutes.

The county procedures for paying severance due the state were examined. Severance tax invoices and the detailed DNR County Forest Ledger Account (Rpt. 53B) were examined for the period of 2017 to 2021.

- Two payments were not made on time based on the last day of the following month that the invoice was created. The last audit in May 2017 had addressed this issue and it has since then been corrected. There were two payments that were late prior to discussions in May of 2017 with the county. These are payments that were made during the audit period of 2017-2021.

Item 3: AWARD OF SALES & BIDDING

A review of 10 sales and 10 bid opening summaries were made to determine compliance with requirements for advertising and direct sale of forest products (*s.28.11(6)(b), Wis. Stats.*)

- Marathon County has 2 bid opening per year. Of the 10 sales were reviewed from this four-year period, 10 sales were advertised, 10 were mill scaled, 0 were lump sum, and 1 was a direct sale.
- All timber sales reviewed were advertised and awarded to the high bidder (with the exception of the direct sale, which was sold at advertised price after two failed bid openings).
- All timber sale bidding appears to be held according to statute, fairly and without bias.
- Advertisements were found on the Marathon County website from 2018 through the present. Advertisements and affidavits from newspapers were also found in separate folders.

Item 4: TIMBER SALES RECORDS

Individual timber sales files, related mill scale and field scale slips, and ledgers were examined on 10 sales. The forest administrator was also interviewed.

- The county uses Timber Base software for their financials. The county is changing their financial system from Cayenta to Workday.
- Timber sale files are well organized and contained a journal showing final volumes by species.
- Files contain a ledger that keeps a running balance of stumpage charged and payments applied, but it does not track what exact stumpage the payment is being applied towards. Periodic payments are applied to balance the sale on average 3 times a sale.
- All haul tickets are prepaid for the county, the mill scales are matched and then calculated out at the end if there is stumpage owed or if the contract holder is owed money at the end. The first advance payment for haul tickets does not show as the beginning balance.

Item 5: SALE MODIFICATIONS

A number of timber sale reports (DNR form 2460-1) on file were reviewed to determine what, if any, modifications are made to sales after they are sold.

- Marathon County offers a 26T option or biomass option. When the contractor is bidding, he can decide then whether he would like to cut it as a biomass sale or not. Most contractors did not choose that option in the sales that were reviewed.

Recommendation: If a sale is offered as a biomass option, it should be entered accordingly on the 2460-001.

- Sale 669-18 had a load of oversized wood that was charged as 23T Fuelwood. Sale 649-16 had four cords of cull maple sold for a reduced rate after the contractor was unable to sell it at a conventional mill. The only documentation in each of these cases was a note in the Qualifying Comments section of the 2460.

Recommendations: Any sale modified, particularly with additional species or products added, should have some documentation that includes signatures and dates from both the Seller (County) and the Purchaser for consistency and transparency. This can be in the form of a contract amendment or other signed document.

Item 6: ACCOUNTABILITY OF STUMPAGE VOLUMES HARVESTED BY LOGGERS

The County Forest administrator was interviewed, and 10 county timber sale files were examined.

- All timber sale files reviewed included a timber sale inspection form, with sales being inspected regularly throughout the harvest. Sale inspection records included detailed notes and appropriate documentation of issues and concerns.
- All timber sales reviewed were sold as mill scale. All sale files contained the mill scale slips.
- Of the 10 timber sale files examined, there were not any qualifying comments of the over/under run on the 2060-001 (although 4 of the 10 sales had an over/under run of +20%).
- Timber sale # 680-19 shows a difference in WisFIRS and the county ledger. WisFIRS shows \$124,056.62 reported and their journal shows \$123,600.21. A difference of over reporting \$456.41. The final volumes were entered by the forester and there was still an outstanding invoice that needed to be add to the final volume and values.
- Timber sale # 684-19 is under reported in WisFIRS by \$273.41 The sale was closed before the contractor contacted the county to fix the error.

Item 7: TIMBER SALE PERFORMANCE BONDS

Several completed sales records were reviewed to evaluate the use of performance bonds on timber sales.

- Marathon County uses performance bonds and/or cash bonds properly according to handbook. Performance bonds are released promptly after sale is completed and cash bonds are applied to sales appropriately.

PART II: FISCAL REVIEW OF STATE AID FORESTRY ACCOUNT & WILDLIFE HABITAT GRANT FOR 2017 THROUGH 2021.

A review of the Marathon County State Aid Forestry account and associated Wildlife Habitat Grant account has been made, covering the period January 1, 2017, to December 31, 2021.

The scope of the review consisted of reviewing the county's annual audits, county accounting expenditure reports, DNR central office records, and the procedures for voucher authorization and classification.

Grant and interest-free funding awarded to Marathon County for the audit period included:

Year	Cty. Forest Admin. Grant	County Forest Sustain. Grant	Wildlife Habitat Grant	Variable Acreage Loan	Project Loan
2017	\$54,703.00	\$24,986.64	\$1,404.21	\$14,692.24	
2018	\$56,195.00		\$1,404.13	\$14,692.24	
2019	\$57,002.12		\$1,414.33	\$14,811.24	
2020	\$62,404.70		\$1,411.07	\$14,811.24	
2021	\$64,858.02	\$31,200.00	\$1,423.41	\$14,911.16	

County Forest Administrator Grant - Annual grant that provides 50% of the salary & benefits (not to exceed 40% of salary) for a county forest administrator or assistant administrator.

