



## MARATHON COUNTY FORESTRY/RECREATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

**Date and Time of Meeting:** Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 1:30pm

**Meeting Location:** Conference Room #5, 212 River Drive, Wausau WI 54403

MEMBERS: Rick Seefeldt (Vice-Chairman), Tom Rosenberg, Vacant

***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. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health directives, Marathon County encourages Committee members and the public to attend this meeting remotely. To this end, instead of attendance in person, Committee members and the public may attend this meeting by telephone conference. If Committee members or members of the public cannot attend remotely, Marathon County requests that appropriate safety measures, including adequate social distancing, be utilized by all in-person attendees.

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the telephone conference beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:

Phone Number: 1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 2483 180 8177

If Required, the Password is 1234

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 – Not to Exceed 15 Minutes – Any Person Who Wishes to Address the Committee Must Provide, Name, Address and the Topic to the Chair of the Committee No Later than Five Minutes Before the Start of the Meeting.**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes of the Tuesday, February 1, 2022 Committee Meeting**
- 4. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**
  - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
    1. Timber Sale Closeouts: Wilson Forestry LLC – Contracts #700-21, #701-21 and #705-21
  - B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration
    1. 2021 County Forest Division Annual Report
- 5. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee – None**

**6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**

- A. Forestry Division Expense/Revenue Report
- B. 2021 Timber Stumpage Payments to Townships
- C. Wisconsin Paper, Forest Production Industry's Federal Grant Application
- D. 2021 Wisconsin Act 128 Signed Into Law
- E. DNR/County Forest Time Standards Allocation for FY 2023 – 2027
- F. Scribology Video Telling the Story of Forestry in Wisconsin

**7. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 1:30pm at 212 River Dr., Wausau, WI 54403, Room 5 or via Webex**

- A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence
- B. Future Agenda Items: Review and Consider Approving Spring Timber Sale Package, Timber Sale Closeouts, Carbon Markets

**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](mailto:COUNTYCLERK@CO.MARATHON.WI.US) ONE BUSINESS DAY BEFORE THE MEETING.

FAXED TO: Daily Herald and other News Media Groups  
 FAXED BY: Jodi Luebbe  
 FAX DATE/TIME: February 23, 2022 9:00 a.m.

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

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.

# CLOSE OUT TIMBER SALES

Sale 700-21

WILSON FORESTRY LLC

|                     | <b>Estimated</b> | <b>Cut</b>                    |                     |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Aspen Pulp          | 950 Tons         | 913.06 Tons                   | Aspen Pulp          |
| Mixed Hardwood Pulp | 350 Tons         | 526.89 Tons                   | Mixed Hardwood Pulp |
| Oak Pulp            | 2000 Tons        | 1089.04 Tons                  | Oak Pulp            |
| Red Pine Pulp       | 125 Tons         | 214.02 Tons                   | Red Pine Pulp       |
| Fuelwood            | 6 Tons           | 15.62 Tons                    | Fuelwood            |
|                     | <b>3431 Tons</b> | <b>2758.63 Total Tons Cut</b> |                     |
| Red Maple Sawlogs   | 15 MBF           | 7.28 MBF                      | Red Maple Sawlogs   |
| Red Oak Sawlogs     | 90 MBF           | 107.62 MBF                    | Red Oak Sawlogs     |
|                     | <b>105 MBF</b>   | <b>114.90 Total MBF Cut</b>   |                     |

Total Revenue for Sale: **\$68,579.72**

Balance: (\$3,973.65)

Bond Amount: \$16,487.50

Bond Type: Letter of Credit

Recommendation: **Close out sale and return the original Letter of Credit and the balance in the account**

# CLOSE OUT TIMBER SALES

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Sale 701-21

WILSON FORESTRY LLC

|               | <b>Estimated</b> | <b>Cut</b>                    |               |
|---------------|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Red Pine Pulp | 950 Tons         | 1079.05 Tons                  | Red Pine Pulp |
|               | <b>950 Tons</b>  | <b>1079.05 Total Tons Cut</b> |               |

Total Revenue for Sale: **\$23,199.56**

Balance: (\$7,800.44)

Bond Amount: \$5,106.25

Bond Type: Letter of Credit

Recommendation: **Close out sale and return the original Letter of Credit and the balance in the account**

