



MARATHON COUNTY FORESTRY/RECREATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 1:30pm

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

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

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: 2482 988 9225

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 (15 minute limit) *(Any person who wishes to address the County Board, or one of its committees, during the "Public Comment" portion of meetings, must provide his or her name, address, and the topic he or she wishes to present to the Marathon County Clerk or chair of the committee, no later than five minutes before the start of the meeting.)*

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Tuesday, April 5, 2022 Committee Meeting

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
2. Timber Sale Extension Requests
3. Review Timber Bids and Award Contracts

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
 - B. Recreational Trail Opening Delayed Due to Cold and Wet Spring
- 7. **Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Tuesday, May 31, 2022 at 1:30pm at 212 River Dr., Wausau, WI 54403, Room 5 or via Webex**
 - A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence
 - B. Future Agenda Items: Timber Sale Closeouts, Review Timber Bids and Award Contracts, Department Overview and Committee Orientation
- 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 ONE BUSINESS DAY BEFORE THE MEETING.

FAXED TO: Daily Herald and other News Media Groups
 FAXED BY: Jodi Luebbe
 FAX DATE/TIME: April 27, 2022 1:15 p.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, 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 2nd. **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 21st.

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.



MEMO

To: Forestry/Recreation Committee
From: Tom Lovlien, Forest Administrator
Date: November 30, 2021
Re: 2022 Meeting Dates

Meetings begin at 1:30pm

Tuesday, January 4	212 River Drive, Room 5
Tuesday, February 1	212 River Drive, Room <u>3</u>
Tuesday, March 1	212 River Drive, Room 5
Tuesday, April 5	212 River Drive, Room 5
Tuesday, May 3	212 River Drive, Room 5
Tuesday, May 31	212 River Drive, Room 5
Tuesday, July 5	212 River Drive, Room 5
Tuesday, August 2	212 River Drive, Room 5
Tuesday, August 30	212 River Drive, Room 5
Tuesday, October 4	212 River Drive, Room 5
Tuesday, November 1	212 River Drive, Room 5
Tuesday, November 29	212 River Drive, Room 5

TIMBER SALE EXTENSION REQUESTS

MAY 2022

1. Sales that are 3 years old on June 30, 2022
(2nd Extension Request – Received one free prior extension)

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Purchaser</u>	<u>% Completed by Volume</u>	<u>Season</u>
#682-19	Country Forest Products	Over 100%	Summer/Fall/Winter

2. Sales that are 4 years old on June 30, 2022
(3rd Extension Request – Received two free prior extensions)

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Purchaser</u>	<u>% Completed by Volume</u>	<u>Season</u>
#665-18	Denfeld Logging	0%	Fall/Winter

3. Sales that are 4 years old on June 30, 2022
(2nd Extension Request – Received one free prior extension)

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Purchaser</u>	<u>% Completed by Volume</u>	<u>Season</u>
#667-18	Futurewood Corporation	37%	Fall/Winter
#670-18	Futurewood Corporation	Over 100%	Winter

4. Sales that are 6 ½ years old on June 30, 2022
(5th Extension Request – Received three free prior extensions and one with a 20% increase)

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Purchaser</u>	<u>% Completed by Volume</u>	<u>Season</u>
#644-15	Central WI Lumber	97%	Winter

Members present: Tom Rosenberg, Rick Seefeldt

Also present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director, Brandon Stefanski – DNR Wildlife Biologist, Joseph Schwantes – DNR NR Area Supervisor-(via web-ex)

