

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

Also present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director, Joe Tucker-County Forester, 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 Rosenberg / Seefeldt to approve the minutes from the August 3, 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. Consider Approving Fall 2021 Timber Sale Package – The fall timber sale package had been distributed to Committee for review. The sale offers 378 acres of timber on five tracts with an estimated volume of 17,950 tons and 295.0 thousand board feet. Joe Tucker, County Forester discussed all the sales. The sales will be advertised and the bid opening is October 4, 2021. Questions were answered. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Rosenberg to approve the fall 2021 Timber Sale Package. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.
 2. Consider Amending the Marathon County Timber Sale Contract 2.A. on Extensions – Lovlien explained that the penalties for extensions had been set in the contract a long time ago when there were not any problems with getting the contracts cut. Lovlien is recommending the percentages for extensions on two or two and a half year contracts be reduced from 20% to 10% and a three year contract from 25% to 15%. This would be more in line with what other Counties and the State are doing. The hope is to get past COVID plus the poor markets and follow the contract with more realistic stumpage increases unless there are extenuating circumstances. At an upcoming meeting the Committee will be asked to extend 6-8 contracts. Most Counties/State have been giving one-year extensions with zero percent increases for the last two years. Discussion followed on whether language should be changed in the contract to reflect the allowance for zero percent increases for extenuating circumstances and the possible ramifications of changing the language. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to change the percentages from 20% to 10% and 25% to 15% percent. Motion carried by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.
 3. 2022 County Conservation Aids Project – Lovlien explained that last year’s project was for archery range improvements at the Duane L. Corbin Shooting Range Park. The project included elevated platforms and the purchase of archery targets. Department staff has found the project entails more rebuild of the platforms and archery targets so that the project can be completed. Lovlien recommends that the 2022 project monies be used to add on to the project at the range. **Motion** / second Rosenberg / Schlei that the 2022 County Conservation Aids Project grant monies be applied for and used for addition to the 2021 project at the shooting range. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.
 - 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. Preliminary Results of the 2021 Forest Certification Audit - Lovlien reported that the audit took place in August in Eau Claire, Clark, Chippewa, and Polk counties. Under the SFI system that Marathon County is certified there was only one Opportunity For Improvement which concerned the DNR specifically, not the counties. There were a couple FSC Minor Corrective Action Requests that were specific to the Forest Stewardship Council. There may be some pushback from the DNR and Counties concerning the audit. Lovlien will bring the final report back to Committee.

B. WCFA Annual Meeting – September 22 – 23 Hayward, WI - Lovlien asked that any members interested in attending this meeting notify him.

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

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – Keranen announced he has accepted a job with Vilas County and will be leaving his position with the DNR. Lovlien and the Committee thanked Chad for over 15 years of work on the Marathon County Forest.

B. Future Agenda Items: Consider Timber Bids and Award Contracts, 2022 Budget Update

8. Adjourn – Motion / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.