



MARATHON COUNTY FORESTRY/RECREATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

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

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

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

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: 2499 478 2524

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 Tuesday, November 2, 2021 Committee Meeting**
- 4. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**
 - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
 1. 2022 Forestry / Recreation Committee Tentative Meeting Schedule
 2. Consider Timber Sale Contract Extension Requests
 3. Timber Close Out – Wilson Forestry LLC Contract #702 - 21
 - 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
 2. Review and Consider Approving the 2022 County Forest Work Plan
 3. Resolution: Application for County Forest Acreage Payment

- 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
- 7. **Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at 1:30pm at 212 River Dr., Wausau, WI 54403, Room 5 or via Webex**
 - A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence
 - B. Future Agenda Items: Timber Sale Closeouts, Winter Recreational Program Update, Perry Dau Memorial
- 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 ONE BUSINESS DAY BEFORE THE MEETING.

FAXED TO: Daily Herald and other News Media Groups
 FAXED BY: Jodi Luebbe
 FAX DATE/TIME: November 23, 2021 10:00 a.m.

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

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.



MEMO

To: Forestry/Recreation Committee
From: Tom Lovlien, Forest Administrator
Date: November 30, 2021
Re: 2022 Meeting Dates

Meetings begin at 1:30pm

Tuesday, January 4	212 River Drive, Room 5
Tuesday, February 1	212 River Drive, Room <u>3</u>
Tuesday, March 1	212 River Drive, Room 5
Tuesday, April 5	212 River Drive, Room 5
Tuesday, May 3	212 River Drive, Room 5
Tuesday, May 31	212 River Drive, Room 5
Tuesday, July 5	212 River Drive, Room 5
Tuesday, August 2	212 River Drive, Room 5
Tuesday, August 30	212 River Drive, Room 5
Tuesday, October 4	212 River Drive, Room 5
Tuesday, November 1	212 River Drive, Room 5
Tuesday, November 29	212 River Drive, Room 5

TIMBER SALE EXTENSION REQUESTS**DECEMBER 2021**1. Sales that are 2.5 years old on December 30, 2021 - (1st Extension Request)

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Purchaser</u>	<u>% Completed</u>	<u>Season</u>
#678-19	Schreiber Logging	60%	Dry Fall / Winter

2. Sales that are 3 years old on December 30, 2021 - (1st Extension Request)

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Purchaser</u>	<u>% Completed</u>	<u>Season</u>
#673-18	Verso Corporation	25%	Dry Fall / Winter

3. Sales that are 3 or 3.5 years old on December 30, 2021 - (2nd Extension Request)

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Purchaser</u>	<u>% Completed</u>	<u>Season</u>
#671-18	Javorek Logging	100%	Dry Fall / Winter
#668-18	Bell Timber	0%	Dry Fall / Winter
#665-18	John Denfeld Logging	0%	Dry Fall / Winter
#666-18	Jacobs Logging	75%	Summer/ Fall / Winter

4. Sales that are 4 years old on December 30, 2021 - (2nd Extension Request)

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Purchaser</u>	<u>% Completed</u>	<u>Season</u>
#660-17	Tigerton Lumber Inc.	95%	Winter Only

5. Sales that are 6 years old on December 30, 2021 - (4th Extension Request)

<u>Contract #</u>	<u>Purchaser</u>	<u>% Completed</u>	<u>Season</u>
#644-15	Central WI Lumber	15%	Winter Only

CLOSE OUT TIMBER SALES

Sale 702-21

WILSON FORESTRY LLC

	Estimated	Cut	
Aspen Pulp	1750 Tons	1650.73 Tons	Aspen Pulp
Mixed Hardwood Pulp	220 Tons	339.13 Tons	Mixed Hardwood Pulp
Oak Pulp	350 Tons	718.92 Tons	Oak Pulp
Mixed Hardwood Tops <	460 Tons		
	2780 Tons	2708.78 Total Tons Cut	
Mixed Hardwood Sawlog	2 MBF	0.16 MBF	Mixed Hardwood Sawlog
Red Oak Sawlogs	30 MBF	22.23 MBF	Red Oak Sawlogs
	32 MBF	22.39 Total MBF Cut	

Total Revenue for Sale: **\$42,240.04**

Balance: (\$13,859.96)

Bond Amount: \$11,008.13

Bond Type: Letter of Credit

Recommendation: **Close sale, return balance of
\$13,859.96 and original
Letter of Credit**