# CLOSE OUT TIMBER SALES

Sale 705-21

WILSON FORESTRY LLC

|                     | <b>Estimated</b> | <b>Cut</b>                    |                     |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| Aspen Pulp          | 1450 Tons        | 1961.26 Tons                  | Aspen Pulp          |
| Mixed Hardwood Pulp | 360 Tons         | 1078.39 Tons                  | Mixed Hardwood Pulp |
| Oak Pulp            | 650 Tons         | 714.34 Tons                   | Oak Pulp            |
| Fuelwood            | 25 Tons          | 48.95 Tons                    | Fuelwood            |
|                     | <b>2485 Tons</b> | <b>3802.94 Total Tons Cut</b> |                     |
| Red Oak Sawlogs     | 35 MBF           | 47.17 MBF                     | Red Oak Sawlogs     |
|                     | <b>35 MBF</b>    | <b>47.17 Total MBF Cut</b>    |                     |

Total Revenue for Sale: **\$44,697.67**

Balance: (\$2,902.33)

Bond Amount: \$7,765.00

Bond Type: Cash Bond

Recommendation: **Close out sale and return the cash bond and the balance in the account**

## **Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department**

### **2021 County Forest Division Annual Report**

January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021

#### **Program Highlights:**

- Net timber sale revenue to Marathon County of \$457,140.08.
- Total net revenue for the Forestry Division program was \$535,072.00 and expenses were \$344,560.00. Returned \$190,512.00 to the general fund.
- Traded 80 acres of non-County Forest property for 40 acres of land in the Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit to add to the County Forest.
- Practiced sustainable forestry on 346 acres on the Marathon County Forest. This is based on closed out sales with DNR in 2021.
- Completed a third party Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI) Certification field audit that showed County Forest management meets all standards.
- Received 649 hours of WDNR technical and field assistance in completing work on the Marathon County Forest.
- Continued participation as a member of the Wisconsin County Forests Association Forest Legislative/Certification and other Committees.
- Implemented the 15-year County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2021-2035 adopted by the County Board and Department of Natural Resources.
- Participated and assisted in the 100+1 Marathon County Parks anniversary event.
- Continued participation in the County Forest Administrator grant program that funds one-half the salary and fringe benefits of the Forest Administrator position.
- Resurfaced 1.40 miles of roads in Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit adding 2992 yards of granite.
- The pandemic forced some cancellations of mountain bike, cross country ski, and competitive cross country running races again at Nine Mile County Forest. Although some were held at lower participation rates.
- The continued closure of the Verso Paper mill in Wisconsin Rapids significantly reduced pulp markets, lowered stumpage prices and made it a challenge for timber producers to market their wood.
- Regulated uses at Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area to allow all user groups to have safe and quality recreation experiences.



**Land Holdings:**

Acres in 2021:

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| County Forest - Regular County Forest Law | 30,082.53     |
| County Forest - Special County Forest Law | <u>631.77</u> |
| Total County Forest                       | 30,714.30     |

**Other Land Holdings:**

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Parking & road access          | 8.59         |
| McMillan Marsh Lease (DNR)     | 1,661.40     |
| Under water, island & wetlands | 192.74       |
| Railroad ROW/Snowmobile Trail  | <u>85.04</u> |
| Total Other Lands              | 2,027.77     |

**Total Lands Managed: 32,662.07 Acres**

**Timber Management, Cultural Projects, and Reforestation:**

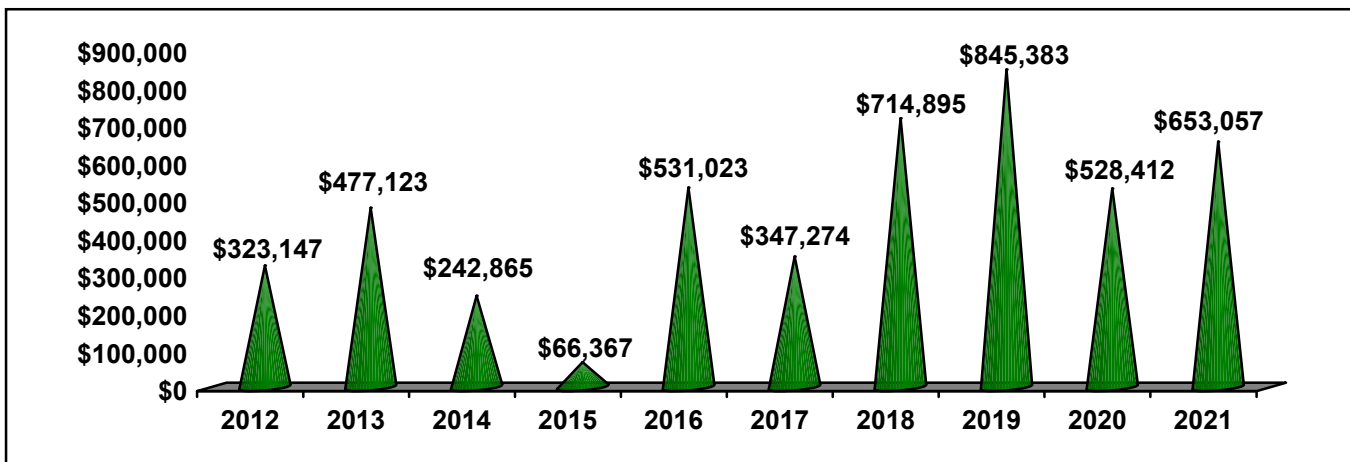
**Timber Sales:**

Timber sales generated 14,009.36 cords of pulpwood and 825,000 board feet of logs worth \$653,057.25 (unaudited) in 2021. The following is a listing of the gross value of timber cut from the forest over the past 10 years:

|      |              |      |              |
|------|--------------|------|--------------|
| 2012 | \$323,146.07 | 2017 | \$347,274.04 |
| 2013 | \$477,122.61 | 2018 | \$714,895.21 |
| 2014 | \$242,865.33 | 2019 | \$845,383.37 |
| 2015 | \$66,366.74  | 2020 | \$528,411.64 |
| 2016 | \$531,022.66 | 2021 | \$653,057.25 |

**Marathon County Forest**

Timber Sales Annual Gross Revenue – Cut and Hauled

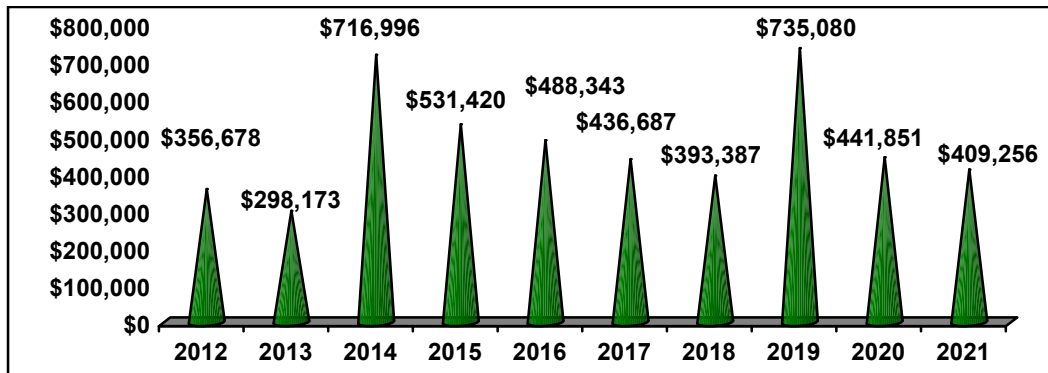


**Other Timber Sale Data:**

New sales – 9 were established on 633 acres with 14,862 cords appraised at \$325,794.00.

**Marathon County Forest**

Timber Sales Annual Sold Value



1. Sold sales – 9 of 9 advertised were sold in 2021 for a value of \$409,255.50.
2. Uncompleted timber contracts – 32 on 2,194 acres with 35,838 cord equivalents worth \$1,206,411.21.
3. Cut volume reports filed with DNR (form 2460):
  - Final reports – 6 sales worth \$594,519.45.
  - Partial reports - 0 sales worth \$0.
4. Severance paid to DNR on interest free loans \$118,903.89.
5. Severance Tax Escrow for Town payments (10% of gross receipts) \$65,305.71.
6. Firewood permits – 10 permits were issued worth \$270.00.
7. New sale establishment – evaluated 650 acres for potential sale (established 633 acres).
8. Forest reconnaissance – updated 1947 forested acres, 3363 non-forested acres.
9. Completed forest management plans for Ashley, Dells of the Eau Claire, Big Rapids, Cherokee, Amco and Rib Falls County Parks.
10. Established and sold an 81-acre timber sale at Big Eau Pleine Park for a value of \$28,420.00.
11. Administered a 23-acre timber sale at Mission Lake County Park.

**Cultural Projects:**

1. Classified forest habitat types on 40 acres for inclusion in our GIS database.
2. Monitored for additional oak wilt areas in Nine Mile and Kronenwetter Forest Units.
3. One new pocket of oak trees was identified in Nine Mile infected with the oak wilt fungus. Monitoring for new pockets will be done in 2022.
4. Scarified 34 acres of the forest floor to prepare the site for oak acorn seedling germination at Kronenwetter Forest Unit using DNR heavy equipment.
5. Hand pulled garlic mustard at Burma Road Forest Unit and Big Eau Pleine Park in attempt to reduce the spread of this invasive species.
6. Completed deer browse surveys at Big Eau Pleine County Park. This will continue in 2022 and beyond.
7. Completed deer browse surveys on 123 acres of the Marathon County Forest.
8. Mowed between the 2020 tree plantings at Nine Mile and Miller Forest Units to ensure proper growth.