GRANT INFO FROM DNR		COUNTY INFORMATION				
	DNR		Prior Aud	Amount Befo	From I above	Difference
Year Rec'	Amt. Granted	Amt. Deposited	Adjustment	(C minus D)	Amt. Allowed	(E minus F)
2017	\$54,703.00	\$55,635.77		\$55,635.77	\$ 55,540.91	\$ 94.86
2018	\$56,195.00	\$56,195.00		\$56,195.00	\$ 56,431.98	\$ (236.97)
2019	\$57,002.12	\$57,002.12		\$57,002.12	\$ 57,290.25	\$ (288.13)
2020	\$62,404.70	\$62,404.70		\$62,404.70	\$ 62,182.83	\$ 221.87
2021	\$64,858.02	\$64,858.02		\$64,858.02	\$ 64,317.40	\$ 540.63
TOTALS	\$295,162.84	\$296,095.61	\$0.00	\$296,095.61	\$ 295,763.36	\$ 332.26

Recommendation: The County should continue to provide the salary and fringe information for the Administrator Grant application. Continue to submit annual work plan and salary breakdown of the county forest administrator position. Deposit grant money in the state aid forestry fund and draw upon it for administrator’s salary as required in NR47.0(4)(b), Wis. Adm. Code.

Recommendation: The DNR will decrease the amount of the Administrator Grant in 2023 by \$332.26 to adjust for the annual discrepancies during the audit period resulting in an overpayment.

County Forest Sustainable Grant - Provides short term funding for sustainable forestry projects

Marathon County has taken advantage of applying for and receiving two sustainable forestry grants during the review period. Both grants were verified as deposited in a segregated non-lapsing account and appropriately used as specified in the grant application.

Wildlife Habitat Grant - Annual grant that provides \$.05/acre for approved wildlife projects.

- Marathon County received funding for each year during the 2017-2021 audit period totaling the amount of \$7,057.15.
- Calendar year 2021 had an ending balance of \$2,868.13
- Expenditures for the wildlife habitat account must be authorized with the DNR wildlife biologist. Please make clear documentation for expenses.
- The balance at the end of each calendar year met the requirements of the grant program for the years in review (less than the sum of allocations for the 3 previous years).

Interest Free Loans (Variable Acreage and Project) - Provides funding to both ongoing and one-time projects benefiting the county forest.

- Marathon County payment requirements of both Variable Acreage and the Project Loan programs are being followed.

Recommendation: Marathon County should ensure that the State Aid Forestry Account is used exclusively for DNR Variable Acreage Loans, DNR Project Loans, DNR Sustainable Forestry Grants and DNR County Administrator Grant.

PART III: FOREST CERTIFICATION

In 2004 Marathon County joined twenty-six other county forests as part of a group forest certification effort. The DNR functions as the group manager and is responsible for maintaining the group(s) certificate(s). The individual county forests are group members. In the group manager role, DNR is required to periodically verify compliance of the group members with the certification principles and standards. Marathon County participates in group certification under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI). Independent certification auditors have identified the need for corrective actions (CARs) in the following areas. This DNR audit evaluated Marathon County's efforts at addressing the CARs over the last two years.

SFI – Opportunities for Improvement (OFI)

1. OFI 2022: There is an opportunity to improve understanding of SFI's "Special Sites" designation.

Special sites are listed in Chapter 800 of the 15-Year Plan and the DNR Liaison maintains a database of special sites that describes identified sites and management for tracking purposes. NHI and archaeological searches are done during the sale establishment process and results are documented in the timber sale narrative.

This issue will be discussed further at a meeting in Minocqua in fall of 2022 (the meeting had not yet occurred at the time of this audit).

2. OFI 2021: BMP Monitoring document not publicized in timely manner.

The BMP Monitoring document is produced by the DNR, not the County Forest. For this reason, no additional follow up is required by the County to address this issue.

A County Forest Internal Certification Review was completed as part of this audit. The review addresses a number of items to determine compliance with County Forest Law, the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, and Forest Certification Standards. The review found that Marathon County was either exceeding or within conformance of standard requirements, and a full report can be found in a separate review document. Review topics included:

- Forest management planning
- Forest productivity
- Protection and maintenance of water resources
- Conservation of biological diversity including Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value
- Visual quality and recreational benefits
- Protection of special sites
- Efficient use of fiber resources
- Legal and regulatory compliance
- Forestry research, science, and technology
- Training and education
- Community involvement and landowner outreach, public land management responsibilities
- Indigenous peoples' rights

COUNTY FOREST INTERNAL CERTIFICATION REVIEW

Group Organization's Name: Wisconsin County Forest – Certification

Internal Auditors (print) Hillary Keller

Internal Auditor's Signatures: _____

Date: 8-31-2022 **County:** Marathon

The County Forest program conducts annual internal program reviews to determine compliance with the County Forest Law, the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan (15 Yr. Plan), and Forest Certification standards.

A check-mark (X) shall be indicated in the correct box indicating Exceed the Basic Requirements (Exc), Conformance (Con), Opportunity for Improvement (OFI), or Non-conformance (NC). Definitions are as follows:

Exceed the Basic Requirements (Exc) – Indicates a County substantially exceeds the certification indicator

Conformance (Con): Indicates a County meets the certification indicator

Opportunity for Improvement (OFI): Indicates marginal or questionable compliance with the indicator OR it may identify work that is already planned but not completed / implemented as yet. OFIs do not indicate a current deficiency with respect to the indicator but serve to identify areas that can be strengthened or which merit future attention

Non-conformance (NC): Indicates a County is not in compliance with the indicator

Where a non-conformance is found, the Lead Auditor shall fully document the rationale for the nonconformity on an Internal Corrective Action Request (CAR) form. Internal CAR forms shall be submitted to the County Forest Administrator, DNR Liaison Forester, Chair of the Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) Certification committee, and the DNR County Forest Specialist. Internal CARs shall only be written after communication with the County Forest Administrator, Liaison Forester, Team Leader and County Forest Specialist as outlined in the Public Forest Lands Handbook. (page 290-14).