TO APPROVE THE ANNUAL COUNTY FOREST WORK PLAN

WHEREAS, Marathon County has lands enrolled in the Wisconsin County Forest Land Program commonly referred to as the Marathon County Forest; and

WHEREAS, the Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan requires an annual work plan to be approved by the Marathon County Board of Supervisors to be eligible for certain grant funding per §28.11(5)(b), Wis. Stats.; and

WHEREAS, the Forestry/Recreation Committee and Environmental Resources Committees approved the 2022 Forestry Division Work Plan at their regular meeting held November 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Marathon County Board of Supervisors adopted the 2022 Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department Budget at its budget meeting November 9, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the County Board of Supervisors of the County of Marathon does hereby ordain and resolve as follows: To approve and adopt the attached 2022 Forestry Division Work Plan.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND RESOLVED, that the County Clerk is directed to issue checks pursuant to this resolution and the Treasurer to honor said checks.

Dated this 14th day of December, 2021.

FORESTRY/RECREATION COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Fiscal Impact Estimate: No Budgetary Tax Levy Impact. If the Resolution is not approved, the County would lose \$66,966.00 State Grant Funds.

Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department Forestry Division 2022 Work Plan

Personnel:	Forest Administrator	1.00 FTE
	County Forester	0.80 FTE
	Director	0.06 FTE
	Department Clerical Support	0.50 FTE
	Maintenance Specialist (labor)	0.26 FTE
	Maintenance Technician (labor)	0.26 FTE
	Recreational Officer (Sheriff)	0.04 FTE
	DNR Cooperative Assistance (State Funded)	0.35 FTE
	 Total	 3.27 FTE

A. Timber Management:

1. Evaluate a minimum of 5% of the forest (1550 acres) and update compartment reconnaissance.
2. Establish and advertise 625-675 acres of timber for sale. Timber sale acreage and locations are determined using the Wisconsin Forest Inventory and Reporting System (WisFIRS) and proposed long-term harvest goals chapter 2000 of the County Fifteen Year Comprehensive Plan. Specific locations and details about timber harvests scheduled for the coming year can be obtained by contacting the County Parks, Recreation and Forestry Office.
3. Administer the cutting and scaling of 33 timber sales on 2232 acres established on County Forest Land with an estimated stumpage value of \$1,223,536.06.
4. Administer the cutting and scaling of one timber sale on 81 acres at Big Eau Pleine Park with an estimated stumpage value of \$28,420.00.
5. Complete site preparation (disc trenching and herbicide) on approximately 80 acres at Nine Mile Forest Unit to prepare the area for planting red pine in the spring of 2023.
6. Complete deer browse surveys at Big Eau Pleine Park and on County Forest lands to determine to what extent tree regeneration is being affected.
7. Classify habitat types on a minimum of 1000 acres.
8. Calculate allowable harvest levels out 20 and 30 years to ensure sustainability.
9. Evaluate 35-40 year-old aspen stands to determine feasibility of harvesting stands early to improve age class distribution and stabilize harvest levels.
10. Issue approximately 25 firewood permits.
11. Release 2019 planting of white pine and white spruce at Kronenwetter Forest Unit.
12. Release 2020 plantings of red pine at the Miller and Nine Mile Forest Units.
13. Evaluate and complete oak scarification on sites that are identified throughout the year.

14. Evaluate release needs for all acres of red pine planted since 2012. Release plantations by mechanical or herbicides as needed.
15. Continue to assist the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources with an oak wilt study to confirm the frill-girdle-herbicide method to stop the disease from spreading through interconnected root systems.
16. Complete forest inventories and management recommendations on park properties.
17. Continue implementing the policy on heterobasidial root rot disease requiring contractors to spray conifer stumps with fungicide to prevent infection according to DNR recommendations.
18. Monitor timber sales for unauthorized timber removal using the video detection system.
19. Monitor, evaluate, and treat oak wilt pockets in Nine Mile and other Forest Units.
20. Monitor, evaluate, and treat invasive species on the forest.
21. Apply techniques that reduce the ash component in forest stands on County Forest and Park lands according to DNR recommendations due to Emerald Ash borer being found in the County for the first time in 2017.