**Road, Trail, and Facility Construction and Maintenance:**

1. APHIS trapped 23 beaver and removed 25 total dams at problem locations in the county forest. Ten dams were blown using dynamite.
2. Replaced 7 culverts at Nine Mile and Burma Road Forest Units and added granite in problem locations.
3. Brushed approximately 2 miles of roads and trails in the Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit.
4. Placed 2922 yards of granite on forest roads in the Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit.
5. Completed repairs to dikes and water control structures from muskrat and beaver damage.
6. Reconstructed several segments of Nine Mile ski trails to improve drainage and level the surface including repairs to several sections due to heavy use and erosion.
7. Performed normal maintenance on 190 miles of forest roads and trails.
8. Graded and place material on several sections of the Burma Road ATV trails to prevent erosion.
9. Inspected County Forest boundaries to control encroaching land uses.
10. Repaired gates on roads and trails that access the County Forest.
11. Repaired deer exclusion fences at Big Eau Pleine Park. They are installed to collect data on deer browsing.

**Administration:**

1. Continued the utilization of the DNR forestry reconnaissance program (WisFIRS).
2. Evaluated one 40-acre parcel for potential acquisition as an addition to County Forest land. This parcel was acquired and added to the County Forest.
3. Assisted in the acquisition of approximately 39 acres to add to the Brokaw County Park.
4. Assisted in the potential donation of 40 acres of land to create a new County Park.
5. Lead discussions and collaborated with the Wausau Nordic Ski Club on the proposal to add snowmaking operations at Nine Mile.
6. Lead discussions and collaborated with the Central Wisconsin Off-Road Cycling Coalition on the proposal to add fat tire biking at Nine Mile.
7. Researched, provided information and continued to follow updates on draft legislation regarding the Verso mill closure and any possible funding opportunities to assist in reopening the mill.
8. Developed policy and implemented principals of Forest Certification - Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) on the Marathon County Forest.
9. Participated in several Wisconsin County Forests Association committee meetings to prioritize strategies for the 2021-2023 State Budget.
10. Began initial research on carbon credit markets and how enrolling may net additional revenue for Marathon County. Research will continue in 2022.
11. Implemented the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2021-2035.
12. Located and assisted in the purchase of approximately 100 cords of firewood for campers for use at the County Park campgrounds.
13. Our Recreational Safety Deputies along with assistance from the County Forester confiscated a total of fourteen illegal tree stands. They also confiscated three trail cameras that were illegally placed on County Forest Land. They investigated complaints of vehicle, vandalism, illegal dumping, and criminal activities issuing two ordinance violations and numerous warnings. At Nine Mile Forest Unit, Deputies conducted patrols checking for cross country ski and mountain bike passes issuing multiple warnings. Completed an additional 106 regular patrols at nearly every forest unit.
14. Issued five ATV/UTV disabled person access permits to people with disabilities for County Forest access.
15. Revisions were drafted to Chapter 16 of the County Forest Ordinances and were adopted by County Board in early 2021.
16. Held quarterly meetings with the Forest Citizen's Advisory Subcommittee to discuss forestry and recreation issues.

**Wildlife and Fisheries Management:**

In cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:

1. Maintained 17 flowages.
2. Mowed forest openings, Nine Mile and Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit flowage dikes and the Bitzke Bird Walk trail.
3. Twelve beaver and 10 dams were removed by APHIS that were causing damage at waterfowl flowages.
4. Mowed most forest unit trails suitable for mowing.
5. Because of a DNR Wildlife vacancy none of the 72 forest openings in the forest units were either mowed or had herbicides applied. Treatment on twenty-seven openings will take place in 2022.
6. Poor winter conditions prevented shearing of tag alder in the Leather Camp Forest Unit to create habitat for grouse, woodcock, and other early successional species. Shearing will continue in 2022.
7. Seeded 1.25 miles of trails with a wildlife mixture in Nine Mile and Leather Camp Forest Units.
8. Removed cattails in front of the water control structure at Bern Forest Unit utilizing Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding. Removal of additional cattail masses will continue in 2022 and beyond.
9. Seeded 100 lbs. of wild rice in flowages at the Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit.
10. Testified in favor of additional antlerless tags to the County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) to reduce the deer population in areas of County Forests with tree regeneration problems.

**Recreation:****Nine Mile County Forest Cross Country Ski Trails:**

The ski season opened on December 31, 2020 and the chalet closed for the season on March 8, 2021. The Wausau Nordic Ski Club offered free adult ski lessons on Tuesday evenings in January. The County assisted by allowing free ski rental and ski passes for those taking lessons. This partnership was developed to help promote the ski area and increase the interest in cross country skiing.

