

Members present: Tom Rosenberg, Rick Seefeldt

Staff present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director, Joseph Tucker-County Forester

Others present: Jill Nemec-DNR Forestry Team Leader

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 – none brought forward

3. Approve Minutes – **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2022 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 Approving Spring Timber Sale Package – The spring timber sale package had been distributed to Committee for review. The sale offers 301 acres of timber on five tracts with an estimated volume of 20,690 tons and 391.0 thousand board feet. Joe Tucker, County Forester discussed all the sales. The sales will be advertised and the bid opening is May 2<sup>nd</sup>. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to approve and advertise the spring 2022 timber sale package. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.

2. Timber Sale Closeouts: Wilson Forestry LLC – Contract #696-20 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 7450 and 5897.36 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$64,055.09. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract #696-20 and return their Letter of Credit. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to close out Contract #696-20 and return their Letter of Credit. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0. Country Forest Products – Contract #687-19 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 2325 and 2548.56 were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$69,606.19. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract #687-19 and return their cash bond. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to close out Contract #687-19 and return their cash bond. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0. Twin Forest Products – Contract #689-20 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 940 and 1296.52 were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$18,495.08. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract #689-20 and return their Letter of Credit. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to close out Contract #689-20 and return their Letter of Credit. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0. Russ Thums Construction – Contract #695-20 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 4920 and 4561.93 were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$41,735.57. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract #695-20 and return their Letter of Credit. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to close out Contract #695-20 and return their Letter of Credit. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0. Schreiber Logging – Contract #678-19 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 984 and 1019.71 were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$23,426.03. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract #678-19 and return their Letter of Credit. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to close out Contract #678-19 and return their Letter of Credit. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0. Bell Timber – Contract #668-18 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 2157 and 2507.54 were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$48,030.40. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract #668-18 and return their cash bond. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to close out Contract #668-18 and return their cash bond. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0. Lovlien discussed how well the winter season went and that the department will be close to having record timber sale revenue this year. Most of the contracts that were extended last December were completed. Because there have been two record revenue years, they will be expecting lower revenues going into next year’s budget.

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. Calendar Year 2021 Public Forest Timber Sale Reports – Lovlien discussed two reports, the Sold Public Forest Timber Sales and the Completed Public Forest Timber Sales for calendar year 2021. He said the county, state forests and other state lands make up most of the public land timber sales in Wisconsin. The county forests with their 2.4 million acres are the largest supply of public timber for contractors. This is a significant amount that the contractors rely on from the counties. In 2021, the county forests closed out 45,000 acres and received about 45 million dollars in revenue. The state forests with 1.5 million acres in 2021 closed out 8,000 acres and received about seven million dollars in revenue.

B. Marathon County Solid Waste Timber Sale – This is the fourth timber sale that the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department has helped the Solid Waste Department with at the landfill. A full forestry service is provided and the Solid Waste Department reimburses time, mileage, and materials. The Solid Waste Department has lower costs versus if they would have to hire a private consulting forester. The Forestry Division while busy this winter, was glad to help. Questions were answered.

C. Update on the Fat Tire Bike Proposal Trial Season – Lovlien explained that last month a concern had been brought up about bikers and snowshoers sharing trails. He was able to work out a compromise on a short section of the trail. If the proposal is approved, this section would be double groomed. The snowshoers will be on one side of the trail and the bikers on the other side so that they can pass freely. That would then give a loop trail for snowshoers that would not be shared. Lovlien noted the entire snowshoe trail is about 6.7 kilometers and of that only about thirty percent would be shared trails. About 4 kilometers of snowshoe trail will not be shared, that is the portion where snowshoers can do a loop and come back to the chalet. The final fat tire bike proposal will be presented to the Citizens Forest Advisory Subcommittee in early June. Their recommendation will be brought to the Forestry/Recreation Committee at the July meeting.

7. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: May 3, 2022, 1:30pm, Rm. 5 and WebEx, 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – Nemeč discussed the County time standards that the DNR is providing to Marathon County. She thought the vacant DNR liaison position would be filled by this summer or fall. Lovlien mentioned how important the County felt it was to get the position filled. He hoped that all members will return on this Committee after the upcoming election. The Environmental Resource Committee may still be changing their meeting dates which could affect the meeting date of this Committee. He was asked to attend the Eastern Towns Association meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

B. Future Agenda Items: Voluntary Carbon Markets, Timber Sale Closeouts, Review Timber Bids and Award Contracts, Establish Remaining 2022 Committee Meeting Dates/Times, Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

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