

Members present: Tom Rosenberg, Arnie Schlei(c)-(via webex), Rick Seefeldt

Also present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director, Joe Tucker-County Forester, Chad Keranen-DNR Liaison-(via webex), John Happli

1. Call Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order by Chairman Schlei at 1:30pm, 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 Seefeldt / Schlei to approve the minutes from the February 2, 2021 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. Review and Consider Approving Spring Timber Sale Package – The spring timber sale package had been distributed to Committee for review. The sale offers 336 acres of timber on five tracts with an estimated volume of 14,440 tons and 377.0 thousand board feet. Joe Tucker, County Forester discussed all the sales. The sales will be advertised and the bid opening is May 3rd. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to approve and advertise the spring 2021 timber sale package. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

2. **Motion** by Rosenberg to Go Into Closed Session (Roll Call Vote Suggested), pursuant to s.19.85(1)(e), Wis. Stats., for the Purpose of Deliberating or Negotiating the Purchase of Public Properties, the Investing of Public Funds, or Conducting Other Specified Public Business, Whenever Competitive or Bargaining Reasons Require a Closed Session, to Wit: For the purpose of permitting the Committee to discuss strategy to be adopted by staff with respect to acquiring certain parcel of private land for County Forest purposes. Roll call vote was taken. Schlei=yes, Seefeldt=yes, Rosenberg=yes.

3. **Motion** by Rosenberg / second by Seefeldt to Return to Open Session. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0. (No Roll Call Vote Required).

4. Announcements and Possible Action on Matters Discussed in Closed Session - None

In the event Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Staff obtains an accepted offer to purchase, said offer must be approved by the Marathon County Board of Supervisors in open session by specific resolution.

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. 2020 Timber Stumpage Payments to Townships – Each year the County is required by State Statute to return ten percent of all timber proceeds to towns that have County forests. Lovlien discussed the acreage the towns have and their associated payments. He said it's a payment in lieu of taxes for towns to recoup some of their monies if it was taxable property, it doesn't make up all of it but it does help the towns.

B. Update on the Verso Corporation Mill and Consolidated Cooperative – Lovlien reported that a cooperative has been formed and is researching the possibility of buying the Verso mill in Wisconsin Rapids. They have filed a letter of intent to purchase and are in the process of soliciting interest from potential parties that may want to invest. There's going to be potential opportunity to invest towards the cooperative. Counties have received potential investment letters and discussions may begin over the next few months.

C. 2021 – 2023 State Budget Items of Interest – Items include a renewal of the stewardship program, funding for the snowmobile and ATV/UTV programs, dam repair and removal, climate change resiliency efforts, invasive species management, and increasing the County forest acreage share payments. Polley discussed how the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association is also working on getting support for the stewardship program.

7. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: May 4, 2021, 1:30pm, Rm. 5 and webex, 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – none brought forward.

B. Future Agenda Items: Timber Sale Closeouts, Review Timber Bids and Award Contracts, Spring Timbersale Bid Summary, Investment Opportunity in the Consolidated Cooperative.

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