The Snekkevik ski race and the Badger State Games were cancelled in 2021. Special Olympics was held and netted \$745.00 in revenue. Stomp the Swamp Snowshoe race was again held in February with \$126.00 in revenue. IronBull winter triathlon event had 48 participants and \$252.00 in revenue. Total annual receipts associated with skiing and snowshoe activity was \$59,825.00.

**Ski Trail Maintenance at Nine Mile Forest Unit:**

1. Brushing of all trails is ongoing, and the efforts of the volunteers are greatly appreciated.
2. Volunteers from the Nordic Ski Club sponsored workdays in October. They performed tasks such as rock picking, lifting trees and brushing trails.
3. Trail signs were inspected, and damaged trail signs replaced, some new signage added, this work will continue in 2021 as the signage is evaluated and updated.

**Mountain Biking at Nine Mile Forest Unit:**

The 2021 mountain bike season opened at noon on May 1. The bike trails closed as scheduled on October 15. There were three Mountain Bike events held at Nine Mile in 2021: The Wisconsin Endurance Mountain Bike Series, Wausau 24 and the IronBull Granite Grinder. NICA High school bike race was cancelled. A total of 1125 daily passes and 537 annual passes were sold in 2021. Total receipts associated with mountain biking in 2021 totaled \$16,447.99. Central Wisconsin Off-Road Cycling Coalition, (CWOCC) continues to be a great partner in maintaining the trail system. CWOCC fund raised and completed phase II of the Nine Mile Forest single track improvement project. Volunteers donate many hours of their time to maintain the single-track trails.

**Other Recreation:**

1. Three cross country running races were held at Nine Mile in 2021.
2. Iron Bull's Adventure Challenge was held at Nine Mile with 491 participants and \$2,577.75 in revenue.
3. Issued fifty-three undesignated camping permits for county forests in 2021 resulting in \$754.29 in revenue.
4. The number of people using all County Forest Units continues to increase. Activities such as hiking, dog walking, berry picking, and horseback riding are growing and the demand for more trails is increasing.

**Recreational GIS Mapping:**

1. Created 2 maps for potential acquisition for addition to County Forest and Park lands.
2. Created 4 maps for utilizing the new CivicRec software including Big Eau Pleine, Dells of the Eau Claire and Marathon parks.
3. Created 2 County Forest and Park location maps.
4. Created new maps for the County website including Amco, Ashley, Big Rapids, Blue Gill Bay, Cherokee, DC Everest, Mission Lake and Rib Falls parks.

**Snowmobile Trails:**

1. Trails were open 16 days during the 2020-21 season. Looking back 29 years, the seasonal average has been 44 days.
2. Seven local snowmobile clubs' contracts with Marathon County to groom, sign, brush and perform other work related to maintaining the trail system on County Forest property.
3. Clubs are responsible for signing the trails to DNR specifications as well as meeting any requirements set forth by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department and WCFA standards.
4. The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department annually update the snowmobile trail map for the Snowmobile Council to print. This year a new map was not printed, although a reprint was done. In the future, a new map will be printed each year, if circumstances allow.
5. Printed trail maps are made available at numerous locations throughout Marathon County.
6. Marathon County snowmobile clubs continue to receive financial assistance for trail maintenance from the Snowmobile and ATV Aids Programs through grants administered by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department and disbursed by the DNR.
7. The snow and trail conditions hotline has been re-established. A recording is now available as an option on the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department phone tree. This was due to numerous requests by the public and local businesses. The message will be updated by the Motorized Recreation Coordinator to keep the public up to date on conditions and any trail closures. This recording provides an overview of the trail conditions, a more extensive trail report is found on the Marathon County website.
8. Current trail conditions are also updated by the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department on the Marathon County website, on Facebook and the Travel Wisconsin website.
9. The Snowmobile Automated Reporting System (SNARS) became mandatory for all snowmobile clubs statewide with the 2017-2018 season. SNARS is a computer program that was developed to improve the accurate and timely reporting of County trail maintenance expenses and other data to the DNR.
10. The Global Positioning System (GPS) requirement in all groomers became mandatory by the 2021-22 season. This was a requirement by DNR and the Governor's Snowmobile Council. This year all 28 of the clubs in Marathon County are online with the GPS units. The system is being implemented for greater accuracy of trail mileage and to track trail grooming.

**Burma Forest ATV/UTV Trails:**

1. Summer trails were maintained using \$16,598.14 of State ATV/UTV trail maintenance funds. More work will be completed this summer in the Burma Forest Unit than was done the past season.
2. The Mid-Wisconsin Trailblazers ATV Club, through a contract with Marathon County, is responsible for the routine maintenance of 11 miles of summer ATV/UTV trails.

