



## MARATHON COUNTY FORESTRY/RECREATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

**Date and Time of Meeting:** Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 1:30pm

**Meeting Location:** Conference Room #5, 212 River Drive, Wausau WI 54403

MEMBERS: Arnold Schlei (Chairman), Rick Seefeldt (Vice-Chairman), Tom Rosenberg

***Marathon County Mission Statement:*** *Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business.*

***Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Mission Statement:*** *Adaptively manage our park and forest lands for natural resource sustainability while providing healthy recreational opportunities and unique experiences making Marathon County the preferred place to live, work, and play.*

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health directives, Marathon County encourages Committee members and the public to attend this meeting remotely. To this end, instead of attendance in person, Committee members and the public may attend this meeting by telephone conference. If Committee members or members of the public cannot attend remotely, Marathon County requests that appropriate safety measures, including adequate social distancing, be utilized by all in-person attendees.

Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the telephone conference beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:

Phone Number: 1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 187 366 6331

If Required, the Password is 1234

Please Note: If you are prompted to provide an "Attendee Identification Number" enter the # sign. No other number is required to participate in the telephone conference.

**When you enter the telephone conference, PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!**

### **Agenda Items:**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Public Comment – Not to Exceed 15 Minutes – Any Person Who Wishes to Address the Committee Must Provide, Name, Address and the Topic to the Chair of the Committee No Later than Five Minutes Before the Start of the Meeting.**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes of the Monday, May 4, 2021 Committee Meeting**
- 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
    2. Timber Sale Closeouts
      - A. Bell Timber Inc. – Contract #683-19
      - B. Verso Inc. – Contract #684-19

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
- B. Update on the Verso Corporation Mill and Consolidated Cooperative
- C. Paper Excellence Purchases Domtar Mills in Wisconsin
- D. Community Input Meeting Regarding Winter Fat Tire Biking at Nine Mile Forest
- E. Wisconsin 2021-2023 State Budget Update

**7. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 at 1:30pm at 212 River Dr., Wausau, WI 54403, Room 5 or via Webex**

- A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence
- B. Future Agenda Items: Forest Citizens Advisory Subcommittee Appointments, History of Public Timbersales in Wisconsin

**8. Adjournment**

**SIGNED /s/ Thomas Lovlien  
PRESIDING OFFICER OR DESIGNEE**

ANY PERSON PLANNING TO ATTEND THIS MEETING WHO NEEDS SOME TYPE OF SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE SHOULD CALL THE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE AT 261-1500 OR E-MAIL [COUNTYCLERK@CO.MARATHON.WI.US](mailto:COUNTYCLERK@CO.MARATHON.WI.US) ONE BUSINESS DAY BEFORE THE MEETING.

FAXED TO: Daily Herald and other News Media Groups  
FAXED BY: Jodi Luebbe  
FAX DATE/TIME: May 26, 2021 2:00 p.m.

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE:  
By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_ a.m/p.m.

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.

**TIMBER SALE EXTENSION REQUESTS**

Timber Sale Extensions to June 30, 2022

0% increase in stumpage	#681-19	Country Forest Products Received Letter Requesting Extension Cash Bond
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0% increase in stumpage	#682-19	Country Forest Products Received Letter Requesting Extension Cash Bond
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0% increase in stumpage	#667-18	Futurewood Corporation Received Letter Requesting Extension Letter of Credit
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0% increase in stumpage	#670-18	Futurewood Corporation Received Letter Requesting Extension Letter of Credit
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# CLOSE OUT TIMBER SALES

June 1, 2021

Sale 683-19

BELL TIMBER INC

	<b>Estimated</b>	<b>Cut</b>	
Aspen Pulp	200 Tons	416.51 Tons	Aspen Pulp
Oak Pulp	60 Tons	281.27 Tons	Oak Pulp
Red Pine Pulp	6600 Tons	6377.69 Tons	Red Pine Pulp
White Pine Pulp	725 Tons	935.41 Tons	White Pine Pulp
	<b>7585 Tons</b>	<b>8010.88 Total Tons Cut</b>	
Red Oak Sawlogs	3 MBF	10.42 MBF	Red Oak Sawlogs
	<b>3 MBF</b>	<b>10.42 Total MBF Cut</b>	