B. Road, Trail, and Facility Construction and Maintenance:

1. Continue the contract with APHIS for beaver control.
2. Inspect county forest and park boundaries as needed to control encroaching uses from neighboring private landowners.
3. Contract with professional land surveyors to complete surveys where needed to facilitate administration between County Forest and private lands.
4. Mow 50 miles of hunter walking trails and associated wildlife openings.
5. Mow all forest road ditches in the County Forest.
6. Maintain pit toilets at Bitzke Nature Trail, Burma Road and Nine Mile Forest Units.
7. Continue to assist law enforcement for illegal tree stands, unauthorized motorized use, and dumping on County Forest property.
8. Continue to assist law enforcement to enforce seasonal closures and ordinance violations at Nine Mile and other Forest Units.
9. Resurface up to 2 miles of trails in Nine Mile and Burma Forest Units.
10. Maintain 6.48 miles of certified County Forest Roads.
11. Fabricate and install gates where needed.
12. Place granite on roads and trails in Forest Units to patch holes as needed.
13. Check the National Heritage Inventory Database (NHI) and the Wildlife Action Plan for endangered resources on any project that occurs on the County Forest.
14. Complete a County Conservation Aids project at Duane Corbin Shooting Range Park that replaces archery shooting platforms and targets.
15. Complete a County Conservation Aids Project at DC Everest County Park that replaces boat planks and asphalt near the landing.
16. Replace culverts in Leathercamp, Kronenwetter, Nine Mile and Burma Forest Units as needed.
17. Continue mitigation of the 2010 flood using a FEMA grant at the Bern Forest Unit.

18. Complete an Archeological search on any proposed project on County Forest lands.

C. Land and Equipment:

1. Negotiate the purchase of additional lands to enter as County Forest that will improve blocking, facilitate management, and aligns with the Marathon County Strategic and County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plans.
2. Maintain all vehicles and equipment.

D. Developed Recreation (Non-Motorized):

1. Participate in the planning, administration and approval of all trail construction, expansions, relocations, and maintenance on County Forest Lands.
2. Monitor reconstruction of 2 km of the Nine Mile ski trail to improve trail profile and surface characteristics.
3. Assist Park facilities division in administering intensive recreation at Nine Mile.
4. Utilize volunteers to brush up to 20 km of ski trail.
5. Monitor the non-motorized recreation on County Forest Land.
6. Continue working with the Central Wisconsin Off-Road Cycling Coalition on the proposal to add winter fat biking at Nine Mile Forest.
7. Continue working with Wausau Nordic Ski Club on the proposal to add a snowmaking operation at Nine Mile Forest.

E. Developed Recreation (Motorized):

1. Participate in the planning, administration, and approval of all trail construction, expansions, relocations, and maintenance on County Forest Lands.
2. Monitor and approve reconstruction of the Burma Road Forest ATV/UTV trails.
3. The Central Wisconsin Trailblazers ATV/UTV club will maintain 11 miles of ATV/UTV trail in the Burma Road Forest to include brushing, grading, signing, and mowing.
4. Assess all trails and land in the Burma Road Forest to protect the resource from excessive soil erosion and to prevent illegal off-trail use.
5. Volunteers will brush up to 42 miles of snowmobile trail on County Forest Land.
6. Monitor the snowmobile program on County Forest Land.
7. Monitor and enforce ordinances pertaining to the unauthorized motorized use (ATV/UTV) on all County Forest Units.
8. Assist the Motorized Recreation Coordinator on the update of the Countywide snowmobile map.

F. Wildlife Management (Partially Grant funded):

1. Complete work identified in the DNR annual wildlife work plan. (See attached plan).

2. Mow flowage dikes, forest trails and select openings for brush control.
3. Seed select forest trails following timber sales to enhance wildlife habitat.
4. Improve forest opening condition through mechanical and chemical applications.
5. Cooperate with the DNR on identifying tag alder to shear in the Harrison-Hewitt and Leathercamp Forest Units.
6. Cooperate with the Ruffed Grouse Society and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service on tag alder shearing in Harrison-Hewitt Forest Unit.