1. Call Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Seefeldt at 1:30pm, 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 / Seefeldt to approve the minutes from the October 5, 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. 2022 Forestry / Recreation Committee Tentative Meeting Schedule – Committee agreed to keep the meetings on the same schedule that the Environmental Committee follows which is the Tuesday before the first Thursday of every month. This meeting will continue to be held at 1:30pm.
 2. **Consider Timber Sale Contract Extension Requests** – Lovlien explained that because of Covid, markets, and poor winters there are a lot of timber sale contract extension requests. He discussed each contract, how much work they have completed, and their reasons they submitted for requesting an extension. Lovlien said he usually recommends a one-year extension but is recommending a six-month extension because most of the contracts are winter only sales. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to approve six-month extensions at a zero percent increase in stumpage for contracts #678-19, #673-18, #671-18, #668-18, #665-18, #666-18, and #660-17 and if these sales are not completed that any additional extension requests will be subject to stumpage increases following the contract. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0. Lovlien discussed the history, completion amount, and reasons submitted for an extension request on contract #644-15. The sale is six years old. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to approve a six-month extension for contract #644-15 at a zero percent increase and if it is not completed this winter 21-22 the sale will be closed out and the purchasers performance bond may be forfeited due to breach of contract. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.
 3. Timber Close Out – Wilson Forestry LLC Contract #702-21 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 2780 and 2708.78 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$42,240.04. Lovlien's recommendation is to close out Contract #702-21 and return their remaining balance of \$13,859.96 and their original Letter of Credit. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to close out Contract #702-21 and return their remaining balance of \$13,859.96 and their original Letter of Credit. 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
 1. Review and Consider Approving the 2022 Wildlife Work Plan – Brandon Stefanski, DNR Wildlife Biologist – The work plan had been previously distributed. Stefanski reported on accomplishments from 2021 and explained the 2022 workplan. Work includes flowage maintenance, dike maintenance, cattail management at the Bern flowage, wild rice seeding, alder and invasive species management, and forest opening maintenance. Stefanski discussed the Nickel-An-Acre budget.
 2. Review and Consider Approving the 2022 County Forest Work Plan – Lovlien reviewed the work plan. He gave highlights on upcoming work including timber management, road and trail maintenance, conservation aids projects, administration, GIS work and professional development. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to approve the 2022 County Forest Work Plan and forward the Resolution and work plan to the Environmental Resource Committee for their consideration. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.

Tom Lovlien

From: Scott Heffernon <SHeffernon@futurewoodcorp.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2022 2:53 PM
To: Tom Lovlien
Cc: Joseph Tucker; Jamie Holly
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Sales in Marathon County

Hi Tom,

We would like extensions on both of our expiring Marathon County timber sales (Garter Snake and Break Through).

I met with 3 contractors this winter to try and get these job done and reached out to others.

All of the timber sales we did work on this winter were expiring/expired. It was not for lack of effort that your sales were not completed.

The industry is still feeling the effects of the WI Rapids mill shut down. It takes quite a bit of time to get back on track when you loose 25% by volume of all wood consumed in the state. This has also lead to depressed delivered rates to the remaining mills. Contractor availability has also been reduced, many loggers have decided to retire or change careers. Inflation on all of the inputs to produce a cord of wood, parts availability, supply chain issues, labor shortage are also not helping.

Anything the Forestry Committee can do to not add any more challenges to the ones we are facing in the woods would be appreciated. A 0% stumpage increase is my request.

I look forward to seeing you at the Forestry Committee meeting to discuss.

Scott Heffernon
Northeast Region Forester
Futurewood Corp.
6576 Rolling Hills Drive
Rhineland, WI 51501
sheffernon@futurewoodcorp.com
715-558-8807 (Cell)



From: Tom Lovlien <Tom.Lovlien@co.marathon.wi.us>
Sent: Thursday, January 6, 2022 10:21 AM
To: Scott Heffernon <SHeffernon@futurewoodcorp.com>
Cc: Joseph Tucker <Joseph.Tucker@co.marathon.wi.us>
Subject: RE: Sales in Marathon County

Thanks for the update Scott. Please let Joe know when you plan to move into these sales and he will make sure things are all set. Tom.

Tom Lovlien

From: scott foth <fothstcc@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 13, 2022 4:14 PM
To: Tom Lovlien
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Contract #644-15 Mr. Fudd Sale

Hey Tom got your email, I would like to finish job next season with no stumpage increase. Or option 2 would be to let job go back to the county with the county keeping 10% of bond and returning the balance to Central Wisconsin Lumber.