**Public Outreach/Professional Development: (Pandemic caused cancellations again in 2021)**

1. Forest Administrator served as a member of the Wisconsin County Forests Association Legislative/Certification, Personnel, DNR Budget, Dues and Bylaws and Roads Committees.
2. Attended several in-person and virtual Society of American Foresters, Wisconsin County Forests Association and Forest Certification training sessions.
3. County Forester attended a virtual training on managing for irregular shelterwoods.
4. Analyzed plant samples for insect and disease problems.
5. Interviewed by media on forestry related issues.
6. Created interpretive displays to educate the public about the benefits of sustainable forest management.

**Budget Summaries** (available upon request)**Forest Resources:**

County Forest Program  
 County Forest Administrator  
 County Forest Road Aids  
 County Conservation Aids  
 FEMA Cattail Removal  
 Sustainable Forestry  
 Segregated Land  
 Wildlife Habitat  
 Forestry State Aid  
 Knowles-Nelson Stewardship

**Debt Redemption:**

General Debt - Aid to County Forest

**Recreation:**

Burma Trail ATV 20-21  
 Cross-Country Ski Trails  
 General Fund - Snowmobile Coordinator  
 Snowmobile Grant 20-21

## 2012-2021 FORESTRY DIVISION EXPENSE/REVENUE REPORT

| Year          | Gross Timber Sold Amount | Net Timber Sold Amount | Acres       | Timber Revenue Even-Flow Budget | Net Timber Revenue Actual <sup>1</sup> | Other Revenue <sup>2</sup> | Total Revenue      | Expenses <sup>3</sup> | Program Net      |
|---------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| 2012          | \$356,678                | \$249,675              | 548         | \$213,000                       | \$226,203                              | \$57,170                   | \$283,373          | \$346,272             | (\$62,899)       |
| 2013          | \$298,173                | \$208,721              | 543         | \$213,000                       | \$333,986                              | \$53,239                   | \$387,225          | \$308,336             | \$78,889         |
| 2014          | \$716,996                | \$501,897              | 578         | \$213,000                       | \$170,006                              | \$98,093                   | \$268,099          | \$342,956             | (\$74,857)       |
| 2015          | \$531,420                | \$371,994              | 596         | \$245,000                       | \$46,457                               | \$57,908                   | \$104,365          | \$345,387             | (\$241,022)      |
| 2016          | \$488,343                | \$341,840              | 666         | \$245,000                       | \$371,716                              | \$58,385                   | \$430,101          | \$341,930             | \$88,171         |
| 2017          | \$436,687                | \$305,681              | 520         | \$245,000                       | \$243,092                              | \$60,606                   | \$303,698          | \$343,106             | (\$39,408)       |
| 2018          | \$393,387                | \$275,371              | 709         | \$245,000                       | \$500,427                              | \$58,068                   | \$558,495          | \$359,452             | \$199,043        |
| 2019          | \$735,080                | \$514,556              | 644         | \$245,000                       | \$591,768                              | \$59,779                   | \$651,547          | \$354,742             | \$296,805        |
| 2020          | \$441,851                | \$309,296              | 662         | \$245,000                       | \$369,888                              | \$63,308                   | \$433,196          | \$359,929             | \$73,267         |
| 2021          | \$409,256                | \$286,479              | 633         | \$245,000                       | \$457,140                              | \$77,932                   | \$535,072          | \$344,560             | \$190,512        |
| <b>TOTALS</b> | <b>\$4,807,871</b>       | <b>\$3,365,510</b>     | <b>6099</b> | <b>\$2,354,000</b>              | <b>\$3,310,683</b>                     | <b>\$644,488</b>           | <b>\$3,955,171</b> | <b>\$3,446,670</b>    | <b>\$508,501</b> |

<sup>1</sup> Revenue to Marathon County after 20% payment to State for loans and 10% payment to townships

<sup>2</sup> Includes County Forest Administrator grant, firewood permits, camping fees, bond recovery and misc. revenues

<sup>3</sup> Includes all personnel and operating expenses



January 28, 2022

**TIMBER STUMPAGE PAYMENT**

Dear Town Board:

For each township that contains Marathon County Forest Land within its boundaries, we are required by state statute to pay 10% of our yearly timber stumpage revenues back to the Townships. Your Township's timber stumpage payment for 2021 is enclosed.