Standard Requirements	SFI	FSC	COMMENTS
Forest Management Planning			
<p>How are long term sustainable harvest levels determined?</p> <p>How are annual harvest schedules established?</p> <p>For the past 3-10 years, have harvest establishment levels averaged less than long term harvest goals?</p>	PM 1.1	C 5.1 C 5.6 C 8.2	<p>Levels are determined by running annual planning in WisFIRS and through the work plan and annual partnership meeting. WisFIRS harvest establishment report vs. long term harvest goals are reviewed and adjusted as necessary.</p> <p>Yes, 2017-2021: 3168 acres established (634 Ac/Yr./Ave). During the period long-term harvest goals averaged 684-706 acres). A buffer is always maintained in case of slowed growth since a stand's last recon update (northern hardwood or oak stands), variability of stands, or storm damage. A large portion of aspen is also located in wetter areas, which can affect the schedule and optimal rotation age (longer than 45 years sometimes).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Conformance <input type="checkbox"/>OFI <input type="checkbox"/>Non-Conformance</p>
<p>How often does the County report and amend their approved 15 Year Plan (including Annual Work Plan additions)?</p> <p>How is the plan current with appropriate science, technology, and county policy?</p>	PM 1.1	C 5.6 C 7.2	<p>Amendments are not typically done annually, but rather when the amendments are significant or certification requires it (usually every 2-3 years). The current plan 2020-2035 has just been updated and is not in need of any amendments currently. Annual work plans are approved by county board.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Conformance <input type="checkbox"/>OFI <input type="checkbox"/>Non-Conformance</p>
<p>How are annual accomplishments evaluated against annual work plans?</p>		C 8.4	<p>Annual Work plans are developed along with Annual reports. They are reviewed and compared on an annual basis and are added to the 15-Year Plan binder. Plans are sent through appropriate channels as required.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Conformance <input type="checkbox"/>OFI <input type="checkbox"/>Non-Conformance</p>
<p>Are the 15-year plan, annual work plan, and annual reports made available to the public? If so, where does the public go to access this information?</p>		C 7.4 C 8.5	<p>Yes, they are available upon request or electronically via PRF website. Requests are very infrequent.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Conformance <input type="checkbox"/>OFI <input type="checkbox"/>Non-Conformance</p>

Standard Requirements	SFI	FSC	COMMENTS
<p>How often does the County Forestry Committee meet to review operations and discuss issues? How are annual accomplishments communicated to the public, local DNR, and Central Office DNR?</p>	PM1.1	C 8.1 C 8.2	<p>Operations are viewed and issues are discussed during the monthly Forestry Committee meetings unless there is no reason to meet that month. The annual report is emailed to the Public Lands Specialist, DNR Forest Liaison and Team Leader and they distribute this throughout DNR channels. The report is also added on the PRF website, available upon request, and distributed to the full County Board.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Conformance <input type="checkbox"/>OFI <input type="checkbox"/>Non-Conformance</p>
<p>Does the County Forest ever convert one forest type to another forest cover type? If so, what process is followed.</p>	PM 1.2		<p>Forest type conversion does not usually occur intentionally. Conversion only happens naturally when a stand is found to have adequate regeneration during establishment of a timber sale and the habitat type is conducive to growing those species, has advanced regeneration, and at least a chance of growing good quality stems.</p> <p>Sometimes aspen blowdown is discovered late with a northern hardwood understory that is allowed to continue. Pure red maple stands with scattered oak may be led toward oak and/or northern hardwood if the habitat type is compatible. There is no ability for mechanical due to wet stands/access in a lot of sites.</p> <p>There are minimal ash/black ash swamps on the County Forest. There is some oak wilt out at Nine Mile, but it is usually caught very quickly due to trails in the area and patches remain small. Pockets haven't been expanding after treatments.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Conformance <input type="checkbox"/>OFI <input type="checkbox"/>Non-Conformance</p>

Standard Requirements	SFI	FSC	COMMENTS
Forest Productivity			
How does the County track regeneration success in both natural and artificial stands? What are the measures to ensure future stocking densities are met?	PM 2.1	C 8.2	<p>For artificial regen, HM8 code is used in WisFIRS: sites are checked every five years and code is deleted or extended, or a process to ensure regeneration is determined. Natural regen is tracked through recon field checks and updating of stand data in WisFIRS. HM8 is also scheduled 3-5 years following the regeneration harvest.</p> <p>There is occasionally some failed regen sites on wetter sites. The County keeps a close eye on frozen ground restrictions to reduce issues.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Conformance <input type="checkbox"/>OFI <input type="checkbox"/>Non-Conformance</p>
To achieve management objectives: How do you minimize chemical use? What other factors are taken into consideration (e.g. narrow spectrum, managing excess product, storage, record keeping, correct selection of pesticide, other means of control)?	PM 2.2	C 6.6 C 6.7	<p>Hand release has been used for white birch competition in red pine plantation settings. County Forester and DNR Liaison Forester are certified applicators and contractors doing applications on the CF must also be certified. Chemicals are stored in the Operations shop at the Wausau office where they are stored in a separate designated room in plastic containers. Narrow spectrum chemicals are chosen to eliminate the competition and they are not on the prohibited list. The written prescription records of chemical applications are retained in the County Forester's office.</p> <p>Mechanical site prep ability is limited due to wet conditions. There is also not a lot of pine to release. In the past, contractors have come in to treat red maple and competing brush when equipment access is limited. Chemical use is also involved in oak wilt treatment.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Conformance <input type="checkbox"/>OFI <input type="checkbox"/>Non-Conformance</p>
What are the rutting and soil protection standards in timber sale contract? How are they monitored and documented during active sales? Are standards documented anywhere else?	PM 2.3	C 5.3 C 6.5	<p>Rutting and soil protection standards are in Section 505.8.10 of the 15-Year Plan and incorporated in all timber sale contracts. BMPs are applied to all timber sales (contract/prospectus) and incorporate seasonal restrictions, site-specific equipment, skid trail/road layout, post-harvest seeding. Standards are also noted on a field timber sale administration/inspection checklist.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Conformance <input type="checkbox"/>OFI <input type="checkbox"/>Non-Conformance</p>