Total Revenue for Sale: **\$336,661.79**

Balance: \$0.00

Bond Amount: \$84,083.56

Bond Type: Letter of Credit

Recommendation: **Close Out Sale and  
Return Surety Bond**

# CLOSE OUT TIMBER SALES

Sale 684-19

VERSO CORP

	<b>Estimated</b>	<b>Cut</b>	
Aspen Pulp	85 Tons	176.14 Tons	Aspen Pulp
Mixed Hardwood Pulp	2350 Tons	3436.54 Tons	Mixed Hardwood Pulp
Fuelwood	14 Tons	14.20 Tons	Fuelwood
	<b>2449 Tons</b>	<b>3626.88 Total Tons Cut</b>	
Red Maple Sawlogs	65 MBF	61.97 MBF	Red Maple Sawlogs
Mixed Hardwood Sawlog	3 MBF	6.18 MBF	Mixed Hardwood Sawlog
	<b>68 MBF</b>	<b>68.15 Total MBF Cut</b>	

Total Revenue for Sale: **\$50,891.67**

Balance: \$8,786.80

Bond Amount: \$9,984.86

Bond Type: Cash Bond

Recommendation: **Close Out Sale and Return Cash Bond  
of \$9,984.86 Following Final Payment  
\$8,786.80**



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 7, 2021

For more information contact:  
Representative Scott Krug  
Senator Patrick Testin

608-266-0215  
608-266-3123

## **Krug, Testin author bill to assist with the sale of the Verso Mill**

**Madison** – Rep. Scott Krug (R-Rome) and Sen. Patrick Testin (R-Stevens Point) have authored a bill to provide assistance in the purchase of the Verso paper mill in Wisconsin Rapids.

“I think we’ve figured this out,” Rep. Krug announced in unveiling the proposal. “There is already a building. There is equipment, there is expertise, and there is a proven need for product. There is everything needed except for a portion of the money, and this bill would close that gap.”

The Verso mill was the largest employer in Wisconsin Rapids until June 2020 when the mill was closed. Its owner, Verso Corporation, is an Ohio-based corporation; their decision to close the mill was due to paper industry trends that were greatly accelerated and exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Verso mill employed 905 people with professional, family-supporting jobs in Wisconsin Rapids, a community of just 18,000 people.

The mill was the final destination for about one-quarter of all the pulpwood cut in Wisconsin. This means that the effects of the mill closure extend far beyond the 900 jobs in Wood County; without the mill serving as a reliable buyer of softwood, hundreds of small timber cutters have struggled to find buyers for soft/pulpwood.

Loggers have become less willing to cut wood they cannot sell and this affects thousands of landowners participating in the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program. If these landowners are unable to follow the management plans they have filed with DNR (plans that include scheduled cutting of timber) their participation in the program is at risk. This could mean that landowners would have to pay back the property tax savings they had received from their participation in MFL. <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/forestlandowners/mfl>

Further, if the schedule of soft/pulpwood timber cutting in Wisconsin is impaired due to a lack of market for the wood, consequences will result for Wisconsin’s tourism industry as well as for the state of fire safety in Wisconsin’s forests if our forests are not healthy.

***MORE***



The Verso mill is for sale. The Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association (GLTPA) has been working with the University of Wisconsin to form a cooperative entity which would purchase the mill and return it to operation as a soft/pulpwood plant. The Timber Professionals Cooperative (TPC) has now been incorporated and is making significant progress on obtaining the necessary funding and other arrangements with Verso to purchase and operate the mill.

Purchase of the mill by the cooperative would mean that an employee-owned mill with experience and expertise behind it, would again be making paper and employing people in Wisconsin Rapids. The mill would be owned by its own workers and would operate in the best interests of employees and customers. (There would be some opportunity for investors to join the purchase and such investors would also hold some share of the ownership as well.)

The bill proposed by Rep. Krug and Sen. Testin would provide loaned funds to partially close the gap between the price of the mill and the funds that the cooperative has been able to raise, by allocating \$50 million from federal pandemic stimulus/relief funds (the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) to the purchase of the mill. The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) would be the entity making the loan.

