

Members present: Rick Seefeldt(c), Tom Rosenberg, Jean Maszk  
Staff present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director-(via webex)  
Others present: Jeff Sorenson-DNR Liaison Forester, Aaron Ruff-CWOCC, Sandi Cihlar

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 – Sandi Cihlar commented about her concerns sharing snowshoe and fat tire bike trails and asked the Committee to consider safety of all users. She thanked Committee for hearing her concerns.
3. Approve Minutes – **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to approve the minutes from the May 31, 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. Consider Approving a Winter Fat Bike Trial Season at Nine Mile Forest Recreation Area – The Central Wisconsin Off-Road Cycling Coalition (CWOCC) proposal was in the agenda packet. Lovlien explained that this proposal has been studied thoroughly and staff supports it. A community survey had been done and the majority of responders supported it. The Forest Citizen Advisory Subcommittee recently voted 6-2 to support the concept of a trial fat tire bike season. The Nordic Ski Club has given a letter in support of the concept of a trial season. There was not full support from the Nordic Ski Club but the majority supported it. Lovlien explained that the majority of the fat bike trail will be on the existing single track mountain bike trail. The entire snowshoe trail is about 6.7 miles and of that total amount only about thirty percent would be shared trails with mountain bikers. There will be a ¼ mile section groomed on one-side for snowshoers and one-side groomed for bikers that will allow snowshoers to utilize a full looped trail and not encounter bikers except for the ¼ mile short section. Ruff said CWOCC will groom the trails, buy and install signage. The trial season will mirror the ski season and bikers will be expected to yield to skiers/snowshoers at crossings. This shared trail system works in other places and bikers are used to sharing trails. Questions were answered. Lovlien said there was not a good alternative to keeping the entire bike and snowshoe trails separate. The double-groomed section gets snowshoers to their own trails and bikers to their own trails. If there are instances of user conflicts or other issues the chalet attendants and PRF office staff will record them and the use would be re-evaluated after the trial season. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Maszk to approve a 2022-2023 trial fat tire bike season at Nine Mile, review it in the spring and if there are any significant safety or other issues the County reserves the right to not approve a permanent season. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.
    2. Timber Sale Closeouts: County Forest Products – Contract #681-19 - A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 300 and 322.51 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$18,414.35. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract #681-19 and return their cash bond. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Maszk to close out Contract #681-19 and return their cash bond. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.
    3. Timber Sale Extension – Tigerton Lumber Company - Contract #660-17 – This sale has been completely cut and all the wood is hauled. Lovlien said the sale is ready to be closed by the August 30<sup>th</sup> deadline but some time is needed to do the final financial paperwork. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Maszk to extend Tigerton Lumber Company Contract #660-17 to August 30, 2022 to complete the final close out paperwork. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.
    4. Forest Citizens Advisory Subcommittee Appointments – Lovlien explained that every year about half of the eleven subcommittee terms expire. If the members are in good standing they are asked if they would like to return for another two-year term. Out of the six members, five would like to return. They have all been significant contributors to the subcommittee so Lovlien recommends reappointing them for another two- year term. Staff will be looking for a new member to represent equestrian interests. **Motion** / second Maszk / Rosenberg to reappoint the five members whose terms are expiring to the Forest Citizens Advisory Subcommittee for another two-year term. 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. Discussion on Potential Dates for a Park and Forestry Tour – After discussion a date for a tour of County Forest units was set for Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.

B. Wisconsin County Forests Association State Budget Requests for 2024-2025 – Lovlien explained that every biennial budget the Wisconsin County Forests Association requests additional help. The most important items are increasing aids for the County Forest Administrator Grant, the Sustainable Forestry Grant, the Wildlife Habitat Grant, and an increase to the DNR Time Standard Hours.

C. Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program Reauthorization – Lovlien explained WCFA supports the reauthorization of the program and maintaining the \$3 million that is annually set aside under 2015 Act 55 to provide land acquisition grants to counties. They also request statutory language be amended to allow nature-based recreational development grants under the County Forest Subprogram of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund at the 50% match level. With the help of this program Marathon County has been able to purchase land which is one of the goals in the Marathon County Strategic Plan and the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

D. ATV/UTV Trail and Law Enforcement Funding – WCFA requests are to increase the annual summer UTV maintenance funding from \$200/mile to \$400/mile, which would result in an additional annual allocation of approximately \$425,000. This will provide assistance in managing trail impacts from increase numbers and size of ATV's and UTV's on trail systems. Increase the annual budget allocation for county ATV law enforcement aids from \$750,000 to \$1,250,000. This will provide short term elimination of the pro-rate within the law enforcement reimbursement program.

7. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: August 2, 2022, 1:30pm, Rm. 5 and WebEx, 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – Lovlien recognized Seefeldt for being elected to the Wisconsin County Forests Association Board.

B. Future Agenda Items: County Forest Citizens Advisory Committee Appointments, Timber Sale Closeouts

8. Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to adjourn the meeting at 2:30 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.