Standard Requirements	SFI	FSC	COMMENTS
<p>Are ecological impacts of timber harvests considered? If so, where are such considerations documented?</p>	<p>PM 2.3 PM 4.1</p>	<p>C 5.5</p>	<p>Yes, per guidelines in the 15-Year Plan. Considerations are in the sale narrative, prospectus, and sale map. Species of Greatest Conservation Need are determined from lists in consult with Natural Heritage Conservation (NHC) Biologists & opportunities to address the needs are pursued.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>
<p>Are BMPs for Water Quality, BMPs for Invasive Species, Guidelines for biomass harvesting & Rutting guidelines implemented and documented in the timber sale contract and 15 yr. plan? What techniques are used to minimize threats from invasive exotic species on the county forest?</p>	<p>PM 2.3 PM 2.4 PM 3.1 PM 3.2 PM 4.2</p>	<p>C 5.3 C 6.3 C 6.5</p>	<p>Yes, documented in timber sale narrative and contract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biomass: 820.8 • Invasives: 820.5 • Water Qualities: 505.8.9 <p>All sale contracts also address these items directly.</p> <p>All logging equipment must be free of mud and seeds and cleaned before use on the County Forest, as is covered in the pre-logging meeting and itemized in the associated form. Site inspections are done before crews are allowed to enter work sites.</p> <p>Invasives sometimes show up at Nine Mile (buckthorn and honeysuckle, mostly due to dispersal from birds). Garlic mustard is sometimes brought in from ATVs.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>

Standard Requirements	SFI	FSC	COMMENTS
<p>Are short & long term impacts of timber sales and mitigation measures documented in the Timber Sale Notice & Cutting Report? What types of mitigation measures are used on timber sales and other forest management operations?</p>	PM 2.4	C 6.1 C 6.2 C 6.3	<p>Yes. Implementation of Water Quality and Invasive Species BMPs are documented on timber sale documents. Checks are completed with NHI. The county treats oak wilt pockets, requires treatment of pine stumps for potential disease, and implements safeguards and DNR species guidance. The county has good working relationships with local DNR specialists and consults with them on relevant issues (including forest health and pathogen management). Forest management aims to maintain and improve long-term forest health and productivity. DNR does archaeological and historical searches.</p> <p>Water crossing permits: usually already have pre-existing crossings and trails, ice shelves develop (requiring timber mats, which is where the water crossing permits come in). Approved DNR water crossing permits are applied and received before operations begin.</p> <p>Roughly 65-80% of sales are winter-only. Species limitations narrow it to Aug-Nov in Nine Mile.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>

Standard Requirements	SFI	FSC	COMMENTS
Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources			
<p>How does the County modify management techniques for wet conditions?</p>	PM 3.1	C 5.3 C 6.5	<p>Management techniques are modified with rutting standards, seasonal restrictions, site-specific equipment, and sale administration. This is documented in the timber sale prospectus, maps, contract, contract extensions, and included in the 15-year plan.</p> <p>Timber sales will leave pieces out as reserve islands for diversity (Z-designate) when conditions/access are very poor.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>

Standard Requirements	SFI	FSC	COMMENTS
<p>What, if any, special management techniques are used in Riparian Management Zones (RMZs)? How are these areas designated on timber sales? Is this included in the 15-year plan? Include protection of non-forested wetlands (bogs, vernal pools, fens, marshes).</p>	PM 3.2	C 6.3 C 6.5	<p>Sale boundaries are modified as needed during TSE. RMZs are designated on the ground with paint or flagging and are shown on sale maps, and 15-foot zones are monitored through TSA. Most RMZs are obvious when visited on site.</p> <p>Aggressive TSA catches and addresses problems early. Protections are also included in the 15-Year Plan and in the timber sale contract/prospectus.</p> <p>Contractors are told to use maximum “reach” by their harvester equipment to keep actual operation of the equipment out of RMZs. Very few vernal pools or fens are documented in the Forest. On wetland sites, frozen ground is always required. Sales are established to keep activity out of wetland areas.</p> <p>Management techniques are designed to keep sites forested where aspen/brush persist in RMZs. 50-foot minimum restrictions for biomass. Thinnings follow BMPs on BA and tree size.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>

Standard Requirements	SFI	FSC	COMMENTS
<p>Conservation of Biological Diversity including Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value</p>			
<p>Are green tree retention guidelines applied on all pertinent timber sales? Where and how is this documented?</p>	PM 4.1	C 6.3	<p>Yes, they are included in the 15-year plan and the timber sale narrative. Minimum 3% and harvest utilize a combination on aspen and adjacent thinning stands for big aspen stands. Z-designation (see above).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>

Standard Requirements	SFI	FSC	COMMENTS
<p>Does the County have any “Forests of Exceptional Conservation Value” identified in their 15 Year Plan? How does the County ensure that the attributes of the “Forests of Exceptional Conservation Value” that make it special are considered during any active management?</p> <p>Does the County have any High Conservation Value Forests (HCVFs) identified in their 15-Year Plan? Where/who does the county Consult to identify HCVFs and their associated attributes and management? Where are HCVFs assessment and management direction documented? How does the County ensure that the attributes that make a HCVF special are considered during any active management? After active management on a HCVF, what monitoring is done to evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment?</p> <p>Are Representative Sample Areas (RSAs) of existing ecosystems within the landscapes identified in the 15-Year Plan? How are management activities limited within these areas?</p>	<p>PM 4.2 PM 4.3</p>	<p>C 6.1 C 6.2 C 6.4 C 9.1 C 9.2 C 9.3 C 9.4</p>	<p>Yes, there are five (5):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Large wetland shrub carr at Nine Mile Forest Recreation Area 2. Bitzke Flowage 3. Bern Wetland Flowage 4. Hemlock-hardwood stand in Nine Mile Forest Recreation Area 5. Leather Camp ruffed grouse management area <p>No active forest management in flowages, except as needed for wildlife management objectives. No harvests or other activity in shrub carr. Hemlock-hardwood marked thin from below (and track response, adjust as necessary). Age diversification is goal in aspen within ruffed grouse area.</p> <p>The County always holds first and foremost to the principles of sound silviculture. Areas are monitored by forestry staff for forested areas, and by wildlife and forestry staff cooperatively for other areas. The DNR Liaison Forester has built a detailed spreadsheet to track status of these areas.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>