G. Administration and GIS:

1. Implement the 2021-2035 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
2. Develop and improve the Forestry Division portion on the Department's web page.
3. Continue to work with the Forest Citizen's Advisory Subcommittee for county forests to address issues of concern including use conflicts at Nine Mile during the fall season, the sustainability of mountain biking, equestrian user needs, and the impact of forest management on hunting.
4. Amend the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan to reflect ordinance, boundary, and policy changes.
5. Continue implementing marking guidelines, Best Management Practices for Invasive Species and Biomass Harvesting guidelines on the County Forest.
6. Attend the Annual DNR integrated planning meeting to evaluate, maintain, and improve the County/DNR partnership.
7. Develop interpretive displays explaining the benefits of sustainable forest management for display at recreation areas.
8. Monitor and administer all road use, land use, and other agreements/leases currently on County Forest Lands. Develop new agreements or leases when appropriate.
9. Implement and monitor third party Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) forest certification on the Marathon County Forest.
10. Coordinate integration of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan with the Marathon County Comprehensive and Strategic Plans.
11. Continue to implement the DNR Wisconsin Forest Inventory Reporting System (WisFIRS).
12. Follow the Bern Flowage emergency action plan, if required, due to flooding.
13. Review county zoning to ensure alignment with the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.
14. Apply for grants and permits that accomplish County Forest and Park land improvements.
15. Supervise the County Forester and other seasonal employees.
16. Continue to be part of the senior administration team working on strategic planning and other initiatives to meet Department and County goals.
17. Work with newly hired County Forest Liaison Forester to ensure a smooth transition.
18. Participate and assist Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in the three-year Financial and Programmatic audit of the County Forest.
19. Assist in the annual Marathon County single audit of Forestry budgets.

20. Develop a sustainability plan for Forestry in the event of economic downturn or reduced funding.
21. Complete a succession plan for continued service in the event of a vacancy.
22. Educate new members of the Forestry/Recreation and Environmental Resources Committees on County Forest management.

H. Public Outreach/Professional Development (Public Outreach dependent on Covid)

1. Participate in school career programs and make at least two classroom presentations on forestry and natural resource management.
2. Attend County sponsored training and other management meetings as required.
3. Participate in job shadows introducing students into the forestry profession.
4. Continue to assist the public with insect, disease, and timber management information.
5. Give tours on the County Forest including UW-Stevens Point and the Forestry/Recreation Committee as time allows.
6. Attend appropriate professional development training.
7. Maintain membership in the Society of American Foresters.
8. Attend Forest Certification training as required.
9. Continue to work with the Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) by serving as a member of the Legislative/Forest Certification Committee on issues affecting County Forests.
10. Continue involvement on numerous WCFA committee's advancing the practice of forestry.
11. Continue updating maps to be included in new Forest Unit brochures and website for the public.
12. Revise and develop recreational maps for the public including cross country skiing, snowmobiling, equestrian and single-track mountain biking for County Park and Forest lands.

2022 MARATHON COUNTY FOREST WILDLIFE WORK PLAN

This represents the 2022 Annual Wildlife Work Plan, pursuant to the fifteen-year Comprehensive Plan for the Marathon County Forest.

Personnel

Assistance to the County Forest Administrator and DNR Forester Liaison will be provided in all wildlife matters concerning the County Forest. The DNR Wildlife Biologist and Wildlife Technician positions assigned to Marathon County were filled through most of 2021. However, DNR Wildlife Technician Paul Napierala accepted a new position in late summer of 2021. After a short vacancy, Wildlife Technician John Soergel has transferred into this position and will assume some habitat management responsibilities on Marathon County Forest.

Flowage Management

Most flowages were managed to keep water levels stable throughout the year. Some flowages were maintained in draw down and some had fluctuating water levels due to beaver activity and heavy rains. Waterfowl production and sightings were variable on Marathon County flowages. Beaver issues and damage were not a major issue early in the summer but became more of a problem in late summer through early fall.

Dike Maintenance:

Muskrat and beaver holes on the flowage dikes are usually patched to maintain their integrity. The dikes were checked in 2021, but rodent damage was minimal, and repairs were not needed. Several loads of patching material were strategically placed throughout Harrison-Hewitt, Bitzke and Nine Mile to facilitate dike patching in the future.

A USDA-Wildlife Services Certified Service Agreement (CSA) was signed by DNR Wildlife Management to trap and remove problem beaver in 2021 on flowages in the Harrison-Hewitt and Nine Mile forest blocks. The USDA removed beaver at East Flowage and Birch flowage at Nine Mile. They also removed beaver and dams at Swamp and Lower Nienow flowages in Harrison-Hewitt. In 2022, DNR once again plans to contract with USDA-Wildlife Services to trap beaver on the flowages due to expected beaver damage.

