

Members present: Tom Rosenberg, Arnie Schlei(c)-(via webex), Rick Seefeldt
Also present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director

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 Rosenberg / Seefeldt to approve the minutes from the May 4, 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 Extension Requests
 - A. Country Forest Products-Contract #681-19, B. Country Forest Products-Contract #682-19, C. Futurewood Corporation-Contract #667-18, D. Futurewood Corporation-Contract #670-18 – Lovlien discussed four timber sales that are between two and three years old and have not had extensions. Most Counties and the State have been offering free increases on their timbersales for first and second extensions due to the pandemic and wood markets. Lovlien’s recommendation is to be consistent with what other counties and the State are doing and offer a one-year extension until June 30, 2022 on these four timbersales at a zero percent increase in stumpage based on COVID and the markets. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Seefeldt to approve the extension requests for contracts #681-19, #682-19, #667-18, and #670-18.
 2. Timber Sale Closeouts
 - A. Bell Timber Inc. – Contract #683-19 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 7585 and 8010.88 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$336,661.79. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract #683-19 and return their Surety Bond. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to closeout contract #683-19 and return their Surety Bond of \$84,083.56. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.
 - B. Verso Inc. – Contract #684-19 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 2449 and 3626.88 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$50,891.67. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract #684-19 and return their cash bond of \$9,984.86 following their final payment of \$8,786.80. The final revenue will be about \$400 higher because of an invoicing error. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract #684-19 and return their cash bond following final payment. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Rosenberg to close out Contract #684-19 and return their cash bond following final payment. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.
 - 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. Initiative to Strengthen and Diversify Wisconsin’s Forest Industry – Groups involved in the forest industry are assembling a report on how to strengthen and diversify the forest industry. Information is being gathered on items still working in the industry, permitting concerns, forest lands being converted to crop lands, new things wood is being used for, transportation costs, regulatory issues, and the availability of timber year round. Once the report is available Lovlien will forward it to Committee for broader discussion in the future.

- B. Update on the Verso Corporation Mill and Consolidated Cooperative – A bill has been introduced in the State legislature to loan 50 million dollars of federal stimulus relief funds to Consolidated Cooperative. The Cooperative is currently having discussions with tax experts on the structuring of the Cooperative and is also finalizing information packages for investors. Lovlien believes the information package will be ready by early July. There could be a potential investment opportunity for the County in the future so at some point it may come forward for discussion. There still is a forthcoming opinion from the Wisconsin Counties Association attorney whether or not counties could invest in something like this. If it is legal to do so the County may be asked to decide whether or not it makes sense to invest.
- C. Paper Excellence Purchases Domtar Mills in Wisconsin – Lovlien reported that the Canadian company Paper Excellence has purchased Domtar Mills in Wisconsin. They are going to continue making their products and keep the mills open.
- D. Community Input Meeting Regarding Winter Fat Tire Biking at Nine Mile Forest – Lovlien explained that a proposal had been received from the Central Wisconsin Off Road Cycling Coalition (CWOCC) to potentially allow fat tire biking at Nine Mile forest in the winter when the ski trails are open. It would consist of trails specifically groomed for fat tire biking on some of the single track mountain bike trails and on some of the existing snowshoe trails. The Nordic Ski Club has gone on record in support of allowing winter fat tire biking at Nine Mile. A community meeting was held last week for input and an online survey is currently available until June 11th. Staff will review all the input it receives and consider all potential issues to determine a recommendation. The recommendation will then be taken to the Forest Citizen Advisory Subcommittee and the Forestry / Recreation Committee in the future. Questions were answered and discussion followed.
- E. Wisconsin 2021 – 2023 State Budget Update – Lovlien said the Wisconsin County Forests Association is working on a few priorities in the State budget. One is for an increase to the acreage share payment to the towns. Lovlien is hopeful there will be an increase in the budget for it this year. The other priority item is the extension of the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. Lovlien thought there was support for extending the program.
- 7. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: June 29, 2021, 1:30pm, Rm. 5 and webex, 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403
 - A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – none brought forward
 - B. Future Agenda Items: Forest Citizens Advisory Subcommittee Appointments
- 8. Adjourn – Motion / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to adjourn the meeting at 2:15pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.