Standard Requirements	SFI	FSC	COMMENTS
Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits			
<p>Are aesthetics considered during the establishment of timber harvests? If so, what references or techniques are applied?</p>	<p>PM 5.1 PM 5.2</p>		<p>Yes. Leave trees are utilized on more heavily cut sites. Harvesting follows aesthetic management zones designated in 15-year plan. The County also evaluates sight lines along public travelled roads, meanders new logging roads/trails where practical, keeps leave trees on the south side of select cross-country ski trails to shelter the trails from the sun and prevent melting and icing, avoids right-angle cutting boundaries, and leaves aspen patches.</p> <p>Nine Mile has more aesthetic considerations (higher-use, more visibility) and more oak and longer-lived hardwoods are retained. There are more leave trees along roads and in areas adjacent to private property boundaries which have higher usage.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>
<p>Are even-aged harvests staggered in order to allow for green-up (5' tall regeneration or 3 years) before harvesting adjacent stands?</p>	<p>PM 5.3</p>		<p>Yes. Artificial regen is captured using HM8 code in WisFIRS. Natural regen is not coded, as it is expected to come back as it has historically. Field checks are made to confirm.</p> <p>Sale establishment attempts to break up old harvest blocks from the 1970s and 1980s as much as possible, but there are limitations due to size/timing and winter-only sales where frozen ground does not form adequately. There is higher success in high ground sites. Harvesting is also chipping away at large blocks of oak in Kronenwetter area.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>

Standard Requirements	SFI	FSC	COMMENTS
How are aesthetics considered when establishing harvests adjacent to recreational areas (including campgrounds, trails, etc.)?	PM 5.1 PM 5.4		<p>Aesthetics are considered for recreational areas by incorporating seasonal harvests, avoiding high use times, considering trail use, converting to longer lived species, and maintaining unique trees along trails.</p> <p>There is consideration for green up documented in the 2460 narrative. Adaptive techniques are used at Nine Mile Forest Recreation Area in aspen thinning situations. No clearcuts are done in some areas, however intensive management continues despite intensive recreational use. Leave trees are retained on the south side of select cross-country ski trails to shelter the trails from the sun and prevent melting and icing. Harvesting retains most oak, cherry, and long-lived pine species near trails.</p> <p>Other considerations are also listed in the sections above.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>
Does your annual work plan consider promotion of recreational opportunities for the public?	PM 5.4		<p>Yes. Annual work plans and partnership meetings discuss recreation projects for the upcoming year. Cross Country Ski, Snowshoe, Horse trails, ATV/UTV trails, walking trails, hunter access trails, brushing projects, and shooting range park are some examples.</p> <p>Close cooperation with user groups makes it so that there are annual meetings to discuss improving conditions on an as-needed basis.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>
How often are designated County Forest roads maintained? How often are other motorized roads/trails maintained?	PM 2.3	C 6.5	<p>Documentation is on file for road/trail inspections and maintenance at the Forestry Office. Typically, certified forest roads are graded at least twice annually and have periodic granite/gravel placed. ATV/UTV trails are graded and have periodic granite placed and are maintained by both PRF Department. BMPs used for all roads and trails. Most roads are 3-4 season roads, but some are dry/frozen ground access only. A gating policy is in place for every trail that leads into the county forest (access only allowed in one unit for ATV/UTV trails. Access is given for firewood permits (10-12 per year) and disabled hunters (4-6 per year).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>

Standard Requirements	SFI	FSC	COMMENTS
Protection of Special Sites			
<p>How does the County identify special sites? How are NHI, historical, and archaeological inventories managed for their unique features? How are they evaluated and protected during management practices? Where are these reviews and mitigation measures documented?</p>	<p>PM 4.2 PM 4.3 PM 6.1</p>	<p>C 6.1 C 6.3 C 6.4</p>	<p>Special sites are listed in Chapter 800 of the 15-Year Plan. NHI queries and archaeological checks are done during the sale establishment process and documented in the timber sale narrative. DNR Liaison Forester checks NHC on-line portal and archaeological/historical records, and they maintain a database of special sites that describes the identified sites and management for tracking purposes.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>
<p>How is information in the 15-Year Plan with respect to special sites communicated to the stand level?</p>		<p>C 6.2</p>	<p>There are only five special sites identified on the County Forest. -Bitzke Waterfowl Refuge and Bern Wetland have limited management (only in the aspen stands) -Nine Mile swamp has no management -Leather Camp Ruffed Grouse Management area is managed for early successional species, primarily aspen, and the Hemlock stands are also managed (thinned from below).</p> <p>Since there are no special protections for these areas, communication to the stand level is not needed.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>
<p>Is there Type 1 or 2 Old Growth on the County Forest? If so, how are those areas preserved?</p>		<p>C 6.3</p>	<p>There are no identified old growth stands on the County Forest.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>
<p>Are legacy trees identified on timber sales? If so, are they retained or how are they designated long term?</p>		<p>C 6.3</p>	<p>Legacy trees are retained when identified, however there are very few on the County Forest (example large relic white pine). Typically, these are marked in green paint to save and/or identified on timber sale maps as leave trees. Specific notes are made on 2460 for why it meets definition of legacy tree. County staff also leave future legacy trees in other harvests (especially in aspen stands, sometimes in NH stands).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>

