

Members present: Tom Rosenberg, Rick Seefeldt

Staff present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director

Others present: Jean Maszk- County Board Member, Bonnie Dau, Paul Dau, John Beatty

1. Call Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Seefeldt at 1:30pm, Rm. 3, 212 River Dr., Wausau. Official notice and the agenda for the meeting was posted publicly in accordance with State statutes.

2. Public Comment – Maszk discussed two complaints from people who had been startled by a bicyclist while they were on the snowshoe trail at Nine Mile on Sunday. It's a safety concern for those who pay for snowshoe passes. She hadn't known at the time that bikes weren't allowed on the snowshoe trails at Nine Mile except for special occasions. Polley said there was an event at Nine Mile this past weekend and staff is following up with the event organizer.

3. Approve Minutes – **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to approve the minutes from the November 30, 2021 regular Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.

4. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Review and Consider Possible Donation of an Outdoor Patio and Firepit in Memory of Perry Dau at Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area – Staff has been working with the Perry Dau family on a design for a memorial donation at Nine Mile. Bonnie Dau discussed how much her husband loved Nine Mile and his recreational pursuits and organizations he had been involved with there. The family wants to make an area that all users of Nine Mile could use to congregate and socialize. It would be located in a knoll of pines near the chalet. Lovlien said the design has been taken to the Forest Citizen Advisory Subcommittee who unanimously gave a recommendation to the Forestry Committee to approve it. Staff supports the project and thinks it will fit well at Nine Mile. Lovlien discussed some of the items in an agreement that has been worked out with the family. The family will be raising all the funds for the project and then donating it to the County. Polley discussed the donation process in relation to parks and forestry. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to accept the agreement between the Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department and the Bonnie Dau family. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.

2. Timber Sale Closeouts: Javorek Logging – Contract #671-18 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 1620 and 2335.73 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$30,943.59. Lovlien's recommendation is to close out Contract #671-18 and return their Letter of Credit after final payment is received. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to close out Contract #671-18 and return their Letter of Credit after final payment is received. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0. Bell Timber Inc. #690-20 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 1000 and 1167.59 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$30,065.43. Lovlien's recommendation is to close out Contract #690-20 and return their cash bond after final payment is received. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to close out Contract #690-20 and return their cash bond after final payment is received. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0. Briarton Logging #692-20 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 1500 and 1658.61 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$53,956.50. Lovlien's recommendation is to close out Contract #692-20 and return their original Letter of Credit after final payment is received. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to close out Contract #692-20 and return their original Letter of Credit after final payment is received. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0. Jacobs Logging #666-18 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 1120 and 2474.94 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$23,265.34. Lovlien's recommendation is to close out Contract #666-18 and return their cash bond and remaining balance in the account. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to close out Contract #666-18 and return their cash bond and remaining balance in their account. 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

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

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Winter Recreational Program Update – Lovlien reported there is sufficient snow for skiing, snowmobiling and snow tubing, but more would be helpful. Winter events are on schedule this year.

B. Verso Mills Purchased by BillerudKorsnas – The Swedish company BillerudKorsnas has bought all three Verso mills. Their press release said they were going to expand the mills in Michigan but did not say what they were going to do to the mill in Wisconsin Rapids. If they do not open the mill, maybe the Co-operative could still buy it and get it up and running again. Portions of the mill are being heated but there could be some issues with the machinery the longer it remains closed.

C. Timber Sale Activity on County Forests to Date – Lovlien expects seven of the eight sales that were given extensions will get cut yet this winter. There are also five other active sales that will be closing soon. If seventeen to twenty sales closed are in 2022, that will be a very good year. Markets and the weather have improved. The contractors have three years to cut a sale so there are contractors working on old sales and some on new sales. Questions were answered.

D. Voluntary Carbon Market Discussion – Lovlien is studying carbon markets should the County decide in the future to enter into some agreement with a carbon developer. Corporations are getting pressured to move towards carbon neutrality and companies like Bluesource complete feasibility studies on forests and give an estimate on how much money they could receive for sequestering carbon. Lovlien discussed some of the details involved and what his concerns were. He said this is not something that has to be rushed into. Staff will provide information to two carbon companies and bring back results to Committee this spring. Lovlien said the County would not be managing its forests any different than it is now. Ultimately it will have to be determined if it is a good fit and worthwhile for the County to do. Questions were answered.

7. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: March 1, 2022, 1:30pm, Rm. 5 and WebEx, 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – Seefeldt mentioned that after the election, the Environmental Resource Committee will be changing their meeting date to the second Tuesday of the month. Different meeting dates or times for this Committee could be discussed. Lovlien said the DNR Team Leader position should be hired by the end of March and the Liaison Forester position by May or June. The DNR is catching up on their time standards for the County utilizing a number of employees to help. The DNR is also working on a new Forestry Division Strategic Direction. The draft is out for comment until the end of February.

B. Future Agenda Items: 2021 County Forest Annual Report, Forestry Division Expense/Revenue Report, Timber Sale Closeouts, Voluntary Carbon Markets

8. Adjourn – Motion / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to adjourn the meeting at 2:30pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.