



## MARATHON COUNTY FORESTRY/RECREATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

**Date and Time of Meeting:** Tuesday, August 30, 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 (10) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number: Phone Number: 1-408-418-9388 Access Code: 2486 912 9171. 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, July 5, 2022 Committee Meeting**
4. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**
  - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
    1. Timber Sale Closeout – Tigerton Lumber Company: Contract #660-17
    2. County Forests Citizens Advisory Subcommittee Appointment
    3. Discuss Fee Increase for Undesignated Camping on County Forests
    4. Consider Approving 2023 County Conservation Aids Project
  - B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration
    1. Marathon County Strategic Plan Objective 5.2 Outcome Measure 3
5. **Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee – None**
6. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**
  - A. County Forest Tour Draft Agenda
  - B. Status on Voluntary Carbon Markets
  - C. Preliminary Results of the 2022 Forest Certification Audit
  - D. State Capital Update Regarding County Forest Budget Issues
7. **Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 1:30pm at 212 River Dr., Wausau, WI 54403, Room 5 or via Webex**
  - A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence

B. Future Agenda Items: Consider Forest Ordinance Revisions, Consider Approving the Fall 2022 Timber Sale Package, DNR/County Partnership Meeting, 2023 Budget Update

**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](mailto: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: August 24, 2022 9:00 a.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-(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.

# CLOSE OUT TIMBER SALES

Sale 660-17

TIGERTON LUMBER CO

	<b>Estimated</b>	<b>Cut</b>	
Aspen Pulp	11 Tons	10.81 Tons	Aspen Pulp
Basswood Pulp	9 Tons	8.63 Tons	Basswood Pulp
Mixed Hardwood Pulp	1150 Tons	3315.97 Tons	Mixed Hardwood Pulp
Oak Pulp	460 Tons	593.93 Tons	Oak Pulp
Red Pine Pulp	45 Tons	68.21 Tons	Red Pine Pulp
Fuelwood	13 Tons	43.62 Tons	Fuelwood
Mixed Hardwood Tops <	330 Tons		
	<b>2018 Tons</b>	<b>4041.17 Total Tons Cut</b>	
		88.55 MBF	Red Maple Sawlogs
Red Maple Sawlogs	85 MBF	134.30 MBF	Red Oak Sawlogs
Red Oak Sawlogs	120 MBF	1.77 MBF	White Oak Sawlogs
White Oak Sawlogs	5 MBF		
	<b>210 MBF</b>	<b>224.62 Total MBF Cut</b>	

Total Revenue for Sale: **\$140,381.85**

Balance: (\$7,372.55)

Bond Amount: \$24,887.50

Bond Type: Cash Bond

Recommendation: **Close out sale and return cash bond  
and remaining balance in the account**

# Marathon County Strategic Plan Objective 5.2, Outcome Measure 3

**Jamie Polley & Tom Lovlien**

Parks, Recreation & Forestry Department



# Objective 5.2, Outcome Measure 3

- Objective 5.2: Promote sound land use decisions that conserve and preserve natural resources in decisions with economic development and growth.
- Outcome Measure 3: By December 31, 2022, an average of 320 acres of land per year will be acquired for the Marathon County Parks and Forests System.

# County Approved Plans

- Marathon County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2020-2024 – Chapter 5, Section 5.2 & Chapter 6, Section 6.2– Adopted by County Board December 17, 2019.
- 15 Year Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, 2021-2035- Chapter 400, Sections 400, 405, 410, 425, 440 & 445 – Adopted by County Board November 2020



# Accomplishments

## Park Land Acquisitions 2018-2022

1. Acquired 3.99 acres of land to add to the Eau Claire Dells Park in 2018.
2. Acquired 39.085 acres of land to add to the Brokaw County Park in 2022.

**Total 43.075 acres.**

Parkland Acquisition Goal: 120 acres per year(600 acres total for the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan period)

## County Forest Land Acquisitions 2018-2022

1. Acquired 40 acres of land to add to the Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit in 2018.
2. Acquired 199.84 acres of land to add to the Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit in 2019.
3. Accepted a donation of 79.67 acres in the Town of Easton and created a new unit named Miller Forest in 2019.
4. Acquired 200 acres of land to add to the Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit in 2020.
5. Acquired 40 acres of land to add to the Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit in 2021.