Bern Flowage:

Bern flowage is chronically affected by floating cattail masses that have moved to the Northeast side of the flowage. These cattail masses occasionally plug the dam. Contractors have removed cattails for several years along the dike and weir with an excavator. This technique has proven to be effective at keeping the water flowing and water levels stable. There are still cattails that need to be removed from the flowage as they move closer to the weir. In efforts to keep the cattails from plugging the weir, DNR managed the water level lower in 2021 to keep cattail mats rooted.

A contractor will remove cattails in 2022 as needed. Additional options of removing cattail are being explored by DNR wildlife management and County Forestry staff.

Wild Rice:

Wild rice production was terrific on Lower Nienow and Lower Leo flowages in 2021. Patches of rice were also seen at Nienow, Leo and Swamp flowages in the Harrison-Hewitt unit. In October of 2021, managers purchased 100 lbs. of wild rice and seeded Leo, Nienow and Swamp flowages in the Harrison-Hewitt block.

Flowage Management:

Planned flowage management for 2022 includes a continuation of the flowage drawdown rotation. All the flowages will benefit from being drawn down periodically. Drawdowns reduce undesirable plant species, allow desirable plant species to germinate and return nutrients to the soil. The drawdown plan for 2021 called for drawdowns on Nienow flowage and Nine Mile East #2. However, they were not brought down due to beaver activity and heavy rain events. Steinke flowage was kept drawn down from the previous year to set back lily pad growth. Lower Leo was also kept in draw down due to maintenance needs and the tremendous rice production created by the draw down. Both Lower Leo and Steinke flowage will be kept in draw down through the winter to increase wetland productivity in the future. In 2022, managers plan to draw down Nienow flowage and Nine Mile East #2.

Forest Management

Openings Management:

Maintaining early successional habitat, such as grass openings, is an important part of Central Wisconsin forest management. In 2021, there was no management on forest openings. Twenty-seven openings were scheduled to be managed in 2021, but staff turnover during the normal management period impacted the ability to accomplish these goals. The openings not managed will be added to future work plans.

In 2022, wildlife staff plan to manage twenty-seven openings in the Harrison-Hewitt, Kronenwetter, Leather Camp and Nine Mile units. We were also awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Ruffed Grouse Society that will allow for renovations of twenty degraded openings in Kronenwetter and Leather Camp over a two-year period. This renovation project will enhance 15-20 acres of wildlife openings in those two units.

Trails:

Approximately 0.5 miles of forest trails off Guenther Road in Leather Camp and 0.75 miles of forest trails off Springbrook Road in Nine Mile were seeded with a clover/grass mix in the summer of 2021. Seeding trails post-logging prevents erosion and provides a valuable food source for ruffed grouse and other game and non-game species. Trails and log landings will be seeded in Marathon County in 2022 as requested by Marathon County Forestry staff.

Grasslands/ Hoffman Farm

The large burn unit south of County Road G is recommended to be burned during the fall of 2022. The firebreak will need to be installed during the summer of 2022 to accomplish this burn.

Alder Management:

Wet conditions with little frost prevented planned alder management from being accomplished during the winter of 2020-21. Managers have set a goal of mowing 10-20 acres of alder during the winter of 2021-22. Meeting these goals will rely on acceptable weather conditions as well as having equipment and an operator available. A contractor will likely be hired to accomplish this work. Multiple sites in Leather Camp County Forest Unit have been identified for alder mowing, but additional sites will be selected to allow for more options.

2021/2022 Nickel-an-Acre Budget

The following table lists the 2021 Nickel-an-Acre project budgets and expenses. It also includes proposed 2022 projects and the associated spending plan.

Project Activity	2021 Budgeted	2021 Expended	2022 Budgeted
Flowage Maintenance (dikes, spillways, structures)	\$300	\$1254.95	\$300
Flowage Maintenance (brush/cattail removal-dikes)	\$300	\$0	\$300
Wildlife Opening Maintenance	\$900	\$0	\$900
Trail Seeding	\$100	\$0	\$100
Wild Rice Seeding	\$500	\$564.16	\$500
Alder Management	\$500	\$0	\$500
Totals	\$2,600	\$1819.11	\$2,600

After all expenses are subtracted, the Nickel-an-Acre account balance at the end of 2021 should be \$2,462.30. This will increase to \$3,885.71 after deposit of the 2022 allotment.

