



MARATHON COUNTY FORESTRY/RECREATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, August 1, 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: 2493 389 8228. 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, June 27, 2023 Committee Meeting**
4. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**
 - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
 1. Timber Sale Closeout – Twin Forest Products Contract #714-22
 2. County Forest Citizens Advisory Subcommittee Appointments
 - 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. Department of Natural Resources Liaison Report – Jeff Sorenson
 - B. 2023 – 2025 State Budget Signed with Forestry Initiatives Included
 - C. Status on Voluntary Carbon Market and Response From Anew Climate Solutions
 - D. Legislative Forestry Field Tour – September 25, 2023

7. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 1:00pm at 212 River Dr., Wausau, WI 54403, Room 5 or via Webex

- A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence
- B. Future Agenda Items: Consider Entering Into an Agreement with the Department of Natural Resources on the Bat Habitat Conservation Plan, Consider Approving Fall Timber Sale Package, County Conservation Aids 2023 – 2025 Project Approval, Results of Forest Certification Audit, WCFA Annual Meeting, DNR Liaison Report

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: July 26, 2023 10:45 a.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
Others present: Jeff Sorenson-DNR Liaison, Sandi Cihlar, Nancy Stencil

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 – Sandi Cihlar – 203083 Bergen Rd, Mosinee – Cihlar felt a couple things were needed to continue to have a safe and enjoyable experience for snowshoers at Nine Mile. These include accurate maps, updated website information, accurate signage and frequent, clear signage for any shared snowshoe trail alerting users that they are on the same trails as bikes. She thought fees should be comparable and would like to have a portion of the trail dedicated to snowshoers where they wouldn't encounter fat tire bikes.

Nancy Stencil – 223281 Azalea Rd, Wausau – Stencil would also like to see a smaller snowshoe only loop and felt really good signage was needed to alert both the snowshoer and fat tire groups about each other.

Seefeldt read an email from Stacy Morache – Morache believed there is a need to have an area designated for snowshoeing only and if it can't be achieved at Nine mile wondered if improvements to the trail in Brokaw could be considered.

3. Approve Minutes – **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Maszk to approve the minutes from the May 30, 2023 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. Review and Discussion on the Nine Mile Winter Fat Tire Biking Season – Lovlien said about thirty percent of the snowshoe trail is shared with winter fat tire biking. When staff proposed the trial season, there had been some expectations that an area would be groomed with double tracks for having a snowshoe trail and a fat tire bike trail next to each other. The Department fell short this year and the snowshoe trail wasn't signed like it should have been and brush wasn't cut to allow for double tracks. Staff recognizes some work needs to be done on signing, updating the website and getting a portion of the trail double groomed. Staff will also be assessing its season passes and fees more in-depth. The intent is to make a 6k loop with a short ¼ mile section double groomed for fat tire biking and snowshoeing. Snowshoers would only encounter fat bikers on a double-groomed trail for a very short distance, about a quarter of a mile, and then wouldn't encounter any fat bikes. Overall, the trial season went well. The majority of public comments support it and were positive. The majority of public comments, the Nordic Ski Club, IronBull and CWOCC support it. At their last meeting the Forest Citizen Advisory Subcommittee voted 9-1 to recommend to the Forestry Committee their support. Staff supports a permanent season and some of the challenges of the trial season will be fixed.

2. Consider Establishing a Permanent Winter Fat Tire Biking Season at Nine Mile Forest – **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to approve the establishment of a permanent winter fat tire biking season at Nine Mile Forest with improved signing, accurate maps and updated website. 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. Consider Proposed Chapter 16 County Forest Ordinance Revisions – Lovlien discussed the ordinance revisions including language at the Bitzke Bird Trail that “*No person shall hunt within the Bitzke Birdwalk Nature Trail area from September 1 through November 15 or hunt waterfowl which is closed year-round*”. Lovlien noted that trapping would be allowed. The changes noted under (17) Animals on ski trails include adding the word “*designated*” before “ski trails” and adding “*or being groomed for opening*” after “open” for further clarification. Under (18) Hiking, walking, or running on ski trails, the words “*fat tire bike and snowshoe*” were added. The

words “*designated*” and “*or being groomed for opening* for further clarification in this paragraph as well. Definitions were added for Fat tire bike and snowshoe. **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration. 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. 2023 – 2025 State Budget Update – Lovlien said all the Wisconsin County Forest Association requested forestry items are still in the base budget. The Joint Finance Committee proposes to increase the Forest Administrator Grant, Sustainable Forestry Grants, ATV/UTV Enforcement Aids, and UTV maintenance funds. There is also no change to the stewardship program which will run through June 30, 2026. The Governor has already supported these items so hopefully everything will get through when the budget is signed. Lovlien also noted that monies have been given from a forestry segregated account to pay for shortfalls in the DNR wildlife program. He said that Act 13 Senate Bill 247 was signed by the Governor and sets aside 150 million dollars for towns where they can apply to improve their road systems.

7. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Tue., Aug. 1, 2023, 1pm, Rm. 5 & Webex, 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – none brought forward

B. Future Agenda Items: County Forest Citizens’ Advisory Subcommittee Appointments, Timbersale Closeout, Consider Entering Into an Agreement with DNR on the Bat Conservation Plan, County Conservation Aids Project

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

CLOSE OUT TIMBER SALES

Sale 714-22

TWIN FOREST PRODUCTS LLC

	Estimated	Cut	
Aspen Pulp	2100 Tons	2259.50 Tons	Aspen Pulp
Mixed Hardwood Pulp	300 Tons	507.17 Tons	Mixed Hardwood Pulp
Oak Pulp	750 Tons	748.20 Tons	Oak Pulp
	3150 Tons	3514.87 Total Tons Cut	
Ash Sawlogs	6 MBF	7.25 MBF	Ash Sawlogs
Red Oak Sawlogs	40 MBF	71.07 MBF	Red Oak Sawlogs
	46 MBF	78.32 Total MBF Cut	

Total Revenue for Sale: **\$83,270.27**

Balance: \$0.00

Bond Amount: \$16,212.50

Bond Type: Letter of Credit

Recommendation: **Close Out Sale and Return Original Letter of Credit**

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS ON FOREST CITIZENS ADVISORY
SUBCOMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – AUGUST 1, 2023

1. Paul Klocko – General Member – Expiring Sept. 1, 2025
2. Gary Weiland – ATV/Motorized – Expiring Sept. 1, 2025
3. Marcell Wieloch – Conservation Congress – Expiring Sept. 1, 2025
4. Dale Heil – Logging – Expiring Sept. 1, 2025
5. Vacant – Forest Industry – Expiring Sept. 1, 2025

September 2023

**MARATHON COUNTY FOREST
CITIZENS' ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Aaron Ruff 223270 Hollywood Rd. Marathon WI 54448 (C) 715-432-4252 Email: aruff06@gmail.com	Mountain Biking 2 year term to 2024 Expires September 1, 2024
John Burke 5907 Old coach Rd. Wausau WI 54401 (H) 715-218-7883 E-mail: johnbethburke@charter.net	Cross-Country Skiing/Snowshoeing 2 year term to 2024 Expires September 1, 2024
Greg Klos 6603 Cavin Dr. Wausau WI 54401 (H) 842-5951 (W) 845-2206 E-mail: gklos@charter.net	Conservation 2 year term to 2024 Expires September 1, 2024
Susan Haug 168305 River Rd. Ringle WI 54471 (H) 446-2775 E-mail: sjhaug@charter.net	Birding 2 year term to 2024 Expires September 1, 2024
Mike Lane 921 Landfried Ave. Mosinee WI 54455 (H) 693-2749 (C) 715-370-3645	Hunting 2 year term to 2024 Expires September 1, 2024
Carmen Engelman 215925 Damian Dr. Mosinee, WI 54455 715-370-2777 E-mail: clengelman@charter.net	Equestrian 2 year term to 2024 Expires September 1, 2024
Paul Klocko 3907 Pat St. Weston WI 54476 (H) 715-241-6940 E-mail: pklocko@dwave.net	General Member 2 year term to 2025 Expires September 1, 2025
Marcell Wieloch 214814 Wieloch Rd. Mosinee WI 54455 (H) 693-4449 (C) 715-571-4474 E-mail: mfwieloch@mtc.net	Conservation Congress 2 year term to 2025 Expires September 1, 2025
VACANT	Forest Industry 2 year term to 2025 Expires September 1, 2025
Gary Weiland 3799 Redwood St. Fenwood WI 54426 (H) 715-581-2875 gary.weiland@gmail.com	ATV/UTV/Motorized 2 year term to 2025 Expires September 1, 2025
Dale Heil 212590 Karen Ln. Stratford WI 54484 (H) 687-2110 (W) Truck 498-2252 dale.heil@frontier.com	Logging 2 year term to 2025 Expires September 1, 2025

