

Members present: Arnold Schlei (c), James Bove, Rick Seefeldt

Also present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director, Joe Tucker-County Forester, Chad Keranen-DNR Liaison

1. Call meeting to order – Meeting called to order by Chairman Schlei at 12:30pm, Rm 3, 212 River Dr., Wausau.
2. Approve Minutes – Motion / second by Seefeldt / Bove to approve the minutes from the March 3, 2020 regular Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

### 3. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution

#### A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Consider Approving the Spring 2020 Timber Sale Package - The spring timber sale package was distributed to Committee for review. The sale offers 281 acres of timber on five tracts with an estimated volume of 9,485 tons and 422.0 thousand board feet. Tucker discussed all of the sales. The sales will be advertised and the bid opening is May 4th. Questions were answered. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Bove to approve advertising the sales with a May 4th bid opening. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

2. Timber Sale Close Out – Rod Hix Forest Products Contract #676-18 - A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 2720 and 3658.19 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$49,743.42. Lovlien's recommendation is to close out Contract #676-18 and return their Letter of Credit. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Bove to close out Rod Hix Forest Products Contract #676-18 and return their Letter of Credit. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

3. Consider Approving Direct Timber Sale to Twin Forest Products Contract #689-20 - Lovlien explained this is a small sale that did not sell last fall. Staff received a proposal from Twin Forest Products for the County to consider awarding the sale to them direct for the advertised price. Staff discussed with the DNR and it meets the DNR guidelines of awarding sales using advertised price. Because it is a small sale and nothing else is near it, staff recommends awarding the sale to Twin Forest Products at the advertised price of \$15,062.00 so that it can be managed. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Bove to award the sale to Twin Forest Products Contract #689-20. 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 Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan Chapters 700-900 – Lovlien explained that because of scheduling, these chapters have already been reviewed by the Environmental Resource Committee. He said this is a draft revision and there will be time for any Committee or member of public to comment. There will be a public input meeting and a thirty-day public comment draft period. Bove questioned if anything was running through the pipeline that is underground at Nine Mile. Lovlien said to the best of knowledge it is not in use. William's Pipeline has an easement with the County. **Consensus** of Committee to approve and move these draft chapters 700-900 on to the Environmental Resources Committee. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

### 4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee – none

### 5. Educational Presentations/Outcomes Monitoring Reports

A. A. Forestry Division Expense/Revenue Report - Lovlien reported that over the last ten years about four million dollars in gross timber was sold. The net is the amount of revenue to the County after the twenty-percent payment to the State for interest free loans and ten-percent payment to the townships. The forestry program is revenue producing and was about \$320,000 over its expenses for the last ten year period. The County sets an even-flow budget because timber revenues fluctuate each year depending on weather, markets, etc. Timber sale contracts are typically two-three years.

B. Snowmobile Public Service Announcements - Discover Mediaworks has partnered with the Great Lakes Timber Producers Association, the Forestry Industry Training Alliance, the snowmobile clubs, and the Wisconsin County Forests Association to develop public service announcements. The goal of the public service announcements is to increase the safety of trail users and log haulers on the County Forest trail systems. The Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department donated \$500.00 because Marathon County has the most State funded trails in the State and uses these trails to access timber in the winter. More of this advertising will occur during the next snowmobile season.

C. Central Wisconsin Off-Road Cycling Coalition Proposal for Maintenance and Improvements at Nine Mile Forest - A concern about the project had previously been brought to the Chairman. Lovlien said the person with the concern wanted to comment during the Committee meeting today but because the public comment section is suspended at this time and he didn't want the Committee to make any decisions. Lovlien reached out to discuss his concerns with him via email. Staff works with trail groups all the time and as long as the group doesn't ask for significant additional trail mileage or additional improvements beyond existing trails, staff didn't feel this needed Committee approval. If the Committee feels differently he'd like to know. No Committee members had concerns. Staff met with the Central Wisconsin Off-Road Cycling Coalition group and eliminated a bike skill area and jump park out of the proposal because they felt those belong in a park not a County Forest. Staff is requiring the group to use all natural materials on site and not build anything out of manmade materials. The Club is proposing rehab and maintenance on the trails, eliminate erosion, and improve the trails primarily within the existing footprint. The Forest Citizen Advisory Subcommittee went over the trail proposal and unanimously approved it being moved forward. Staff supports the proposal. Committee was in consensus to move forward with the improvements.

6. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – May 5, 2020 at 12:30pm, 212 River Dr., Rm. 3

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – Seefeldt questioned a possible time change for the next meeting if it will be in person, Bove commented that if he is not re-elected that he has enjoyed working on this Committee, felt the professionalism by the Department is amazing and he has learned a great deal, Schlei hopes they all continue on the Committee because they work together well.

B. Future Agenda Items – Spring Timber Sale Bid Results, Consider Timber Bids and Award Contracts, County Deer Advisory Council (CDAC) Recommendations

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