Our total stumpage revenue for 2021 was \$653,057.25. Your payment is based on the percentage of acres of Marathon County Forest Land in your township. (see attached).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thomas G. Lovlien  
Forest Administrator

TGL/jl

Enclosures



MARATHON COUNTY  
 APPORTIONMENT OF TIMBER SALES  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED: 12/31/2021

Amount in Balance Sheet Account 101-42491  
 As of: 12/31/2021 (1) 65,305.71

DNR Distribution Used: Acreage by Towns as of 07/01/2021 (paid out in calendar 2022)

| Vendor Code | Town             | (2)<br>Acreage    | (3)<br>% of Total<br>Acreage | (4)<br>Apportionment | subtracts |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| 00235       | Bern (T)         | 269.1000          | 0.877300%                    | 572.9300             |           |
| 00243       | Bevent (T)       | 54.7000           | 0.178300%                    | 116.4400             |           |
| 00667       | Easton (T)       | 79.6700           | 0.259700%                    | 169.6000             |           |
| 00700       | Elderon (T)      | 280.0000          | 0.912800%                    | 596.1100             |           |
| 00711       | Emmet (T)        | 40.0000           | 0.130400%                    | 85.1600              |           |
| 00942       | Guenther (T)     | 4,456.7100        | 14.529100%                   | 9488.3200            | -0.01     |
| 00997       | Harrison (T)     | 6,571.2900        | 21.422700%                   | 13990.2400           | -0.01     |
| 02527       | Hewitt (T)       | 3,262.1700        | 10.634900%                   | 6945.2000            |           |
| 14094       | Kronenwetter (V) | 4,313.0600        | 14.060800%                   | 9182.5100            |           |
| 02563       | Maine (V)        | 115.7500          | 0.377400%                    | 246.4600             |           |
| 02592       | Marathon (T)     | 682.0000          | 2.223400%                    | 1452.0100            |           |
| 02791       | Mosinee (T)      | 2,407.7500        | 7.849400%                    | 5126.1100            |           |
| 02064       | Reid (T)         | 2,896.5300        | 9.442900%                    | 6166.7500            |           |
| 02093       | Rib Mountain (T) | 3,247.3200        | 10.586500%                   | 6913.5900            |           |
| 02104       | Ringle (T)       | 1,810.7800        | 5.903200%                    | 3855.1300            |           |
| 01096       | Texas (T)        | 187.4700          | 0.611200%                    | 399.1500             |           |
|             |                  | <u>30,674.300</u> | <u>1.00000</u>               | <u>65305.71</u>      |           |

All adjustments approved by Tom Lovlien

- (1) Amount in Balance Sheet account 101-42491.  
 This is the total amount to be allocated and paid to the various towns for timber sales.
- (2) Information comes from "Forest Tax Report 17", supplied to the Marathon County Forestry Department by the State of Wisconsin--DNR Forest Tax Unit.  
 This number must match the acreage listed by the DNR.
- (3) Information comes from "Forest Tax Report 17", supplied to the Marathon County Forestry Department by the State of Wisconsin--DNR Forest Tax Unit.  
 The total must equal 100.00%. Small manual adjustments may be necessary due to rounding errors.
- (4) Automatic calculation of:  
 Total Balance Sheet Amount \* Percentage of Total Acreage.  
 The total must equal the total balance sheet amount. Small manual adjustments may be necessary due to rounding errors.  
 A check must be cut to each township for their allocated amount.

Payments will be made on the County Check Run Dated: 1/27/2022

Forward copy to Forestry Dept (Tom Lovlien) upon completion.

**Tom Lovlien**

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**From:** Rebekah Luedtke <rebekah@wisconsincountyforests.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 2, 2022 2:00 PM  
**To:** Al Murray; Brian Loyd; Chad Keranen; Chad Ziegler; Chris Hoffman; Curtiss Lindner; Dave Kafura; Dean Bowe; Doug Brown; Eric Peterson; Frederick 'Fritz' Schubert; Greg Peterson; Jake Walcisak; Jason 'Jake' Nichols; Jason Bodine; Jeremy Koslowski; Jim Zahasky; Joe Grapa; John Cisek; John Wendorski; Jon Harris; Joshua Pedersen; Mark Gossman; Mark Heyde; Matt Hansen; Matt Schultz; Mike Peterson; Monty Brink; Nick Gilman; Patrick Smith; Paul Fiene; Pete Villas; Shawn Pfaff; Tom Lovlien; Travis Wollenberg  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Press Release: Gov. Evers Pledges State Support for Wisconsin Paper, Forest Production Industry's Federal Grant Application

FYI

**From:** Gov Evers Press <GovPress@evers.wi.gov>  
**Date:** February 2, 2022 at 12:18:19 PM CST  
**Subject:** Press Release: Gov. Evers Pledges State Support for Wisconsin Paper, Forest Production Industry's Federal Grant Application  
**Reply-To:** [GovPress@evers.wi.gov](mailto:GovPress@evers.wi.gov)



**Tony Evers**

Office of the Governor | State of Wisconsin

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** February 2, 2022

Contact: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov)

## **Gov. Evers Pledges State Support for Wisconsin Paper, Forest Production Industry's Federal Grant Application**

*State would provide up to \$8.2 million in matching funds to secure \$100 million federal grant*  
MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers today announced the state of Wisconsin will provide up to \$8.2 million in matching funds in support of a federal grant application that would help ensure the long-term viability of the state's paper and forest products industry.