Submitted by:

Brandon Stefanski, DNR Wildlife Biologist, Marathon County

John Soergel, DNR Wildlife Technician, Marathon County

Approved by:

Tom Lovlien, Marathon County Forest Administrator

Rick Seefeldt, Vice Chairperson, Marathon County Forestry/Recreation
Committee

Joseph Schwantes, NR Area Supervisor, Wausau

APPLICATION FOR COUNTY FOREST ACREAGE SHARE LOAN PAYMENT

WHEREAS, Counties having lands entered as “County Forest Lands”, under the provisions of Sec. 28.11(4)(b), Wis. Stats., annually receive from the state a non-interest bearing loan to be used for the purchase, development, preservation and maintenance of such lands; and

WHEREAS, said loan monies are repaid through a 20% severance tax on timber revenue coming from County Forest Lands unless a higher rate is mutually agreed to by the County and the department; and

WHEREAS, the current provisions of Sec. 28.11 (8)(b)1 make it possible for the County, at its option to receive not more than 50 cents per acre to meet the needs identified in its County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marathon, in consideration of meeting the needs identified in its County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan hereby request the Department of Natural Resources to provide the 2022 payment to the County on the basis of 50 cents for each acre of Marathon County Forest Lands; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND RESOLVED that the Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to file this request with the Department of Natural Resources prior to December 31st preceding the year in which said payment is being requested to be made.

Dated this 14th day of December, 2021.

FORESTRY/RECREATION COMMITTEE

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Fiscal Impact: Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Department will receive \$15,011.00 as an interest free loan to be used for forest maintenance, development and land acquisition.



SCOTT KRUG

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 72nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

(608) 266-0215
FAX: (608) 282-3672
District: (715) 459-2267
Toll-Free: (888) 529-0072

P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952
Rep.Krug@legis.wi.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Representative Scott Krug

October 28, 2021
(608) 266-0215

Representative Krug to introduce a second “Mill Bill” for area Paper Mills

ROME – Representative Scott Krug (R-Nekoosa) announces that he will be introducing a second bill to provide assistance towards the reestablishment of papermaking at the former paper mills in Wisconsin Rapids and Park Falls.

“Everyone in our communities was deeply disappointed when Governor Evers vetoed our first attempt at this in July,” said Rep. Krug, commenting on Evers’ veto of 2021 AB 367 on July 8. “We need these mills to reopen, and for that to happen, we need these mills to find new owners. We’ll give Governor Evers another chance to recognize the struggles ongoing in our Northern communities. We won’t give up.”

On Wednesday October 27, Rep. Krug and several other lawmakers announced a new package aimed at providing assistance towards the sale of the mills in Wisconsin Rapids and Park Falls. “We didn’t give up,” Rep. Krug noted. “The new bill has some new provisions. They’re very measured proposals. They’re something I hope we can present to the Governor very soon.”

The new proposal is known temporarily as LRB 5138. The bill is being circulated for co-sponsorship in the legislature, and Rep. Krug notes that he expects a public hearing on the new bill in a very short time.

LRB 5138 has two distinct parts. One part provides some assistance to the mills in Wisconsin Rapids and in Park Falls that is intended to keep both mills viable in anticipation of the future.

LRB 5138 would provide up to \$1 million to keep the Wisconsin Rapids mill in a nearly-operational condition in order to allow time for a sale and reopening to happen using as much existing equipment as possible. Under the bill, \$1 million in GPR transferred to the Wisconsin Economist Development Corporation (WEDC) to make a grant to an eligible recipient.

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The bill would also assist with the reopening of the Park Falls paper mill by providing \$15 million for a loan guarantee to secure financing to reopen Park Falls. The loan guarantee would come from GPR funds transferred to WEDC. If the guarantee is not in place by June 30, 2023, the funds go back to the general fund. If the guarantee is in place, the funds would go back to the general fund when the loan terms are complete.

The second part of the bill deals with substance abuse prevention on transportation and public utility projects. These provisions stem from discussions held during deliberations on the 2021-23 state budget bill, which was passed this past summer.

Rep. Krug explains that “These two items are together in one package, in an attempt to garner support for passage of both.”

Rep. Krug reiterated that a public hearing on the new proposal is expected very soon. “I hope everyone with a stake in this situation, will weigh in and state their support for the mills,” said Rep. Krug. “Wisconsin Rapids needs this. Wisconsin’s forests need this. Wisconsin’s timber and tourism industries need this.”

The language of the proposal, as well as a summary prepared by the Wisconsin Legislative Fiscal Bureau, are available and are being sent with this release.

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