

Members present: Tom Rosenberg, Rick Seefeldt

Also present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director

1. Call Meeting to Order – The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Seefeldt 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 October 5, 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. Consider Timber Bids and Award Contracts – Lovlien reported that seven bids were received on the three sales at the secondary bid opening. All the high bids received were over the appraised values. Lovlien recommends selling the remaining tracts to the high bidders. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to award tracts 6-21, 8-21 and 9-21 to the high bidders. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.
 - 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. Article – Paper Mill Closures Prove a Bust for Northwoods Loggers.
The article discussed the issues affecting the forest industry from paper mills closures, mostly from Verso closing its mill in Wisconsin Rapids. Counties are starting to feel the effects and the article gave an example of how Price County has received less bids and more of the bids under the appraised values at its most recent bid opening. Lovlien said beside lower revenues this trend could also affect the health of the forests if they are not harvested. The article also points out that even if someone comes up with money to buy the Verso mill, Verso has to be willing to sell it. Their company share price today is well above where it was before the pandemic. Atlas Holdings had offered them a cash price but Verso said they were only going to consider a potential transaction if Atlas Holdings increases its offer. Lovlien said that everyone just has to hold on and see what Verso decides in the long run, if it makes business sense for them to sell their mill or not.
 - B. Participation and Revenue for NICA High School Mountain Bike Race – Lovlien said the race was held on October 16th at Nine mile. There were 815 riders, 165 people camped, and the revenue was \$5,691.00.
7. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Nov. 30, 2021, 1:30pm, Rm. 5 and webex, 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403
 - A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – Lovlien said the Department has had a tree planted through American Forests as a living memorial for Arnie Schlei.
 - B. Future Agenda Items: Timber Sale Extension Requests, 2022 County Forest and Wildlife Work Plans, Application for County Forest Acreage Share Payment, 2022 Forestry/Recreation Committee Tentative Meeting Schedule, Timber Sale Closeout
8. Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to adjourn the meeting at 2:00pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.