In a letter to U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, Gov. Evers and Secretary and CEO of the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) Missy Hughes expressed support for the application of a coalition of paper and forest product industry stakeholders for a \$100 million Build Back Better Challenge Grant from the federal government.

“The paper and forest products industry is vital to our entire state's economic well-being, particularly in our

rural and tribal communities,” Gov. Evers and Secretary Hughes wrote. “The Build Back Better Challenge Grant offers an unparalleled opportunity to ensure the viability of this key industry for generations to come.”

Late last year, Wisconsin's proposal was one of 60 nationwide to receive a \$500,000 planning grant in the first round of Build Back Better Challenge Grant awards. To qualify for the next round of \$100 million grants, applicants must demonstrate they can provide at least \$20 million in matching funds for the project.

The coalition, led by the Wisconsin Paper Council and including the Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association, Mid-State Technical College, Menominee Tribal Enterprises, UW-Stevens Point, the Department of Natural Resources and Sustainable Resource Solutions, Inc., has indicated it has already secured \$11.8 million in funds from businesses, tribal and local governments, individuals, and nonprofits.

In the letter, Gov. Evers and Secretary Hughes noted that the forest and paper products industry plays a vital and unique part in Wisconsin’s economic, environmental, and social well-being.

Wisconsin’s paper and forest products industry is the largest in the nation, providing high-quality jobs to nearly 63,000 workers statewide. The industry contributes nearly \$18 billion to the state’s manufacturing output and drives more than \$1 billion in exports to 100 countries.

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Office of the Governor • 115 East Capitol, Madison, WI 53702

Press Office Email: [GovPress@wisconsin.gov](mailto:GovPress@wisconsin.gov)



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This email was sent to [shawn@pfaffpublicaffairs.com](mailto:shawn@pfaffpublicaffairs.com) using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of the State of Wisconsin · 115 East, State Capitol · Madison, WI 53702

DATE: 2/7/2022

TO: Division of Forestry - All Foresters  
County Forest Administrators

FROM: James K. Warren, Director, Forestry Field Operations

SUBJECT: Direct Sale Limits- 2021 Wisconsin Act 128

2021 Wisconsin Act 128, was signed into law on February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and is **effective immediately.**

The Act changes the direct sale threshold for timber sold from state, county and community forests from an estimated value of less than \$3000 to a two-part threshold of 1) an estimated volume of less than 500 cord equivalents **and** 2) an estimated value of less than \$10,000.

Guidance in administering this law change:

1. For established-Approved sales, regardless of value or volume, IF previously publicly advertised, but not sold:
  - a. can sell direct
  - b. OR publicly readvertise
2. For established-Approved sales with an estimated value less than \$10,000 **and** less than an estimated volume of 500 cord equivalents (all volume for entire sale)
  - a. Can be sold direct
  - b. OR publicly advertised if Property Manager/County Forester Administrator chooses
3. For established-Approved sales with an estimated value equal to or exceeding \$10,000 **OR** with an estimated volume that is equal to or exceeding 500 cord equivalents (all volume for entire sale):
  - a. Must be publicly advertised

## Tom Lovlien

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**From:** Tom Lovlien  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 22, 2022 8:27 AM  
**To:** Tom Lovlien  
**Subject:** Scribology Video

Good morning. Last year, WCFA had a "Scribology", or whiteboard animation, video created to help tell your story and the story of forestry in Wisconsin. It's public distribution was intentionally delayed until the new WCFA website was up and running. A number of you have already seen it but now, it can be officially shared.



You, nor I, aren't necessarily the audience for this but rather Joe Public or Joe Grade Schooler who doesn't have much understanding of our industry. It's only 3.5 minutes long but hopefully very impactful in a short amount of time.

The video is meant to be shared so please share it with your department, your committee, your board, your local schools, your 4H, those that run your social media (can be reshared from our Facebook page) and other partners and organizations. This is a quick promotional piece made for your use! Please do share it!

I will be sharing it from my level with our partners and other agencies as well.

There are a number of ways to view or download the video:

- WCFA website (About page) - <https://wisconsincountyforests.com/about/>
- Youtube - <https://youtu.be/OWcViBGCH4E>
- WCFA Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/wisconsincountyforests>

Enjoy!

Any questions on this, please let me know.

Kind regards,  
Rebekah



Rebekah Luedtke  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin County Forests Association  
801 N. Sales St, Ste 107  
Merrill, WI 54452  
W: 715-539-1097  
C: 218-410-0268  
[rebekah@wisconsincountyforests.com](mailto:rebekah@wisconsincountyforests.com)