

Members present: Tom Rosenberg, Arnie Schlei(c)

Member excused: Rick Seefeldt

Also present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director, Jean Maszk-County Board member, Chad Keranen – DNR Liaison

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 June 1, 2021 regular Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.
4. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution
 - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
 1. Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee Appointments
Lovlien explained that every September half of the Subcommittee member's terms expire. This year all five members have expressed interest in staying on the Committee. Typically if the members are in good standing they are re-appointed. Questions were answered. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Schlei to re-appoint the five members to the Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee. 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. 2021 – 2023 State Budget – Forestry Updates – Lovlien said all of the grants and aids that forestry has been eligible for in the past have remained the same. He noted that the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant was reauthorized for four years. The only thing that could potentially affect County forest grants for land acquisition is that the amount went down from five million to three million each year. He also noted that the variable acreage share payment to the townships with County forest lands have increased from thirty cents to sixty three cents an acre. This payment comes out of State funds and it along with the timber sale stumpage payments that the County shares with those towns now should make up for a majority of the lost taxes those towns would have received had they been in residential ownership. There is also an increase of a million dollars in UTV aids for the State and a few others. Discussion followed.
 - B. Verso Corporation and Consolidated Cooperative Status – Lovlien said Atlas Holding Company has made an offer to purchase all of the Verso mills in the United States. Verso is currently looking at that offer and what it means for the future of the Wisconsin Rapids mill remains unknown. The Cooperative had been trying to purchase the Verso mill and is on hold. The Park Falls Cooperative has their package out for thirty days to anyone interested in investing in that mill. There is still the potential the County will be asked to invest in the Verso Mill in Wisconsin Rapids sometime in the future.
 - C. Completed Public Forest Timber Sales – Lovlien discussed a report of Completed Public Forest Timber Sales from 2009 – 2021. He said the stumpage that all the Counties received in 2020 dropped a little from 2018 and 2019 but has bounced back in 2021 to almost forty-one million dollars. The State plays a role in public forest stumpage but it is a lot lesser than the Counties role. The loggers have always told the counties that they rely on their wood each year. Lovlien also wanted to note that half the year is done and it looks like the Department will reach its evenflow mark of \$245,000. It may go over that amount but that would depend on how many loggers move in and start their sales this fall.

D. Discussion on Voluntary Carbon Credit Markets – Lovlien said large companies that produce a lot of greenhouse gasses want to become carbon neutral. These companies are starting to buy carbon credits from landowners. Bluesource is a company that works with public and private landowners that want to get paid for the carbon stored within their trees. Some counties in Wisconsin are starting to look into the program and he is studying it as well. He discussed some of the details of the program. The Wisconsin County Forests Association has set up a web-ex conference and he will continue to gather information to see if it is something that might fit with Marathon County. Discussion followed.

7. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: August 31, 2021, 1:30pm, Rm. 5 and webex, 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – Schlei would like information brought to the public about the harmful effects of wild parsnip sap, Polley extended an invitation for the County parks tour on August 26th.

B. Future Agenda Items: Results of the 2021 Forest Certification Audit, Consider Approving Fall 2021 Timber Sale Package, WCFA Annual Meeting

8. Adjourn – Motion / second by Schlei / Rosenberg to adjourn the meeting at 2:40pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.