- The allocation would be a loan, not a gift. The mill is expected by all observers to be back in operation in fairly short order once a sale is agreed to; the purchasers (and other industry observers) are fully confident that the operation will be profitable and will continue for the foreseeable future as a pulpwood operation.
- The bill requires that before the cooperative receive a loan of stimulus funds through WEDC, the cooperative would have to obtain significant funds from other sources.
- The plan also requires participation by the State of Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL). Because BCPL land holdings are mostly in timber, BCPL is greatly concerned about the loss of the mill as a market for soft/pulpwood. BCPL has indicated that it is able to consider a loan toward the purchase of the Verso mill.
- The bill would require funding from BCPL as well as from private sources, before the loan could be made by WEDC from stimulus funds.

“We have an opportunity to maintain and revitalize a major Wisconsin employer whose work advances the paper industry, the timber industry and our forest resources, and helps maintain the tourism role of managed woodlands in our state. The benefits to the Wisconsin Rapids community are significant, but frankly those benefits PALE in comparison to what’s at stake statewide,” said Senator Testin in discussing the bill.

Krug and Testin are seeking legislative co-sponsors for the proposal, which they will introduce in May. They hope for early action on the bill once it is introduced.

###



# Evers Plan Would Loan Park Falls, Rapids Groups Millions to Buy and Restart Paper Mills

By [BEN MEYER](/PEOPLE/BEN-MEYER) • MAY 20, 2021

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The paper mill in Park Falls.

CREDIT BEN MEYER/WXPR



Listen

1:47

Gov. Tony Evers wants to get idle paper mills in Park Falls and Wisconsin Rapids running again.

He's included millions of dollars in loans as part of a \$1 billion special spending package to do that.

The paper mill in Park Falls has only been operational for a few months (<https://www.wxpr.org/post/after-park-falls-mill-shuttered-again-cooperative-group-seeks-buy#stream/0>) since first shutting down in 2019, and last June, Verso announced it was stopping production at its Wisconsin Rapids mill.

Those moves came at the cost of hundreds of jobs.

But on Wednesday, Evers announced he will call the legislature into special session to consider spending \$1 billion to help the state's economic recovery. The plan would also expand Medicaid in Wisconsin, something that has been rejected by Republicans in the past.

"We're not only going to expand access to healthcare for tens of thousands of people across our state, we're going to use that \$1 billion we'd save and put it toward making sure our economy can bounce back and recover from this pandemic," Evers said in a press release.

Evers proposes loaning \$15 million to a local ownership cooperative to buy the Park Falls mill. A loan of \$50 million would go to the Wisconsin Rapids cooperative group.

Park Falls Mayor Michael Bablick said the loans are critical for the economic health of the region.

"Both of these mills, and I'll definitely admit that the Rapids mill is has much more volume than Park Falls, if they don't come back up, you're going to see a wave of bankruptcies in the logging industry like we've never seen before," Bablick said. "It's going to cause some serious, serious economic hardships in northern Wisconsin."

Bablick points out the closed mills have had a direct impact on countless loggers who supply pulpwood.

He feels Park Falls' advocacy for itself with state and federal politicians has paid off.

"There's been a lot of communication over these couple of years with them. I think the idea and the issue has stayed in their minds. When this opportunity arose, I think that those conversations had a meaningful impact with why this was included in the Governor's proposal," he said.

The special session will be next Tuesday.

Republicans have swiftly rejected taking action in several other special sessions called by Evers since he was elected, but Bablick is hopeful for a different result.

“If Republicans and Democrats can’t come together on, to me, pretty much the most basic of questions—are we going to let the timber industry in northern Wisconsin fail?—and I don’t say that lightly. I’m talking serious economic issues...and if Democrats and Republicans can’t come together on that basic question, then I think politics in this state are even worse than I thought,” he said.

TAGS: [PAPER MILLS \(/TERM/PAPER-MILLS\)](#) [PARK FALLS \(/TERM/PARK-FALLS\)](#) [VERSO \(/TERM/VERSO\)](#)

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APR 2, 2021 [🔊](#)

## **NEKOOSA, ROTNSCHILD operations will continue under Domtar management**

**Caitlin Shuda** USA TODAY NETWORK-Wisconsin

Published 8:28 a.m. CT May 11, 2021 | Updated 1:21 p.m. CT May 11, 2021

Paper Excellence confirmed Tuesday it will purchase Domtar.