Standard Requirements	SFI	FSC	COMMENTS
Efficient Use of Fiber Resources			
<p>What measures are taken to ensure good utilization, minimize waste, and protect residual trees on timber harvests? How are timber sale inspections documented? How does the county encourage or ensure opportunity for local businesses of various sizes?</p>	PM 7.1	C 5.2 C 5.3 C 6.5 C 8.2	<p>Sale requirements are made clear in timber sale narratives, pre-sale meetings (documented with checklist), prospectus, and contract. Good timber sale administration provides for enforcement of sale specs. Utilization to 4" top is required unless the sale specifically allows for biomass harvest. There are not typically a lot of utilization issues, except for some instances with newer operators. Issues are addressed immediately.</p> <p>Opportunities for local businesses of various sizes are created through competitive bidding, offering various sized timber sales, and occasionally offering direct sales following timber sale handbook.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Conformance <input type="checkbox"/>OFI <input type="checkbox"/>Non-Conformance</p>
<p>How has the County offered non-traditional forest products for sale including small diameter woody biomass, low grade wood, boughs, and firewood or Christmas trees? On county forests that allow either whole tree or biomass harvesting, how are BMPs for biomass harvesting implemented?</p>	PM 7.1	C 5.3 C 5.4 C 5.6 C 6.3 C 6.5	<p>Specific sales for boughs, firewood or Christmas tree sales are not offered, as there are not adequate stands for these practices. Woody biomass harvest is allowed down to 2" tops as a bid option. Cull wood removal is negotiated on a case-by-case basis. Firewood cutting permits are issued to individuals post-sale. Woody biomass harvesting is offered on most timber sales, but few loggers bid to remove them. Woody biomass harvesting guidelines (included in 15-year plan, prospectus, and contract) are followed and documented in timber sale narrative and administered by the forester on the ground. In no cases has the logging operation exceeded the guidelines because of breakage and others. Whole-tree harvesting not done on any sales.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Conformance <input type="checkbox"/>OFI <input type="checkbox"/>Non-Conformance</p>
<p>When utilization or market issues arise with local contractors how are they handled? (e.g. changing markets, changing utilization standards, etc.) How do you offer sales for diversified markets?</p>	PM 7.1	C 5.2	<p>Marathon County works with loggers as much as possible to negotiate reasonable changes if markets do not "cooperate". Pine pulp markets are tough, but County works with loggers to get sales completed, including increasing minimum top diameters to 5" (only if needed). Most sales are harvested to a 3-4-inch top. They allow utility pole harvests in pine stands. Any additions to sales have Forest Administrator, Liaison, and Team Leader approval with a timber sale amendment.</p> <p>A one-time extension was granted on all timber sales due to blowdown in Langlade County in 2019.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Exceeds <input type="checkbox"/>Conformance <input type="checkbox"/>OFI <input type="checkbox"/>Non-Conformance</p>

Standard Requirements	SFI	FSC	COMMENTS
<p>How are local logging and/or forest management contractors made aware of contracting possibilities?</p> <p>How does the county ensure timber harvests offered for both large and small contractors?</p>	PM 7.1	C 4.1 C 5.2	<p>The prospectus for each sale is mailed or emailed to the logger list on file. They allow companies to give their information and then add them to the list at any time. The County also follows statute and advertises in the local newspaper. They send the timber sale package to be listed on the DNR site and post on the PRF website. Timber sales are offered between about 40-90 acres with 65-70 being about the average. Most contractors request larger sales because of mobilization costs.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Conformance <input type="checkbox"/>OFI <input type="checkbox"/>Non-Conformance</p>
<p>How does the County identify FSC and/or SFI-certified forest products coming from the forest to assist with chain-of custody?</p> <p>Does the county have approval documentation for their use of all trademarks and logos?</p>	PM 11.1	C 8.3	<p>The County promotes an understanding of responsibilities to achieve objectives of certification, including use of qualified logging professionals. Wood producers have an awareness of sustainable forestry principles. Documentation or system to monitor/prevent mixing of certified and non-certified forest products. Haul tickets have the correct certification number and claim.</p> <p>County Parks sales have a separate ticket book without numbers and the sale prospectus clarifies that it is not certified.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Conformance <input type="checkbox"/>OFI <input type="checkbox"/>Non-Conformance</p>

Standard Requirements	SFI	FSC	COMMENTS
Legal & Regulatory Compliance			
<p>How does the County ensure they do not violate laws, regulations, or 15-Year Plan requirements (worker's rights, safety, etc.)?</p>	PM 9.1	C 1.1 C 4.1 C 4.2	<p>In sale contracts, safety standards are specified, and contractors encouraged to follow them, but the county cannot directly enforce provisions since the contractors are not County employees. Violations seen during TSA inspections are reported to contractor and recommendations made to deal with them. County has never been found in violation of any laws, regulations, or 15-year plan requirements. There is also a posting board in the office and at the shop.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Conformance <input type="checkbox"/>OFI <input type="checkbox"/>Non-Conformance</p>

Standard Requirements	SFI	FSC	COMMENTS
<p>How does the County prevent illegal or unauthorized activities on the County Forest?</p> <p>How does the County document or communicate situations in which compliance with laws and regulations conflict with FSC principles?</p>	PM 9.1	C 1.4 C 1.5	<p>County employs two Recreational Deputies that enforce County Forest ordinances.</p> <p>Illegal/unauthorized activities are identified and prevented through timber sale administration, contract enforcement, and pursuit of enforcement of state statute where/when appropriate. Cameras set up sometimes for hauling or in cases of frequent dumping sites. Deputies will take care of illegal tree stands.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>