Tom Lovlien

From: Rebekah Luedtke <rebekah@wisconsincountyforests.com>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 12:09 PM
To: Jason Jake Nichols; John Wendorski; Joe Grapa; Jake Walcisak; Carolyn Pralle; John Cisek; Jerrad Macholl; Eric Peterson; Al Murray; Brian Loyd; Tom Ernst; Greg Peterson; Chris Hoffman; Ryan Bourassa; Chad Keranen; Mike Peterson; Frederick Fritz Schubert; Jason Bodine; Joshua Pedersen; Tom Lovlien; Monty Brink; Doug Brown; Patrick Smith; Grant, Dustin; Brent Sisko; Curtiss Lindner; Dean Bowe; John Lefebvre; Nick Gilman; Mark Heyde; Shawn Pfaff; Chad Ziegler; Matt Hansen; Dave Kafura; Paul Fiene; Jim Zahasky; Jon Harris; Travis Wollenberg; Mary Podnar; Bill Bialecki; Myron Brooks; Alan VanRaalte; Jeff Barkley; Joe Waichulis; Mike Luedeke; Henry Schienebeck; Rick Seefeldt; Henry Novak; Norm Bickford; Phil Schneider; Hank Graber
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DNR Budget Motion Passed
Attachments: 0035_001.pdf

Greetings. Some good news to share with you today. Last Thursday evening, the DNR budget was passed through JFC with several good bits included for your counties and programs. Attached is the full brief and I've highlighted some sections of particular interest. All in all, we're getting what we asked for, except for the wildlife habitat grant increase. **This is excellent news!**

In short:

- Increase of \$250,000 combined for admin grant and SFG annually. Should bring the annual allocation from \$1,613,900 to \$1,863,900 and in theory will fully fund the SFG. This is close to what the Governor had proposed.
- Increase of \$550,000 annually for ATV/UTV enforcement aids to \$1.3M. This was a collective ask between WATVA, Sheriff's Association and WCFA. Should eliminate the pro-rate.
- Double per mile reimbursement for UTV trail maintenance from \$200 to \$400.
- No changes to KN Stewardship Program

There's no reason to believe the Governor will have any issues with these requests as they were in his budget as well, to some extent, and we had discussions on all items with his staff. Thanks and kudos to Shawn and those of you that contributed to our legislative priorities along the way. Let me know if you have questions. We'll discuss more on Wednesday's call.

Thrilled,
Rebekah

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Shawn Pfaff <shawn@pfaffpublicaffairs.com>
Date: Fri, May 19, 2023 at 8:26 AM
Subject: DNR motion passed

Last night, the GOP-led Joint Finance Committee passed on a partisan 11 to 4 vote its motion (please see attached) toward funding the DNR.

Specifically, please see item #21 regarding County Forest Administrator and County Sustainable Forestry Grants. It provides \$200,000 each year of the biennium for county forest administrator grants and \$50,000 each year for county sustainable forestry grants.

Also, another one of budget priorities was increase funding for ATV/UTV Trails and Law Enforcement – please note items #7 and #8.

Marathon County Forestry Committee

August 2023 Meeting

- Currently completed ~78 hours of 660 time standard hours for the next fiscal year which started on June 17th.
- Joe Tucker and I have three Fall 2023 timber sales that cover 255 acres ready for our in-house review in mid-August.
- I have helped Joe frame and mark our Spring 2024 sales, which, are mainly done in terms of field work and will be working on paperwork in the coming months.
- In the last couple of weeks, we have been identifying potential Fall 2024 timber sales and Joe has begun to frame them. We hope to have the bulk of the field work done before the end of October.
- We hope to trial some methods using manual hand-cutting for controlling musclewood and ironwood before the summer runs out. Both these species can be problematic when it comes to regenerating our hardwood stands so we're looking for new ways to control them.
- Our DNR Woodruff Area team (Marathon, Taylor, Lincoln, Vilas and Onieda Counties) had a summer in-service field training on July 18th out at the Kronenwetter Forest Unit that covered Forest Regeneration Monitoring and scarification. Joe and I helped identify locations for the event and then I helped by presenting some historical information about past timber sale treatments and our current plan for our oak shelterwoods we're implementing to regenerate our oak stands on the MCF. Our team appreciated being able to use your woods to help train our staff!

Any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Call me or email me at 715-965-9228 or jeff.sorenson@wisconsin.gov

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Sorenson

Jeff Sorenson

Wisconsin DNR – Marathon County Forest Liaison

Wisconsin
County
Forests
Association

Senator
Romaine Quinn
25th District

Great Lakes
Timber
Professionals
Association

Spooner, WI

Legislative Forestry Field Tour

September 25, 2023

Join Senator Romaine Quinn, the Wisconsin County Forests Association and the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association for a forestry field tour this fall to learn about forest management in Wisconsin. Visit a working forest and an active harvesting operation, explore what issues are important to Wisconsin's forest industry and discuss why sustainable forestry is vital to Wisconsin's economy.

Where: Washburn County Forest, Spooner, WI

When: Monday, September 25th, 10 AM - 3 PM

Cost: FREE

Deadline to register: September 11th

To register: <https://forms.gle/5gkb6vZfRYBmtQ449>

For more information, visit www.wisconsincountyforests.com/legtour/