The companies announced Paper Excellence will buy all shares of Domtar stock in an all-cash deal valued at \$3 billion. After the transaction is complete, Paper Excellence will continue operating Domtar as its own business, and Domtar mills will continue to be led by the Domtar management teams. Paper Excellence will keep its corporate and production locations, as well.

Domtar employs about 6,600 people, including about 390 people at the Nekoosa mill, and about 350 people at the mill in Rothschild.

Tammy Waters, Domtar's manager of communications and government relations, said the agreement will bring stability and a long-term commitment to Domtar's plan for growth, benefiting Domtar's employees and the communities it operates in.

"Our culture of collaboration and community engagement, years in the making is deeply rooted and lasting," Waters said. "That will not change."

Domtar will continue as a standalone business, operating the same mills with the same employees and using the same forests. The supply chain and manufacturing assets also will remain unchanged, and customers can expect the same quality and quantity of paper and pulp from the company, Waters said.

Scott Suder, the president of the Wisconsin Paper Council, said Wisconsin continues to be the number one producer of paper in the entire nation, and the new agreement between Domtar and Paper Excellence solidifies that. Suder said the agreement shows how strong Domtar is and how strong and the industry in the state has been.

"This isn't a case of a company moving out of state," Suder said. "It's a case of a company that is seeing an investment in themselves and investment in the industry."

central Wisconsin area.

“Any corporate activity that results in mills remaining open and employing a large number of friends and neighbors in well-paying jobs is welcome news indeed,” he said.

Joe Ragan, Paper Excellence’s global chief financial officer, described Domtar as “a natural fit” for the Canadian company.

“We are excited to add Domtar and its employees to the Paper Excellence global family,” Ragan said. “This marks a major step in our global strategy of identifying well-positioned assets and positioning them for growth.”

Domtar’s board of directors approved the deal unanimously. The deal is expected to close in the second half of 2021, pending the approval of regulators and Domtar shareholders.

“Our dedicated employees have been instrumental to Domtar’s success, and I am glad to see that this transaction supports the strategy that our team has worked so hard to develop over the last several years,” said John Williams, Domtar’s president and CEO. “As part of Paper Excellence, we will build on that momentum.”

Domtar, based out of Fort Mill, South Carolina, operates about a dozen mills in the United States and Canada in addition to the mills in Nekoosa and Rothschild. The company also owns 10 converting and manufacturing facilities across the United States.

Paper Excellence, a privately-held company founded in 2007 and based in British Columbia, operates seven mills in Canada. The company manufactures pulp that is used to make packaging, tissues, towels and other specialty paper products. Paper Excellence purchased Catalyst Paper Corp., another Canadian company, in 2019. Those facilities produce packaging papers for retailers, commercial printers, publishers and other customers.

**RELATED:** Domtar 'in discussions' with Paper Excellence on acquisition or merger of paper mill companies

**OTHER NEWS:** Loyal-Phant Market is moving to a new home in Wisconsin Rapids, with some changes in store

Contact Caitlin at [cshuda@gannett.com](mailto:cshuda@gannett.com) or follow her on Twitter @CaitlinShuda.



CENTRAL WISCONSIN OFFROAD CYCLING COALITION

**WINTER FAT BIKE TRAILS AT  
NINE MILE COUNTY FOREST  
RECREATION AREA**



BUILDING A BETTER  
MOUNTAIN BIKING  
COMMUNITY IN  
CENTRAL WISCONSIN



## WINTER FAT BIKE TRAILS AT NINE MILE COUNTY FOREST RECREATION AREA

Winter fat biking has become an increasingly popular winter sport in the Midwest. Many major mountain bike trail systems in the Midwest also have winter fat biking including popular destinations like the Cable/Hayward, WI area, Marquette, Michigan, and Duluth, Minnesota. CWOCC is seeking groomed winter fat bike trails at Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area, an already popular spring, summer, and fall offroad cycling destination. Currently, CWOCC grooms winter fat bike trails at Ringle Trails, Big Eau Pleine County Park, and Praire Dells - Underdown (Lincoln County). CWOCC is ready and willing to work with the Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department and Wausau Nordic Ski Club to make winter fat biking a success at Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area.

