

Members present: Rick Seefeldt (chair), Tom Rosenberg (vice-chair), Jean Maszk
Staff present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director, Joe Tucker-County Forester
Others present: Stacey Morache-County Board-(via Webex), Brandon Stefanski-DNR Wildlife Biologist

1. Call Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order by Chair 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 – Kelly Reith, 150097 Wineberry Lane, Wausau – His property borders Nine Mile Forest Recreation Area. He spoke about the safety and nuisance concerns he felt that unleashed dogs on the path near his property cause during deer and turkey hunting seasons. He asked that Committee consider prohibiting dogs running at large during these hunting seasons.

3. Approve Minutes – **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to approve the minutes from the November 1, 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 Timber Sale Contract Extension Requests – Rodney Hix Forest Products Contract 686-19. The sale will be three years old at the end of December and the contractor has cut over the completed volume already. There is a possibility the remaining fifteen acres will get cut before the end of the year but an extension will still be needed to finish the paperwork. Lovlien recommends a one-year extension with a ten percent increase in stumpage after January 1st. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to extend sale Contract 686-19 for one year with a ten percent increase in stumpage after January 1st. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0. Tigerton Lumber Company Contract 689-19. The sale will be three years old at the end of December and nothing has been cut. The contractor has expressed to Lovlien that he will not get the sale done this winter. Lovlien recommends a one-year extension with a twenty-five percent increase in stumpage. Questions were answered. **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to extend Contract 689-19 for one year with a twenty-five percent increase in stumpage. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

2. 2023 Forestry/Recreation Meeting Schedule – Lovlien explained that the dates will follow the schedule of the Environmental Resources Committee. The start time will remain the same at 1:00 pm. The February 28th Forestry meeting will be rescheduled to March 7th and the July 4th will be rescheduled to June 27th. **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to accept the meeting dates for 2023. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

3. Timber Sale Closeouts: Country Forest Products – Contract 682-19 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 995 and 1265.12 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$70,780.77. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract 682-19 and return their cash bond and balance in their account. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Maszk to closeout Contract 682-19 and return their cash bond and balance in their account. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0. Twin Forest Products Contract 711-22 – A closeout summary as previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 1407 and 872.00 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$82,250.44. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract 711-22 and return their original Letter of Credit. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Maszk to closeout Contract 711-22 and return their original Letter of Credit. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

4. Consider Timber Bids and Award Contract – Lovlien said one sale did not sell at the first bid opening. It was offered out to bid again and no bids were received. Now the sale can be sold direct at the appraised value. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to allow Lovlien to sell the sale per Wisconsin DNR regulations. 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. Review and Consider Approving the 2023 Wildlife Work Plan – Brandon Stefanski, DNR – The work plan had been previously distributed. Stefanski reported on accomplishments from 2022 and explained the 2023 work plan. Work

includes flowage maintenance, dike maintenance, cattail management at the Bern flowage, wild rice seeding, alder and invasive species management, and forest opening maintenance. Stefanski discussed the Nickel-An-Acre budget. Questions were answered.

2. Review and Consider Approving the 2023 County Forest Work Plan – Lovlien reviewed the work plan. He gave highlights on upcoming work including timber management, road and trail maintenance, conservation aids projects, administration, GIS work and professional development. **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to approve the 2023 County Forest Work Plan which includes the 2023 Wildlife Work Plan and forward the Resolution and work plan to the Environmental Resource Committee for their consideration. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

3. Resolution: Application for County Forest Acreage Payment – Lovlien explained that this interest free loan is based upon the number of County forest acres at 50 cents for the purchase, development, preservation, and maintenance of county forest lands. In the last several years, the loan has mainly been used to match the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grants to purchase land. The loan is paid back through a twenty percent severance tax on timber. **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to approve the Resolution for the Application for County Forest Acreage Payment and forward it to the Environmental Resource Committee. 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. Fall Timber Bid Summary – Lovlien reported on a summary of the three sales that were sold. He said 254 acres were sold for a value of \$217,162.00 which is \$854.97 per acre. He is hopeful that the fourth sale will get sold which would raise the total value for the fall timber sales.

B. 2023 – 2025 Wisconsin State Budget Requests – Lovlien said WCFA is still trying to get proposal requests into the Governor's budget. The main requests are to increase budget support for DNR Forestry programs, increase ATV/UTV trail and law enforcement funding, and to reauthorize the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program.

7. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Tues., Jan. 3, 2023, 1:00pm, Rm. 5 and Webex, 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54401

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – none brought forward

B. Future Agenda Items:

8. Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Maszk / Rosenberg to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 p.m. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.