

Members present: Rick Seefeldt (chair), Tom Rosenberg (vice-chair), Jean Maszk-(via-webex)
Staff present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director, Joe Tucker-County Forester

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 Rosenberg / Maszk to approve the minutes from the April 4, 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 Timber Bids and Award Contracts – Lovlien reported that sixteen bids were received on four sales. The County has worked with the highest bidders except for one and Lovlien has checked those references. Lovlien recommends awarding the sales to the highest bidders on the four sales. Questions were answered. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Maszk to award the spring timber sale tracts 1-23, 2-23, 3-23 and 4-23 to the high bidders. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0. Lovlien explained that two bidders did not follow the bidding instructions for tract 1-23. One did not submit a bid on one of the species and another did not include a ten percent bid bond. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Maszk to reject those two bids for tract 1-23 because the bidders did not follow bidding instructions. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

2. Timber Sale Extension Requests – Briarton Logging Contract #694-20 – This is a first extension request and forty percent of the volume was cut. Lovlien discussed the sale and reasons for recommending the sale is extended for one-year with a ten percent increase for the remaining stumpage. **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to grant a one-year extension request for Contract #694-20 with a ten percent increase in stumpage. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0. Futurewood Corporation Contract #670-18 – This is a third extension request and over one hundred percent of the volume was cut. Lovlien discussed the sale and reasons for recommending the sale is extended for one-year with a fifteen percent increase for the remaining stumpage. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Maszk to grant a one-year extension request for Contract #670-18 with a fifteen percent increase in stumpage. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0. Central Wisconsin Lumber-Contract #644-15 – This is a sixth extension request and over one hundred percent of the volume was cut. Lovlien discussed the sale and reasons for recommending closing out the sale, retaining 20% of the bid bond, and not holding the logger in breach of contract so that he is able to bid on future sales. **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to closeout contract #644-15, retain twenty percent of the bid bond and not hold the logger in breach of contract. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

3. Timber Sale Closeouts – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 4700 and 4871.03 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$41,525.06. Lovlien's recommendation is to close out Contract #708-21 and return their Letter of Credit and remaining balance in their account. **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to close out Contract #708-21 and return their Letter of Credit and remaining balance in their account. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

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

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

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Spring Recreational Trail Opening Dates – Trails will not be opening until between May 10th and May 15th this year due to the late snow and wet ground conditions.

B. Press Release: Governor Evers Announces Budget Initiatives to Bolster Conservation, Strengthen Forest Industry – The Governor has put increases in the budget for County Forest Administrator grants, Sustainable Forestry grants, and Wildlife Habitat grants on county forests, it is hopeful that these items that benefit forestry remain in the budget.

C. Wisconsin County Forests Association Summer Tour – Juneau and Vernon Counties – The forest tour will take place in from June 20 to June 22 and Lovlien welcomed members to attend.

7. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Tues., May 30, 2023, 1:00pm, Rm. 5 & Webex, 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – Lovlien appreciated the support for land purchases in the Strategic Plan.

B. Future Agenda Items: Timber Sale Closeouts, Review and Consider Joining the Landowner Enrollment Program Covering Wisconsin Bats, Timber Sale Summary

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