### DETAILS OF THE NINE MILE REQUEST INCLUDE:

- Explore options with Marathon County for winter bike trail passes. Options to consider are expanding current bike trail passes to include winter fat biking or develop a separate winter fat bike trail pass.
- Winter fat bike trails would be limited to groomed singletrack (shown in blue on the map), some of which is shared with snowshoe trail.
- Winter fat bikes must have tires at least 3.8" wide.
- Ski trail crossing/yield to skier signage will be added at each intersection of the winter fat bike and ski trail.
- Fat bikers will yield to skiers.
- When riding at night, fat bikers are required to have headlights.
- No fat biking would be allowed on groomed skate or classic ski trails, except at trail crossings and for special events.
- CWOCC would educate and reinforce trail usage and etiquette to our riders.
- CWOCC will be responsible for grooming winter fat bike trails. CWOCC has successfully groomed winter fat bike trail utilizing volunteers for years.
- Winter fat bike riders would have access to the chalet during open hours.
- CWOCC will communicate trails closures to riders during the Nordic Club's major events, i.e., Snekkevik, Badger State Games, etc.
- *Proposed winter fat bike trail route on following page.*

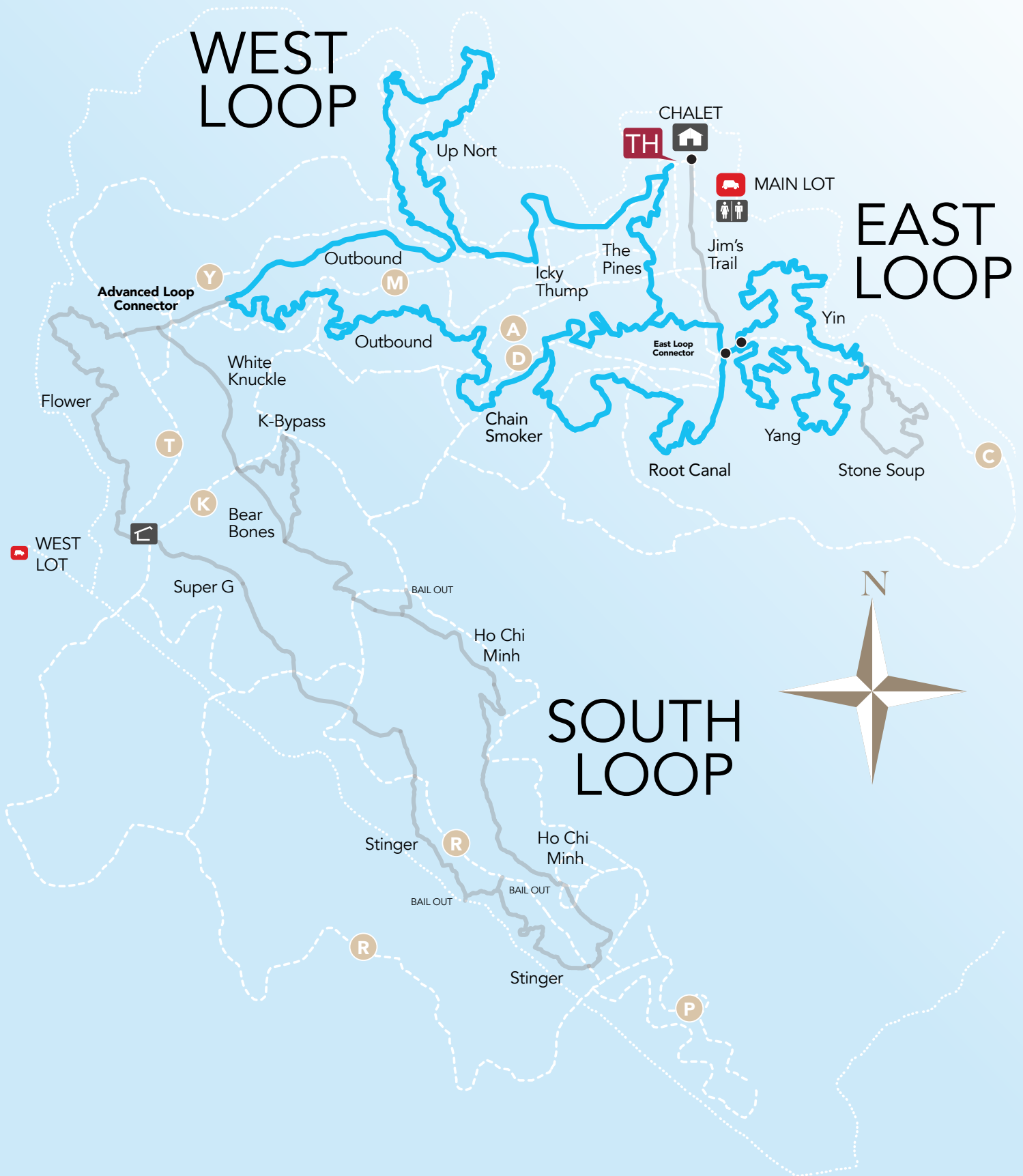


**Thank you for your consideration.**  
Additional questions can be directed to the following CWOCC representative:

- Aaron Ruff - 715-432-4252
- Jahn Martin - 715-581-1022
- Matt Block - 715-297-9134



# PROPOSED FATBIKE ROUTE



## Request for Additional Services

### Winter Fat Biking at Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area

Purpose: The Wausau & Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department has a desire to always provide high quality recreational services and facilities. With restricted financial and personnel resources the Department needs a process to evaluate requests for additional services. Additional services being defined as additions to programs and facilities or new programs and facilities.

In order to fully evaluate and stimulate thought on the complete aspects of additional services, please provide the Department with a request that includes the following (all items may not pertain and may not be known by requestor):

- Please describe program or facility where additional services are being requested.

The Central Wisconsin Offroad Cycling Coalition (CWOCC) is requesting winter fat biking at Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area. This would involve grooming mountain bike singletrack trails during winter months for winter riding. The winter fat bike season would align with the current cross-country ski and snowshoe season at Nine Mile.

- Please describe additional services/facility being requested.

Grooming of beginner/intermediate mountain bike singletrack during the winter months (see attached CWOCC proposal with map). Fat bikes with tires 3.8" or greater would be allowed to ride on groomed mountain bike singletrack during winter months as conditions allow.

