

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

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

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 Schlei / Rosenberg to approve the minutes from the April 5, 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. Timber Sale Closeouts
 - A. Javorek – Contract #674-18 - A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 3575 and 5410.16 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$52,669.43. Javorek made his final payment so Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract #674-18 and return the Letter of Credit. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to closeout contract #674-18 and return the Letter of Credit. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.
 - B. Tigerton Lumber – Contract #642-15 - Lovlien explained that this contract was purchased six years ago and has had no activity. The contract was extended three times in the hopes that the contractor would cut the sale. This sale is unique because a private access permit was acquired to cross private property. The timber is over mature and staff doesn’t believe the contract is saleable in the same way as it was six years ago. Lovlien’s recommendation is to find the contractor in breach of this contract for failure to perform and confiscate the entire bond for \$10,218.00. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Rosenberg to close contract #642-15 and find the contractor in breach of the contract and confiscate the bond of \$10,218.00. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.
 - C. Twin Forest Products LLC – Contract #680-19 - A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 4965 and 5136.94 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$124,056.66. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract #674-18 and return their Letter of Credit following final payment of \$5,350.60. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to close out contract #680-19 and return the Letter of Credit following final payment of \$5,350.60. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.
 - D. Jacobs Logging – Contract #675-18 - A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 2310 and 4328.27 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$30,239.98. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract #675-18 and return his remaining balance of \$3,083.02 and his cash bond of \$4,239.38. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Rosenberg to close out Contract #675-18 and return the remaining balance of \$3,083.02 and cash bond of \$4,239.38. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.
 2. Review Timber Bids and Award Contracts – Lovlien reported that bids were opened yesterday and all of the sales were sold. The County has worked with all of the high bidders previously. He recommends awarding the tracts to the high bidders. Questions were answered. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to award the spring timbersale tracts to the highest bidders. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.
 - B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration
 1. Resolution: Consider County Land Exchange in the Towns of Easton and Harrison – Lovlien said at the last meeting he was given direction to attempt to negotiate a deal with the landowner on a land exchange. The County had been holding eighty acres in the Town of Easton for an opportunity to exchange land within County forestry boundaries. The County was approached by Kay Ray LLC to trade forty acres for the

County's eighty acres. The final offer by Kay Ray LLC was \$100,000 plus the exchange of the forty acres. Lovlien met with Corporation Counsel and two Offers to Purchase were completed. Lovlien noted that the land the County is receiving is bordered on four sides by County forest, the purchase meets strategic and County forest plans, the \$100,000 received would be put into the forestry segregated land purchase account for future purchases, an environmental screen on the property came back clear, both Town chairs are in support of the land exchange, closing costs are being shared, the forty acres being acquired has thirty acres of timber that could be harvested immediately, both title commitments came back clean, and there are no instances where mineral rights could not be transferred between the two properties. Members voiced support for the land exchange. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Rosenberg to accept the land exchange and forward the recommendation onto Environmental Resource Committee in support of the land exchange in relation to the terms in the Offer's to Purchase. 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. Timbersale Bid Summary – Keranen reported that all five timber sales were sold. Twenty-four bids were received from ten different contractors. There was a slight uptick in the stumpage prices in comparison to the last bid opening. That could be because three of the sales are in the Kronenwetter Forest Unit which is typically dry and can be harvested in late summer. The sales had been appraised for \$166,572.00 and the total sold value was \$246,237.50. Lovlien felt being able to get the forests managed to keep them healthy was as important as the revenues from the sales.
- B. Wisconsin County Forests Association Summer Tour – Vilas County - June 22-24, 2021 – Lovlien said the summer tour was cancelled last year but will be held this year. Members should notify him if they would like to attend.
- C. Potential Opportunity to Acquire 40 Acres in the Town of Hewitt – Lovlien said the County was notified about a land donation. The Town of Hewitt was in the first position to receive the donation and the County was in second position if the Town didn't accept it. The Town accepted the property and is going to put it up for bids. The County has some interest in the land because it's in the forest blocking boundaries. The interest is minimal in relation to how much it would want to pay for the land because it's mostly swampland. Discussion followed. Lovlien will wait to see if he gets notified about a potential sale and if so will bring back specifics to the Committee about making a formal decision at that point.

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

- A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – none brought forward
- B. Future Agenda Items: Timbersale Extension Requests, Review Timber Bids and Award Contracts, Timbersale Closeouts, Investment Opportunity in the Consolidated Cooperative
8. Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Schlei / Rosenberg to adjourn the meeting at 2:15pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.