



MARATHON COUNTY FORESTRY/RECREATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

Date and Time of Meeting: Tuesday, May 31, 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. Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the telephone conference beginning ten minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:

Phone Number: 1-408-418-9388 Access Code: 2484 660 0890 If Required, the Password is krTfE2pn4P6

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, May 3, 2022 Committee Meeting**
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
 2. Department Overview and Committee Orientation
 3. Timbersale Closeouts – Verso Corporation Contract #673-18
 - 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
 - B. Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 Timber Sale Summaries

7. **Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Tuesday, July 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: Timber Sale Closeouts, Consider Approving a Winter Fat Bike Trial Season at Nine Mile Forest, 2022 County Forest Tour

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.

EMAILED/FAXED TO: Daily Herald and other News Media Groups
EMAILED/FAXED BY: Jodi Luebbe
EMAIL/FAX DATE/TIME: May 25, 2022 3:15 p.m.

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

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 14th and 15th 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.

CLOSE OUT TIMBER SALES

Sale 673-18

VERSO CORP

	Estimated	Cut	
Aspen Pulp	1250 Tons	1828.40 Tons	Aspen Pulp
Basswood Pulp	210 Tons	239.72 Tons	Basswood Pulp
Mixed Hardwood Pulp	625 Tons	1137.11 Tons	Mixed Hardwood Pulp
Oak Pulp	140 Tons	120.78 Tons	Oak Pulp
Mixed Hardwood Tops <	450 Tons		
	2675 Tons	3326.01 Total Tons Cut	
		12.63 MBF	Mixed Hardwood Sawlog
Mixed Hardwood Sawlog	10 MBF	21.39 MBF	Red Oak Sawlogs
Red Oak Sawlogs	8 MBF		
	18 MBF	34.02 Total MBF Cut	

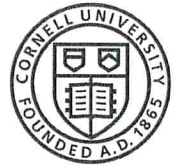
Total Revenue for Sale: **\$38,041.84**

Balance: \$0.00

Bond Amount: \$5,839.00

Bond Type: Cash Bond

Recommendation: **Close Sale and Return Cash Bond**



May 17, 2022

Dear Mr. Lovlien,

We are launching a project to assess whether the presence of large predators (e.g., wolves, bears) can reverse negative deer impacts on forest regeneration. We are closely collaborating with personnel at the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (Amanda McGraw, Jennifer Price-Tack, Daniel Storm). Our project involves planting red and white oak seedlings (grown from acorns collected in WI) as indicators. We plan to collect data on seedling browse levels, growth, and survival at sites in northern Wisconsin across a gradient of predator abundance. We will use these data to explore the direct impacts of ungulates and indirect impacts of predators on primary producers.

We have selected 50 sites within northern Wisconsin as candidates for our study, all of which are classified as northern hardwood forests with a mesic habitat type. We are requesting permission to plant oak seedlings at 2 sites on Marathon County Forest Land (see table below) as part of this study. We have chosen stands that do not currently have any active timber sales or plans for sales until at least 2024 to avoid conflict, and would not require any additional support from county foresters.

Property Type	Property ID	Component	Stand
Marathon County Forest	3700	7	42
Marathon County Forest	3700	2	138

At each site, we will plant 40 oak seedlings (20 red and 20 white) along a 40-50 m transect. The oaks are from acorns collected in Marathon and Wood Counties, WI, and have been grown in a greenhouse in Ithaca, NY. Each seedling will be accompanied by a 1.5" numbered aluminum tag staked into the ground. We will also deploy an acoustic recorder at sites to determine the presence of vocalizing birds and amphibians. We aim to plant oaks in the first two weeks of June 2022, and return after ~10 days to assess transplant mortality. We will then return to each site in July and September to measure seedling growth and survival, and to assess deer and rodent herbivory, among other plant stressors. In the following June (2023), we will measure the seedlings once more before removing all seedlings and tags from the field. If possible, we will plant a new cohort of seedlings and continue the project for an additional year.

Department of Natural
Resources and the
Environment

111 Fernow Hall
Ithaca, NY 14853-5905

301-557-0521
cals.cornell.edu

This research will contribute to our knowledge of when, where, and the extent to which predators can bring about ecosystem change through regulating herbivore populations and/or foraging behavior. Understanding these aspects of predator reintroduction will improve the effectiveness of ungulate and forest conservation and management. We will share initial findings from the study (e.g., deer browse rates, seedling growth and survival rates) with forest managers as soon as Fall 2022, and provide regular updates on results as the study progresses. If you have any questions or concerns about the project, please contact Elaine Brice at 301-557-0521 or elaine.brice@cornell.edu.

