

Members present: Rick Seefeldt (chair), Tom Rosenberg (vice-chair), Jean Maszk

Staff present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director

Others present: Stacey Morache-County Board Member, Jeff Sorenson-DNR Liaison Forester, Joe Tucker-County Forester

1. Call Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order by Chairman Seefeldt at 1:00pm, 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 / Maszk to approve the minutes from the August 30, 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 the Fall 2022 Timber Sale Package – The fall timber sale package had been distributed to Committee for review. The county forest sales offer 326 acres of timber on four tracts with an estimated volume of 21,600 tons and 278.0 thousand board feet. The Big Eau Pleine County Park sale offers 69 acres on one tract with an estimated volume of 1770 tons and 69.0 thousand board feet. Tucker discussed the sales and gave an explanation about how they determine which areas are going to be harvested. The sales will be advertised and the bid opening is October 31, 2022. Questions were answered. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg /Maszk to approve the four County forest sales in the fall 2022 Timber Sale Package. 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

1. Consider Approving County Forest Ordinance Revisions – Chapter 16 - Lovlien said in reviewing the current ordinance he discovered language that should have previously been changed from forest camping permits being free to requiring a fee. The other suggested change is that a camping unit is removed for seven days before being eligible to apply for another forest camping permit and three camping permits are allowed per calendar year. The length of time stays the same as a maximum of 1 to 14 days in a calendar year. The removal for seven days and the length of 1 to 14 days mirrors camping in the campgrounds. Most campers in the forest come to bike, hike, and hunt and this permit is for them to use the county forests as intended, not for someone to live on the County forest which is the reason for the changes. **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to approve the County forest ordinance revisions – Chapter 16 and move them on to the Environmental Resource Committee for consideration. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

5. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee – None

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. 2023 Budget Update – Polley reported on the department budget. She discussed personnel and non-personnel expenditures and revenue decreases/increases. She discussed the class compensation study that the County is doing and how it affects the budget. The timber sale evenflow amount has been increased to \$305,000. Recent years have been strong but there may be a year when the evenflow amount isn't met. The Department hopes to have future discussions about putting excess department budget revenues into a fund to help offset those down years and for capital projects. Questions were answered.

B. DNR/County Forest Partnership Meeting Minutes – Jeff Sorenson, DNR Liaison, discussed the minutes which consisted of information on County forest time standards, 2021 wildlife update, county conservation aids project updates, forest certification, land use issues, forest health, and forest management. Questions were answered.

C. 2022 Ragnar Trail Wisconsin Update – Lovlien reported that the Ragnar relay race had 2,184 people. The organization would like to extend their contract for another three years and return next September. There have been no major issues and the organization is well run. Significant revenue is received from this race which helps the Nine Mile Enterprise budget.

D. Update From the Fall Wisconsin County Forests Association Meeting – Lovlien gave highlights from the meeting. The WCFA budget priorities for the 2023-2025 State budget did not get put in the DNR budget at this time, discussions took place on carbon marketing, the WCFA strategic plan, what forest certification means to the industry, and that there is no news on the re-opening or selling of the mill in Wisconsin Rapids. Other information came from State forestry leadership about various topics. Lovlien noted that the forest industry people all said they need certified wood from the Counties because their customers are requesting it. He feels third party certification will continue for a long time.

7. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Tuesday, November 1, 2022, 1:00pm, Rm. 5 and WebEx, 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – Seefeldt may not be able to attend the November meeting. Lovlien received correspondence from Finite Carbon that they are unable to move forward with a carbon project at this time. Congratulations were given to County Forester, Joe Tucker who just got married.

B. Future Agenda Items: Consider Timber Bids and Award Contracts, Forest Advisory Subcommittee Appointment

8. Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.