

Members present: Rick Seefeldt (chair), Tom Rosenberg (vice-chair) Excused: Jean Maszk
Staff present: Tom Lovlien - Forest Administrator, Joe Tucker, County Forester, Jamie Polley - Director, Jeff Sorenson - DNR Forest Liaison

1. Call Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order by Chair Seefeldt at 1:00pm, Rm. 5, 212 River Dr., Wausau. Official notice and the agenda for the meeting was posted publicly in accordance with State statutes.

2. Public Comment – none brought forward.

3. Approve Minutes – **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to approve the minutes from the July 30, 2024, regular Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 2-0.

4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee - None

5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Consider approving Fall 2024 Timber Sale Package – The Fall 2024 Timber Sale Package has been distributed to the Committee for review. Included in the Fall 2024 Timber Sale are four (4) Sales totaling 311 acres and one (1) 79-acre County Park sale at Big Eau Pleine Park which was approved by the Parks Commission last April. The sales will be advertised, and the bid opening is Monday, September 30, 2024. Questions were answered. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to approve the Fall 2024 Timber Sale. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 2-0.

2. Consider 2024-2026 County Conservation Aids Project – 2024-2026 County Conservation Aids Grant of \$4,314 with a match of \$4,314, which comes from a tax levy. These grants issued toward projects that benefits hunting, fishing, and/or are game-related. After consulting with the operations department about what the next three (3) years needs were, it was determined that the retaining walls, target holders, and other maintenance at the shooting range was the most critical. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to rebuild the retaining walls and target holders, and to conduct other maintenance as necessary at the shooting range. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 2-0.

B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration - None

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

7. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Preliminary results of the 2024 Forest Certification Audit – A recertification audit is held every 5 years by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). For the second consecutive recertification audit, no major or minor issues are needed to be addressed. This “clean slate” is something of which to be proud, as three (3) auditors from three (3) different parts of the country preside over the audit and deemed the forestry program in good standing. These audits hold the county to a high standard. The final report is forthcoming.

B. Department of Natural Resources Liaison Report – Jeff Sorenson, DNR Liaison, reported on attending a timber market meeting held by Great Lakes Timber with Joe Tucker, Forester. The committee was informed about what is trending in the pulp market in the states of Michigan and Wisconsin. The Department of Natural Resources is exploring alternative timber markets due to market challenges. He is seeking a scarification site for John Hunt to do some work this fall using money budgeted from the Wildlife Grant and Forestry Budget.

C. Wisconsin County Forest Association Annual Meeting – September 25-27

8. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 1:00 pm, 212 River Drive, Wausau, WI 54403, or via Webex

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – Rebecca Luedtke and Doug Brown did a presentation on forestry at the August County Board meeting. The presentation demonstrated what the forestry program does and what it takes to run.

B. Future Agenda Items – Consider timber bids and award contracts, 2025 Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department Budget update, DNR/County Partnership Meeting, minutes and discussion, DNR Liaison Report, Ragnar Trail Wisconsin update.

9. Adjourn – Motion / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to adjourn the meeting at 1:35 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote; vote reflected as 2-0.