

Members present: Arnold Schlei (c), James Bove

Excused: Rick Seefeldt

Also present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director, Chad Keranen-DNR Liaison, Andrea Larson – IronBull Executive Director

Call meeting to order – Meeting called to order by Chairman Schlei at 12:30pm, Rm 3, 212 River Dr., Wausau.

Public Comment Period – None

Approve Minutes – **Motion** / second by Bove / Schlei to approve the minutes from the December 3, 2019 regular Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. **Motion carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Request by IronBull to Use Nine Mile Snowmobile Trail for Red Granite Grinder Gravel Bike Race – Andrea Larson – Executive Director – Larson said last year they received approval to use the Nine Mile Snowmobile Trail for their race on a trial basis after the October 15th closing date to bikes. This year their race is scheduled on October 17, 2020 and she is asking permission to use the same route as well as for the following years. This item went to the Forest Citizen’s Advisory Subcommittee and they unanimously recommended approval of that route on a yearly basis. Larson discussed the different race course routes and said the featured sections such as Nine Mile make the race unique. Lovlien said staff supports the race and did not hear any negative feedback. Questions were answered. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Bove to grant approval for the Ironbull Red Granite Grinder Race to use the snowmobile trail at Nine Mile on the third Saturday of October on a yearly basis. **Motion carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

2. Timbersale Closeout – Twin Forest Products – Contract #679-19 - A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 1490 tons and 2289.15 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$66,014.73. Lovlien’s recommendation is to close Twin Forest Products contract #679-19 and return their Letter of Credit. **Motion** / second by Bove / Schlei to close Twin Forest Products contract #679-19 and return their Letter of Credit. **Motion carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

3. Request by Wausau School District for Use of Nine Mile Trails for Cross Country Meet October 17, 2020 – Polley explained that in the Valley Conference there are seven high schools that are required to host the cross-country meet on rotating years. Three local schools have interest in using Nine Mile for this event which is always the third Saturday in October. The event would be held at Nine Mile three out of seven years. The last race was in 2016. It got overlooked when the Nine Mile Use regulations were being drafted. This race is held on trails near the chalet with set-up and take down on the same day and has minimal effect on other users. Staff is in support and would like to support the high schools. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Bove to approve the request to allow the high school valley conference meet to occur at Nine Mile on the third Saturday in October 2020 and every year thereafter when Wausau East, West and D.C. Everest are the hosts. **Motion carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration

1. Review of Proposed Policy Revisions to the Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan – Chapters 400 - 600 – Lovlien said this item had been discussed by members at the Environmental Resource Committee. He is adding some language about wireless broadband towers. **Motion** / second by Bove / Schlei to accept Chapters 400, 500 and 600. **Motion carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. New Three Year Contract for Ragnar Trail Relay Race – A three year contract was renegotiated with Ragnar. They will now pay \$11.20 per participant plus ten percent of the food proceeds. If they have 2700 racers that could

generate over \$30,000 in revenue. It is well organized, has low impact on the resource and is good for the community.

B. Winter Recreational Program Update – Weather conditions have caused challenges when trying to groom Nine Mile. Lovlien said staff is working together with members of the Nordic Ski Club to figure out grooming practices that benefit the trails while realizing limitations of the equipment. With colder weather predicted trails should be in excellent condition. Polley discussed some ways they are trying to keep communication open between the ski club and staff such as having a club member ride along in the groomer.

Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – February 4, 2020 at 12:30pm, 212 River Dr., Rm. 3

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence

B. Future Agenda Items – Timbersale Closeout, Land Acquisitions

Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Schlei / Bove to adjourn at 1:00 pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.