**Total 559.51 acres.**

County Forest Land Acquisition Goal: 200 acres per year(1000 acres total for the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan period)



# Benefits of Expanding Park and Forest Land

- Management of the County Forests
- Timber Sale Revenue Supports County Levy
- Supports the Forest Product Industries within the County and in the State- \$24 Billion Economic Impact in WI
- Enhances Quality of Life for Residents
  - Increases space available for recreation
  - Connects people with nature
  - Supports hiking, biking, camping, equestrian, hunting, camping, fishing, cross country skiing, picnicking, events, etc.
- Provides revenue to local townships

# Benefits to Townships

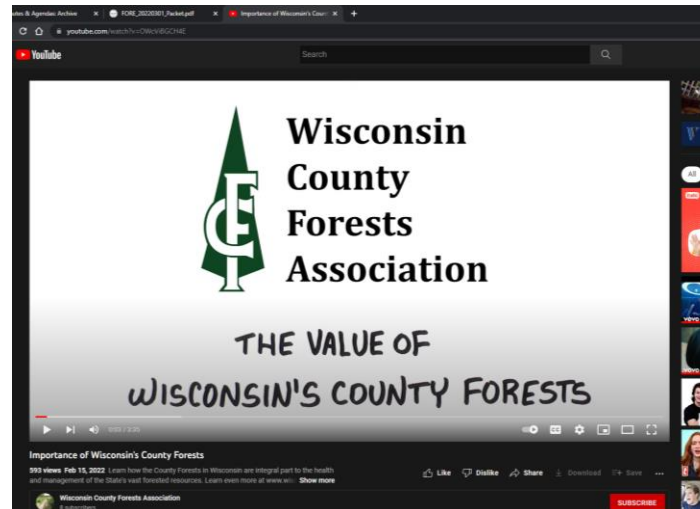
- DNR raised the County Forest Acreage State Share Payment:  
\$0.30/acre to \$0.63/acre
- 10% of gross timber revenue based on % of total acreage within their township

Yearly average to townships in Marathon County in last three years:  
\$2.22/acre

Example: Town of Guenther 2022 = 4,457 County Forest acres  
Acreage share = \$2,807.73, 10% of 2021 sales= \$9,488.32,  
Total = \$12,296.05 received in 2022

# Value Illustration

- County Forest Scribolgy Story



Questions?



## COUNTY FOREST TOUR

September 15, 2022

9 am – 3 pm

- 9:00 am Welcome and Overview of County Forests – Tom
- 9:20 am Board Bus and Depart from 212 River Drive
- 10:00 am Aspen Regeneration Site – Kronenwetter Forest Unit – Joe/Jeff
- 10:30 am Wildlife Habitat and Projects on County Forests – DNR/Brandon Stefanski
- 11:15 am Nine Mile – Red Bud Road – County Forest Road Aids and Other Grants and Loans Available – Tom
- 11:30 am Balancing Competing Uses at Nine Mile and Other Forest Units – Tom
  
- 11:45 am – 12:30 pm Lunch at Nine Mile Chalet
  
- 12:45 pm Nine Mile – Springbrook Road Pine Timber Sale – Joe/Jeff
- 1:30 pm Nine Mile Oak Shelterwood and Scarification Site – Joe/Jeff
- 1:50 pm Nine Mile Oak Wilt Site – Joe
- 2:10 pm Northern Hardwood Management – Joe/Jeff
- 3:00 pm Return to 212 River Drive

# COUNTY FOREST CERTIFICATION CARs/OFI's/OBSs

**\*For Review in 2022/23 County Forest audits  
and for discussion at Partnership Meetings**

8/16/22 Rev.

\*To Liaisons, CF Administrators, Team Leaders, and County Forest Internal Audit Teams – Listed below are selected CARs and Opportunities for Improvement that have application to individual counties. **ALL** of the CARs listed pre-2021 below have been closed, but it is our (DNR) responsibility as the group manager to confirm follow through by the group members on corrective actions. This is based on **DRAFT** findings from the 2022 CFL SFI and FSC **Surveillance** audits, as well as previous audit findings. Both DNR and the Counties also have responsibilities to comply with ALL aspects of the standards and a checklist of the entire standard is now part of the 3 yr. audit reviews. **The partnership meetings and County Forest 5-year audits remain a very important part of the group monitoring effort.**

**Partnership meetings** – It is very important to document a county's conformance or progress towards conformance on each and every item identified as a **current (2022)** CAR, OBS, or OFI in the partnership meeting minutes. **Do NOT** simply put "discussed certification CARs". The section of this document titled "CARs & OFI/Observations (both SFI & FSC) from prior audits that may require attention and other potential issues" should be discussed if the issues are still relevant in the particular county and please document if any additional actions have been taken for these items, if relevant.

