

Members present: Tom Rosenberg, Rick Seefeldt

Also present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director, Brandon Stefanski – DNR Wildlife Biologist, Joseph Schwantes – DNR NR Area Supervisor-(via web-ex)

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. 2022 Forestry / Recreation Committee Tentative Meeting Schedule – Committee agreed to keep the meetings on the same schedule that the Environmental Committee follows which is the Tuesday before the first Thursday of every month. This meeting will continue to be held at 1:30pm.
    2. Consider Timber Sale Contract Extension Requests – Lovlien explained that because of Covid, markets, and poor winters there are a lot of timber sale contract extension requests. He discussed each contract, how much work they have completed, and their reasons they submitted for requesting an extension. Lovlien said he usually recommends a one-year extension but is recommending a six-month extension because most of the contracts are winter only sales. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to approve six-month extensions at a zero percent increase in stumpage for contracts #678-19, #673-18, #671-18, #668-18, #665-18, #666-18, and #660-17 and if these sales are not completed that any additional extension requests will be subject to stumpage increases following the contract. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0. Lovlien discussed the history, completion amount, and reasons submitted for an extension request on contract #644-15. The sale is six years old. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to approve a six-month extension for contract #644-15 at a zero percent increase and if it is not completed this winter 21-22 the sale will be closed out and the purchasers performance bond may be forfeited due to breach of contract. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.
    3. Timber Close Out – Wilson Forestry LLC Contract #702-21 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 2780 and 2708.78 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$42,240.04. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close out Contract #702-21 and return their remaining balance of \$13,859.96 and their original Letter of Credit. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to close out Contract #702-21 and return their remaining balance of \$13,859.96 and their original Letter of Credit. 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
    1. Review and Consider Approving the 2022 Wildlife Work Plan – Brandon Stefanski, DNR Wildlife Biologist – The work plan had been previously distributed. Stefanski reported on accomplishments from 2021 and explained the 2022 workplan. Work includes flowage maintenance, dike maintenance, cattail management at the Bern flowage, wild rice seeding, alder and invasive species management, and forest opening maintenance. Stefanski discussed the Nickel-An-Acre budget.
    2. Review and Consider Approving the 2022 County Forest Work Plan – Lovlien reviewed the work plan. He gave highlights on upcoming work including timber management, road and trail maintenance, conservation aids projects, administration, GIS work and professional development. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to approve the 2022 County Forest Work Plan and forward the Resolution and work plan to the Environmental Resource Committee for their consideration. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.

3. Resolution: Application for County Forest Acreage Payment – Lovlien explained that this interest free loan is based upon the number of County forest acres at 50 cents for the purchase, development, preservation, and maintenance of county forest lands. In the last several years, the loan has mainly been used to match the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grants to purchase land. The loan is paid back through a 20% severance tax on timber. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to approve the Resolution for the Application for County Forest Acreage Payment and forward it to the Environmental Resource Committee. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.
5. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee – None
6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports  
A. Assembly Bill 682 Relating to the Verso Paper Mill in Wisconsin Rapids – A second bill had been introduced that includes a fifteen-million-dollar loan for the Park Falls mill and a grant of one-million dollars to keep the Wisconsin Rapids mill in an operational condition. The bill would allow for potential purchase options to continue. Since this information was released to the public, the Park Falls mill has sold everything at an auction so Lovlien doesn't know what that might do to the bill. Also because of differences in the Assembly and Senate versions they will have to meet and work the differences out which probably won't happen until the Senate is back in session in January. Lovlien also noted that Verso has to be willing to sell the mill.
7. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: January 4, 2022, 1:30pm, Rm. 5 and webex, 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403  
A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – Schwantes gave updates on the vacant DNR Liaison and supervisory positions. The Team Leader position could be filled by late January and the Liaison by March/April 2022 at the earliest. He said the DNR is committed to fulfilling their liaison hours on the County forest and they will also be working on a project updating recon on some older County forest timber stands.  
B. Future Agenda Items: Timber Sale Closeouts, Winter Recreational Program Update, Perry Dau Memorial
8. Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to adjourn the meeting at 2:35pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 2-0.