Standard Requirements	SFI	FSC	COMMENTS
Forestry Research, Science, and Technology			
How has the County supported research, training, or forestry education activities either individually, through the Statewide Implementation Committee (SIC) or in their support of WCFA?	PM 10.1 PM 10.2	C 4.1	<p>The County participates in everything it can. Silvicultural studies, literature and other information regularly is reviewed.</p> <p>Research: -An oak wilt protocol was developed in the County Forest to work toward goal of practical control, and DNR Division of Forestry is studying its use as a state protocol. -UW-Stevens Point has conducted an oak thinning study. -UW-Madison completed a report on how warming weather pattern influences tree pathogens and how this could affect tree species in the future.</p> <p>Education/Training: -County staff would hold class presentations prior to COVID restrictions -Learn About Your Land series presentations -Education for recreation interns -Citizen Advisory Committee gets information on timber sales and has opportunities to ask questions -Presentations have been held out at Nine Mile and there is a lot of interaction with the public</p> <p>Marathon County is a member of WCFA. Forest Administrator is on several WCFA committees including the Forest Certification Legislative Committee. WCFA employee is a member of the SIC Committee. WCFA also weighs in on inconsistent practices through their involvement on the SIC.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Exceeds <input type="checkbox"/>Conformance <input type="checkbox"/>OFI <input type="checkbox"/>Non-Conformance</p>
How do County Forest staff stayed current on impacts to forests, wildlife, and biological diversity associated with climate change?	PM 10.3	C 4.1 C 4.2 C 7.1 C 7.2 C 7.3 C 8.2	<p>Staff stay current by attending training and educational seminars involving sustainable forest management and others offered by WCFA, FISTA, SAF, DNR and many others. There is also a feasibility study on carbon markets.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>Conformance <input type="checkbox"/>OFI <input type="checkbox"/>Non-Conformance</p>

Standard Requirements	SFI	FSC	COMMENTS
Training and Education			
What training does the County require for timber sale contractors? How are training records for contractors retained on file or accessed through FISTA when individual sales are sold?	PM 7.1 PM 11.1		FISTA training is required. Staff can review electronic database to check for compliance and copies are kept in the sale file and a general file. <input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance
What training opportunities do county staff have for training either specific to or related to their jobs? (forestry education, safety) Are training records retained for staff? If so, where are they retained?	PM 11.1	C 4.1	Staff participate in WCFA biannual meetings and summer tour and SAF meetings and training and attend DNR training when available. The Forest Administrator is on Legislative/Certification Committee of WCFA. The county supports regular training for the employees on staff. COVID has limited the amount of training offered the last two years. They have mainly participated in WCFA offered web-based training including Chemical Pesticide and ESRA and carbon credit markets. Individual files are retained at the County Forest Office. <input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance
What process is used to hire new forestry staff?	PM 9.2	C 4.1	Staff follow County written policy or reference to laws concerning civil rights, equal employment opportunities, anti-discrimination, and workers' compensation. Hiring practices are non-discriminatory and follow applicable federal, state, and local regulations. <input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance

Standard Requirements	SFI	FSC	COMMENTS
Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach, Public Land Management Responsibilities			
Is education information, including that prepared by DNR & WCFA, provided to the public at county offices or websites?	PM 12.1 PM 12.2		Yes, via brochures in the County office and on the PRF website. In addition, the County Forest maintains a very complete website on forestry action items including 15-Year Plan and Annual Work Plans. <input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance

Standard Requirements	SFI	FSC	COMMENTS
<p>How does the county staff deal with concerns or issues raised by the public regarding practices on the County Forest that appear inconsistent with SFI principles?</p>	PM 12.3		<p>County forestry committee is consulted, and if needed a report to State SFI Implementation Committee is completed.</p> <p>No concerns about SFI have been expressed by the public since being certified in 2005. In any situations raising concern about how the County manages the forest, staff try to educate people on what good silviculture means and how the county practices it in all situations.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>
<p>How does the county interact with the affected public on short- and long-term planning & management?</p>	PM 13.1	C 4.4	<p>Since 1998, County Forest has had a Citizens Advisory Subcommittee, made up of 11 members from the community, which meets quarterly and provides input to forest policy. They helped draft the current 15-Year Plan.</p> <p>Members of the public are always welcome to attend the monthly Forestry Committee meetings. Meetings have a 15-minute public comment section at the beginning of each meeting. Public involvement is usually limited to when meetings affect user group trails. There was a remote access option set up for meetings during COVID restrictions, and there is still a call-in option for listening and talking remotely.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>
<p>How does the County determine harvest boundaries when timber sales abut private land? How does the County document access use rights held by private parties? Have there been conflicts with adjacent landowners over management/boundary issues? If so, how are they resolved?</p>	PM 9.1	C 2.1 C 2.3	<p>A timber sale cutting line is established and private landowner receives a cutting line agreement to consider signing. Most are signed after questions are answered. This is not a survey line and that is clearly communicated to them. There have been very few conflicts during the Forest Administrator's tenure of 26 plus years. There is a surveyor on County staff that is available when needed.</p> <p>Only 5-year access permits are granted to owners of private lands that are landlocked (for a fee). No legal easements are given. Compliance is maintained with state and local forestry laws and regulations. Boundaries are clearly identified on the ground and on maps. If disputes arise the county, there are attempts to resolve through communications, negotiation, and/or mediation. If good faith efforts fail, the County will pursue resolution through state and local laws.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>

Standard Requirements	SFI	FSC	COMMENTS
Indigenous Peoples' Rights			
Does the County provide a written policy indicating their commitment to the rights of indigenous peoples?	PM 8.1	C 3.1 C 3.2 C 3.3 C 3.4	<p>Yes, this is included in the 15-Year Plan, Section 525.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>
<p>In what way does the county communicate with Tribes having an interest in their County Forest?</p> <p>How are cultural Tribal sites on the County Forest identified and protected?</p> <p>If within the ceded territory, how does the County provide for Tribal gathering rights?</p>	PM 8.2	C 3.1 C 3.2 C 3.3 C 3.4	<p>In the 31 years since the Treaty Rights decision, there has been no interest expressed by any Tribe, including no response to letters sent out as part of the SFI review. Tribes have never made any requests for use of resources.</p> <p>There are no known cultural sites on the County Forest.</p> <p>Per Section 525 of the 15-Year Plan, if a Tribe comes to County with a request, County will grant permits for gathering per the Treaty Rights decision, provided no resource damage will incur from the gathering.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Exceeds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conformance <input type="checkbox"/> OFI <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Conformance</p>

