

Members present: Rick Seefeldt(c), Tom Rosenberg, Jean Maszk  
Staff present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director  
Others present: Jill Nemec-DNR Forestry Team Leader

1. Call Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order by 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 / Maszk to approve the minutes from the April 5, 2022 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. Establish or Confirm Remaining Committee Meeting Dates and Times – **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to keep the schedule as the Tuesday before the first Thursday of the month at 1:30pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

2. Timber Sale Extension Requests

Country Forest Products Contract #682-19 – Lovlien explained the contractor received one free prior extension and has almost one hundred percent of the estimated volume cut. Lovlien recommends giving a second extension at a zero percent increase in stumpage. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Maszk to extend Contract #682-19 for six months with a zero percent increase in stumpage. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

Denfeld Logging Contract #665-18 - Lovlien explained this sale will be four years old, received two free prior extensions and the contractor has said he is not going to cut the sale with or without a stumpage increase. Lovlien recommends Committee find him in breach of the contract for failure to perform, confiscate his performance bond of \$4,610.00 and not allow him to bid on Marathon County timber for two years per the contract. **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to find the contractor in breach of contract #665-18 for non-performance, confiscate his bond of \$4,610.00 and not allow him to bid on Marathon County timber sales for two years. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

Futurewood Contracts #667-18 and #670-18 – Lovlien explained these sales were bought at the same time and will be four years old, they both received one free prior extension request. The contractor has cut over one hundred percent of the estimated volume on contract #670-18 but there is an overrun on this job. The contractor has cut thirty-seven percent of the estimated volume on contract #667-18. Options were discussed and questions were answered. Lovlien gave reasons for his recommendation to give a zero percent increase in stumpage on contract #670-18 and to give a ten percent increase in stumpage on contract #667-18. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Maszk to extend contract #667-18 for one year with a ten percent increase in stumpage fees. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to extend contract #670-18 for one year with a zero percent increase in stumpage fees. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

Central Wisconsin Lumber Contract #644-15 – Lovlien explained this sale is six and a half years old and has received three free prior extensions and one extension with a twenty percent increase. Lovlien discussed the history of the work that had been done and that ninety-seven percent of the estimated volume has been cut. The contractor would like to finish the job. Committee discussed different options regarding the sale. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to extend Contract #644-15 for one year with a zero percent increase and if for some reason the sale does not get completed this winter that it will be closed out and the amount of the performance bond retained will be determined next spring. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

3. Review Timber Bids and Award Contracts – Lovlien reported that bids were opened yesterday and all the sales had bids. There were thirty-two bids on five tracts from fifteen different contractors. The County has worked with all the high bidders previously. He recommends awarding the tracts to the high bidders. Questions were

answered. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to award the spring timbersale tracts to the highest bidders. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

Lovlien explained that on tract 3-22 Wilson Forestry did not put a value in for hard maple or basswood logs so his bid is incomplete. The rules state that bidders need to put a value in for each species so Lovlien recommends to reject the bid because it is incomplete. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Maszk to reject Wilson Forestry's bid on tract 3-22 because it is incomplete. 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. Variable Acreage Share Payment Increase to Towns – Lovlien explained that the Wisconsin County Forests Association had been working for many years on legislation to increase the variable acreage share payment to the towns. In the last budget it has been increased from thirty cents an acre to sixty-three cents an acre. This will help the townships with County Forest lands receive more money because their lands are in County forest ownership. The towns also receive ten percent of timber stumpage revenue. Both amounts together make up some to most of the taxes as if it would have been in taxable ownership.

B. Recreational Trail Opening Delayed Due to Cold and Wet Spring – Lovlien said all the trails were looked at and the opening has been delayed. Hopefully, the trail systems will be opened by the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of May.

7. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: May 31, 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 and said they will meet or exceed their commitment this fiscal year. The DNR liaison position has been filled through a lateral transfer by Jeff Sorenson. Nemeč explained her role and also the partnership between the DNR and counties with forests enrolled in the County Forest program.

B. Future Agenda Items: Voluntary Carbon Markets, Timber Sale Closeouts, Department Overview and Committee Orientation

8. Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Maszk to adjourn the meeting at 2:40 pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.