- Why do you think this additional service/facility is needed?

The number one question that gets asked of CWOCC is, "When can we ride our fat bikes at Nine Mile in winter?". Winter fat biking continues to be a popular activity and many area mountain bike trail systems offer both summer and winter biking options. Nine Mile is already a well-known and beloved summer mountain biking destination.

- What exactly is being asked of the Department (funding, maintenance, construction)?

To allow for winter fat biking at Nine Mile. As discussed previously with County staff, CWOCC would handle all winter fat bike trail grooming responsibilities. CWOCC has used two of the County's Snowdogs to groom winter fat bike trail for the past two Winter Triathlons at Nine Mile. The ask is permission from the County to allow for winter fat bike trail grooming and riding during the winter recreation season at Nine Mile.

- What are the total costs for the additional services/facilities (not only initial costs but future costs)?

No additional facilities requested. Allowing winter fat biking on current mountain bike singletrack trails is the main component. Increased trail signage would be needed if winter fat biking is allowed.

- How would it be funded (what is the County/City being asked to contribute, what is the group willing to contribute, grants, donations, etc.)?

CWOCC is willing to contribute, but would like to explore funding partnership options with the County for increased trail signage. CWOCC will handle all winter fat bike trail grooming responsibilities.

- Who will provide maintenance in the future (will it be turned over to the Department upon completion, will there be maintenance funds put aside, group to provide some maintenance, who repairs damage, etc.)?

CWOCC has provided all mountain bike trail maintenance at Nine Mile for a decade. CWOCC will continue to provide trail maintenance at Nine Mile.

- What are the expectations of the County/City once it is complete?

Continue to be a collaborative partner with CWOCC. Regular check-ins about trail conditions, issues, etc. We would certainly want to continue our strong partnership!

- What is the timeline for completion?

By winter 2021





Wausau & Marathon County  
**Parks, Recreation  
& Forestry**

## Nine Mile Winter Fat Tire Biking

This survey will help us gain the input needed from the community to discuss the possible addition of fat tire biking at Nine Mile County Forest Recreation Area.

What activities at Nine Mile do you participate in?

- Snowshoeing
- Cross Country Skiing
- Hunting
- Mountain Biking
- None of the above
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

What benefits do you see in adding Fat Tire Biking to Nine Mile?

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(Please see other side)