Thanks Scott Foth
Central Wisconsin Lumber

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 11, 2022, at 11:05 AM, Tom Lovlien <Tom.Lovlien@co.marathon.wi.us> wrote:

Hi Scott,

The Forestry Committee will be meeting May 3rd to decide timber sale extension requests. Your crews made good progress on the sale although there still is approximately 55 acres with an estimated 750-800 cords and 50MBF still remaining to be cut and the sale is 6.5 years old. The Forestry/Recreation Committee minutes from November 30, 2021 say that if the sale wasn't completed the winter 21-22 that the sale would be closed out and the bond may be forfeited due to breach of contract. I don't know if the Committee will offer another extension. However, if they would consider an extension it likely would be offered following the contract terms with a 10% increase in stumpage and that it is completed the winter 22-23.

Would CWL even consider finishing the sale with another 10% increase in stumpage? Or would CWL decide to walk away from the sale and negotiate the County keeping part of your performance bond. Again, ultimately the decision rests with the Committee. Please let me know your thoughts by April 22. Thanks, Tom.

Thomas Lovlien
Marathon County Forest Administrator



Wausau & Marathon County
**Parks, Recreation
& Forestry**



212 River Drive, Suite 2
Wausau, WI 54403
(715)261-1584 Office
(715)261-1565 Fax
Tom.lovlien@co.marathon.wi.us

Tom Lovlien

From: Country Forest Products <countryforestproducts@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2022 1:35 PM
To: Tom Lovlien
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: E-mail Requesting Extension

Hi Tom,

I'm requesting an extension of time for contract #682-19. I will complete the sale by 12-30-2022

We have already cut most of the sale but ran out of time

Thanks
Patrick Schreiner

Country Forest Products, Inc.
Long Lake Lumber, Co.
133 Division St. - Withee, WI 54498
Office: 715-229-9205
FAX: 715-229-2742

On Wed, Apr 13, 2022 at 9:39 AM Tom Lovlien <Tom.Lovlien@co.marathon.wi.us> wrote:

Hi Pat,

Please email me a short note indicating you would like an extension on Contract ##682-19 (All by Myself sale) and that you will be completing the sale by December 30, 2022. Thanks, Tom.

Thomas Lovlien

Marathon County Forest Administrator



Wausau & Marathon County
**Parks, Recreation
& Forestry**



212 River Drive, Suite 2



INCREASED ACREAGE SHARE PAYMENTS

Wisconsin counties hold significant acreage of lands enrolled under Wisconsin's County Forest Law (State Statutes §28.10 & 28.11). Citizens of Wisconsin value these County Forests because they provide reliable raw materials for the forest products industry as well as public access and recreation programs on more than 2.4 million acres of forested lands. These county forests are a large part of what makes northern Wisconsin unique and collectively make up the largest public forested land holdings in the State.

Currently, the Department of Natural Resources makes Acreage Share/PILT payments to towns for state forest, other state lands and county forests. Payment for county forest lands is currently at a rate of \$0.30/acre for every acre of land enrolled under Wisconsin's County Forest Law, a rate set back in the 1980's. In addition, counties are statutorily required to return 10% of gross timber revenue (an overall system average of \$1.25/acre) to towns containing county forest lands. Individual county board may elect to go beyond the 10% that is required, and some do.

The Department of Natural Resources makes payments to towns containing state forest lands at a rate of \$.88/acre for lands acquired prior to 1969; \$1.87/acre for lands acquired prior to 1992; and \$2.41/acre for lands acquired after 1992. Beginning in 2001, state lands purchased with Knowles-Nelson Stewardship funds receive PILT payments at the rate equivalent to taxes paid on the parcel prior to purchase by the state. Furthermore, there is no requirement to return any percentage of State Forest timber sale revenue to towns.

CURRENT STATUS: Under the current Acreage Share Payment/PILT system, towns are paid at a much higher rate for state forest lands than county forest lands. In general, the public and the towns do not make a distinction between the uses, benefits, and economic impacts of a state forest versus a county forest, and it would be appropriate to compensate the towns on a more equal basis for county forest lands. In light of changes to the shared revenue system, it is important to ensure public lands, including county forests, do not become an economic burden to local governments.

RECOMMENDATION: Increase the County Forest Acreage Share Payment to \$0.60/acre. An increase is long overdue and has not kept up with inflation. Coupled with the severance share payment from the counties, this would make the relationship between state PILT payments and County Forest Acreage Share Payments more equitable.

Rebekah Luedtke, Executive Director
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