Sincerely,



Elaine Brice
Post-doctoral associate
Cornell University
Elaine.brice@cornell.edu
(301) 557-0521



Bernd Blossey
Professor
Cornell University
bb22@cornell.edu

MARATHON COUNTY FOREST Fall 2021 BID OPENING RESULTS

SPECIES	TONS	HIGH BID	LOW BID	Weighted Average of All Bids	Weighted Average of High Bids	Wt. Av. High Bids Spring 2021	Wt. Av. High Bids Fall 2020	Wt. Av. High Bids Spring 2020
ASPEN	7335	\$10.00	\$2.00	\$7.44	\$ 7.70	\$13.87	\$9.57	\$10.00
MIXED HWD	5440	\$9.10	\$1.50	\$5.70	\$ 8.15	\$11.34	\$8.35	\$14.95
OAK	650	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$6.00	\$ 6.00	\$7.87	\$5.61	\$9.59
SPRUCE	500	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$ 10.00	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx
MBF								
RED OAK	35	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$300.00	\$ 300.00	\$386.36	\$163.19	\$296.52
RED MAPLE	176	\$235.00	\$150.00	\$178.80	\$ 226.88	\$242.50	\$185.36	\$211.50
WHITE ASH	23	\$160.00	\$140.00	\$152.05	\$ 157.39	\$238.42	\$229.17	\$185.71
MIXED HWD	5	\$180.00	\$150.00	\$165.00	\$ 180.00	\$175.00	xxxx	xxxx
BIOMASS								
All Species	0	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	xxxx	\$0.50	\$0.50	xxxx
Number of sales sold						4/4	5/5	5/5
Acres sold						297	336	381
Value of sales sold						\$164,428.75	\$246,237.50	\$227,755.00
Appraised value of sales						\$156,239.50	\$166,572.00	\$257,965.00
\$ / acre sold						\$553.63	\$732.85	\$597.79
Ton eq. sold						15,160	14,050	22,140
\$ / ton ave.						\$10.85	\$17.53	\$10.29
Cord eq. sold						6539	6110	9630
\$ / cord ave.						\$25.15	\$40.30	\$23.65

This bid opening was for four county forest timber sales

Received 10 bids from 7 separate bidders.

Two of four sale have very limited summer chance opportunity and the remaining two are frozen ground only

Signiifcant decrease trend on stumpage prices

MARATHON COUNTY FOREST Spring 2022 BID OPENING RESULTS

SPECIES	TONS	HIGH BID	LOW BID	Weighted Average of All Bids	Weighted Average of High Bids	Wt. Av. High Bids Fall 2021	Wt. Av. High Bids Spring 2021	Wt. Av. High Bids Fall 2020
ASPEN	7125	\$18.57	\$4.90	\$11.14	\$ 16.35	\$ 7.70	\$13.87	\$9.57
MIXED HWD	3795	\$25.00	\$5.00	\$10.91	\$ 17.01	\$ 8.15	\$11.34	\$8.35
OAK	4865	\$14.00	\$3.00	\$8.04	\$ 12.07	\$ 6.00	\$7.87	\$5.61
BASSWOOD	170	\$10.83	\$0.50	\$3.79	\$ 10.52	\$ 10.00	\$2.41	\$3.85
RED PINE	35	\$19.01	\$8.00	\$10.79	\$ 19.01	xxxx	\$21.25	xxxx
MBF								
RED OAK	285	\$550.00	\$140.00	\$350.79	\$ 470.18	\$ 300.00	\$386.36	\$163.19
RED MAPLE	35	\$485.00	\$140.00	\$295.96	\$ 405.71	\$ 226.88	\$242.50	\$185.36
WHITE ASH	46	\$445.00	\$140.00	\$264.45	\$ 397.83	\$ 157.39	\$238.42	\$229.17
MIXED HWD	1	\$400.00	\$140.00	\$208.33	\$ 400.00	\$ 180.00	\$175.00	xxxx
HARD MAPLE	15	\$685.00	\$250.00	\$439.82	\$ 604.00	xxxx	\$391.76	\$200.00
BASSWOOD	9	\$250.00	\$64.00	\$195.32	\$ 316.67	xxxx	\$197.78	\$88.24
BIOMASS Tons								
All Species	1500	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	\$1.00	xxxx	\$0.50	\$0.50

Number of sales sold				5/5	4/4	5/5	5/5
Acres sold				301	297	336	381
Value of sales sold				\$382,264.40	\$164,428.75	\$ 246,237.50	\$227,755.00
Appraised value of sales				\$199,942.00	\$156,239.50	\$ 166,572.00	\$257,965.00
\$ / acre sold				\$1,269.98	\$553.63	\$732.85	\$597.79
Ton eq. sold				18126	15160	14050	22140
\$ / ton ave.				\$21.09	\$10.85	\$17.53	\$10.29
Cord eq. sold				7481	6539	6110	9630
\$ / cord ave.				\$51.10	\$25.15	\$40.30	\$23.65

This bid opening was for five county forest timber sales
 Received 31 bids from 14 separate bidders.
 Four of five were summer chance opportunity and the remaining, frozen ground only
 Significant increase trend on stumpage prices