Tom Lovlien

From: Rebekah Luedtke <rebekah@wisconsincountyforests.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 5:34 PM
To: Rebekah Luedtke
Subject: [EXTERNAL] REGISTER - Spring CFA Meeting - March 21-23rd, 2023
Attachments: 2023 Spring CFA Meeting Registration Form fillable.pdf



2023 Spring CFA Meeting

March 21st-23rd
Rothschild, WI

REGISTER NOW!

Greetings! The Spring CFA Meeting is set for March 21st, 22nd & 23rd, 2023 at the Stoney Creek Hotel in Rothschild.

ALL ARE WELCOME!
(That goes for all county forest staff, committee members and DNR staff)

Before anyone asks, there's no draft agenda yet. A draft agenda will be sent out at a later date and a final one closer to the meeting. There will be no virtual attendance option for the Spring CFA Meeting.

WHEN: Tuesday, March 21st - Thursday, March 23rd, 2023

WHERE: The Stoney Creek Hotel, Rothschild, WI -

<https://goo.gl/maps/vnrjY3d1iiV4D9xLA>

COST: \$75 flat fee. Registration fees will be invoiced for no-shows.

RSVP DEADLINE: MARCH 7TH by emailing rebekah@wisconsincountyforests.com

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, March 21st

- 9 AM: Legislative & Forest Certification Committee meeting (breaks and refreshments included)
 - Noon: Lunch
- 1 PM: Board of Directors meeting (breaks and refreshments included)
***NOTE** - This is a change from the Feb. 14th meeting originally scheduled in Eagle River.*
 - Dinner on your own

Wednesday, March 22nd & Thursday, March 23rd

- 8:30 AM: Spring CFA Meeting (breaks, lunch, refreshments included)
- Wednesday 6 PM: Group dinner (informal, no agenda w/ bar)

(start times subject to change)

REGISTRATION

See attached registration form. Return to me by March 7th.

LODGING

A limited block of rooms is set aside at The Stoney Creek Inn for lodging needs on the 21st & 22nd at the government rate. Reservations may be made by calling (715) 355-6858, use block code: Wisconsin County Forests Assoc. Block expires February 20, 2023.

Lodging is also available at the Holiday Inn & Suites across the street (715-355-1111).

Any questions, please let me know.
Kind regards,
Rebekah

Parks, Recreation & Forestry Law Enforcement Annual Report (01/01/2022-12/06/2022)

Parks:

Patrols: Times where Mike 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 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 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:	46
DC Everest:	31
Bluegill:	40
Big Eau Pleine:	21
Dells of Eau Claire:	10
Sunnyvale:	48
Rib Falls:	8
Mission Lake:	2
Ashley:	0
Big Rapids:	2
Cherokee:	2
Amco:	1
Brokaw:	10
Gilbert:	2
Memorial:	0
Oak Island:	1
Schofield:	0
<i>Total:</i>	<i>224</i>

Criminal Complaints

Marathon Park:	32
DC Everest:	9
Bluegill:	13
Big Eau Pleine:	25
Dells of Eau Claire:	7
Sunnyvale:	13
Rib Falls:	2
Mission Lake:	2
Ashley:	0
Big Rapids:	0
Cherokee:	1
Amco:	0
Brokaw:	2
<i>Total:</i>	<i>106</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: 31	Enter Prohibited Area: 0
Vehicle Violations: 2	Animal Violations: 0
Littering, Dumping, Refuse: 4	Vehicle Violations: 2
Animal Violations: 1	Soliciting: 0
Camping Violations: 3	<i>Total: 3</i>
Obstructing Officer: 0	
Permit Violations: 2	
<i>Total: 43</i>	

Criminal Charges and Arrests: Number of times a person had criminal charges brought against him or was arrested for a criminal offense by Mike 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 or Brian for non-park related complaints.

Criminal Charges	
Warrant Arrests: 2	
OWI Related Arrests: 1	
Check Fraud: 2	
Lewd Behavior: 1	
Criminal Damage to Property: 1	
<i>Total: 7</i>	

Forestry:

Patrols and Complaints: Times Mike 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: 4	Nine Mile: 55	Monitoring: 0
XC Ski Patrols: 10	Burma: 13	Confiscated: 13
Vandalism: 0	Ringle: 8	No Stand Located: 1
Misc. Criminal: 5	Kronenwetter: 7	Citations: 0
Illegal Dumping: 1	Leathercamp: 4	<i>Total: 14</i>
Lost Hiker/Hunter: 1	Wisconsin River: 5	
	Harrison Hewitt: 5	
<i>Total: 21</i>	<i>Total: 97</i>	

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

Citations
Vehicle Violations: 1
Abandoned Vehicle: 0
Dumping: 1
<i>Total: 2</i>

Recreation Motor Vehicle Patrols:

Hours, Citations, and Warnings Submitted to DNR for recreational motor vehicle patrols. Snowmobile data is from 2021-2022 snowmobile season. Boat Data is taken from the 2022 season. ATV data is for patrols from May 2022-November 2022, due to DNR considering any patrols prior to May as 2021 data and December logs are not completed yet.

Type	Hours	Citations	Warnings
Snowmobile:	313.5	18	17
Boat:	175	9	35
ATV:	218.5	7	22
<i>Total:</i>	<i>707</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>71</i>