***DO NOT INCLUDE the italicized questions directly as a part of your audit report or partnership minutes. They are included as prompts for generating discussion.***

**\*Findings are based on the preliminary (verbal at closing meeting) SFI and FSC draft audit reports – as of 8/11/22.**

## **SFI – 2022**

**NO CARs**

**Opportunities for Improvements (OFI)-** OFI 2022-01: There is an opportunity to improve understanding of SFI's "Special Sites" designation. Please review in new 2022 SFI standard. Objective 6

## **FSC – 2022**

**2 MINOR CARs- Specific to only Oconto County for addressing, but good opportunity for all FSC Counties to review clear language in the 15 year plan regarding clearly stating/description of HCVFs on the property**

**Observations (OBS)-** None

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## **2021- FSC**

**2 Minor CARs-**

### **1. Pesticide Reporting**

a. Not all counties were reporting pesticide use- specific to Cellutreat. All FSC and SFI counties need to report Cellutreat

### **2. ESFA Training** (all FSC counties went through training to address this issue)

a. Continue to address reviewing and documentation/use of ESRAs for any pesticide use

**1 Observation-** BMP Monitoring document not publicized in timely manner (this is a DNR issue and not a CF issue)

## **2021- SFI**

**No CARs**

**1 OFI-** BMP monitoring document published. Same as FSC

**2020- SFI/FSC**

**No CARS, NO OFIs/OBS, no nothing. Clean Audit**

**2019- SFI/FSC- FULL RECERTIFICATION**

**No CARS, NO OFIs/OBS, no nothing. Clean Audit**





**TO: Rebekah Luedtke, WI County Forests Association**  
**FR: Shawn Pfaff, Pfaff Public Affairs**  
**DT: August 24, 2022**  
**RE: State Capitol Update**

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### **Fall Campaign Set**

The ballot for this November's fall general election is now set. Wisconsin voters will be going to the polls to vote for U.S. Senate, Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, congressional and state legislative races and partisan county government races.

The biggest races of the fall are for U.S. Senator where the incumbent GOP Senator Ron Johnson is running for a third, six-year term. Johnson will be facing Democratic Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes. Barnes won the Democratic primary on August 9. Current polling shows Barnes with a lead of 51 to 44 percent in the latest Marquette University Law School poll that was released on Wednesday, August 17.

The other marquee race is between Governor Tony Evers, a Democrat, who is running for a second term against GOP businessman Tim Michels who defeated former GOP Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch in the August 9 primary. Evers is leading Michels by a 46 to 43 percent in the latest Marquette University Law School.

In state legislative races, Republicans, who control both houses of the state legislature, are hoping to expand their majorities in both chambers especially in the state Senate where they hope to gain a veto proof majority. Opportunities for GOP pickups in the state Senate include former state Representative Romaine Quinn (R-Rice Lake) who is running to replace retiring Democratic state Senator Janet Bewley. Quinn is facing Democrat Kelly Westlund in the November election.

Other legislative races to watch include the open seats of retiring Democratic state Representatives' Nick Milroy, of Superior, and Beth Meyers of Ashland and the seats of retiring state Senator Jerry Petrowski, of Marathon, and Kathy Bernier of Lake Hallie

Independent election analysts are predicting \$344 million will be spent on ads for Wisconsin races this cycle, which includes \$159 million in the U.S. Senate race and \$126 million for the Governor's campaign.

### **WCFA Budget Issues**

WCFA has shared its upcoming 2023-25 biennial budget priorities with the Governor's office, WI DNR and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

Those priorities include:

1. Increasing the County Forest Administrator Grant to address inflation and ever-increasing costs of salary and fringe benefits.
2. Allocate \$250,000 solely for the Sustainable Forestry Grant, above and beyond what is made available for the Administrator Grant.
3. Allocate the full \$0.10/acre, as allowed in statute, for the Wildlife Habitat Grant. It is currently being prorated to less than half of that amount.
4. Increase the time standard hours to keep pace with the growing complexity and size of the county forest program.
5. Continue financial and technical support of the WisFIRS program.

## WCFA Legislative Issues

WCFA continues to explore legislative possibilities to deal with ongoing issues related to ATV/UTV and other issues that impact county forests. WCFA has reached out to interested stakeholders on these issues and will continue to have dialogue over the next several months heading into the 2023-24 legislative session that convenes in early January.

## Evers Funds Stewardship Projects

Governor Evers announced this week an investment, funded by the state's allocation of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), in supporting several stewardship projects, including a major project in Bayfield County.

WCFA lobbied the legislature's Joint Finance Committee to support the Bayfield project. However, the GOP-led committee objected to the Bayfield project while it went through the committee's 14-day passive review period, which was triggered since the project was more than \$250,000.

- **Sand Creek, Bayfield County:** This acquisition of productive forest lands in the towns of Bayfield and Bell will ensure continued forest management on highly productive forest lands. In addition to providing public access for nature-based outdoor activities, the project will protect Lake Superior watersheds and safeguard wildlife habitat on 1,999 acres adjacent to over 75,000 acres of Bayfield County Forest lands. This land acquisition project was objected to by a JFC member.