

Members present: Rick Seefeldt(c), Tom Rosenberg, Jean Maszk  
Staff present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director  
Others present: Joe Tucker-County Forester, Jeff Sorenson-DNR Liaison Forester

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 Maszk / Rosenberg to approve the minutes from the May 3, 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. Introduction of Jeff Sorenson, Marathon County Forest Liaison – Sorenson introduced himself and gave background information. Committee members and staff introduced themselves and welcomed him.

2. Department Overview and Committee Orientation

Polley discussed the Department’s mission, organizational structure, facilities, programs, and budget information. She mentioned that the biggest revenue generators for the County are from camping and timber sales. The Department serves the area in quality of life, tourism and natural resources. It’s guided by the County’s Strategic Plan, the City and County’s Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans and the 15-Year County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Work is done with the help of grants, donations, sponsorships, contracts, and partnerships which include many volunteers. Needs and challenges include staffing and wages, State levy limits, aging facilities, increased demand for parks, and community collaboration on sports facilities. Polley discussed initiatives and future projects. Lovlien discussed other information including Forestry Committee responsibilities and duties, County forest law, the 2022 Workplan and Annual Report, the partnership with the DNR and their time standards, representation on the Forest Citizen Advisory Subcommittee, specifics from the Forestry budget, the timber sale expense/revenue report, Nine Mile event and use regulations, and the Wisconsin County Forests Association.

3. Timber Sale Closeouts – Verso Corporation Contract #673-18 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 2675 and 3326.01 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$38,041.84. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract #673-18 and return their cash bond. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Maszk to close out Contract #673-18 and return their cash bond. 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. Wisconsin Trophic Cascade Project – Lovlien had received a request about a project in northern Wisconsin where oak trees would be planted on two sites to assess whether the presence of large predators can reverse negative deer impacts on forest regeneration. He said that Cornell University along with UW-Madison and the DNR want to plant forty oak seedlings each in Nine Mile and Hewitt-Harrison Forest Units so they can determine whether or not having more wolves and bears on the landscape would lessen the deer which would lessen browsing on tree species. Lovlien will be informed when the work will be done and will receive the results of the project when it is finished.

B. Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 Timber Sale Summaries – Lovlien said there had been a significant decrease in stumpage prices from the fall of 2020 to the fall of 2021 which was mainly due to the Covid pandemic and the Verso Mill closing. There has been a significant increase in prices from 2021 to 2022 which is a good sign.

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

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – Lovlien mentioned that he had responded to a request from the Town of Guenther who had asked about potential opportunity of funds for maintaining a town road. The towns that have forest units have been receiving payments in lieu of taxes through the acreage share payments and also a payment from a share of timber sales. He said it is important to keep the town roads open for timber hauling.

B. Future Agenda Items: Timber Sale Closeouts, Consider Approving a Winter Fat Bike Trial Season at Nine Mile Forest, 2022 County Forest Tour

8. Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.