

Members present: Tom Rosenberg, Arnie Schlei(c), Rick Seefeldt-(via phone)

Also present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director, Chad Keranen-DNR Liaison-(via phone)

1. Call meeting to order – The meeting was called to order by Chairman Schlei 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 September 1, 2020 regular Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

4. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Consider Timber Bids and Award Contracts – Lovlien said thirteen bids were received on the five sales. Tract 6-20 had three bids and Lovlien recommends awarding the contract to the highest bidder. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Rosenberg to award tract 6-20 to the high bidder. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0. Tract 7-20 received one bid which was well below the advertised and appraised value so the DNR recommended re-advertising since only one bid was received. Questions were answered. **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Rosenberg to open bids for tract 7-20 on November 2nd. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0. Tract 8-20 had two bids and Lovlien recommends awarding the sale to the highest bidder. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Schlei to award tract 8-20 to the high bidder. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0. Tract 9-20 had three bids on the sale and the high bidder was slightly under the advertised value. However, because there were three bids Lovlien believes there is justification if the Committee wanted to award the sale to the highest bidder. The DNR liaison is also comfortable with awarding this sale. The other option would be to open bids for tract 9-20 on November 2nd but Lovlien cautioned that they may or may not get bids on the sale again. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to award tract 9-20 to the highest bidder. Tract 10-20 had four bids and Lovlien recommends awarding the sale to the high bidder. Questions were answered. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Rosenberg to award tract 10-20 to the high bidder. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

2. 2021 Budget Update – Polley reported on items related to the budget including personnel costs, contracted services, materials and supplies, insurance and fixed costs. She noted that the Department was able to absorb the increase of the snowmobile/ATV coordinators position from a .60 to a .75 FTE. Also of note is the health insurance premiums had been budgeted at a 9% increase are now at a 6.5% increase. The Department is at a 4.21 percent decrease from its 2020 to 2021 budget. One way the budget was balanced was by an interfund loan from the proceeds of excess timber revenues this year to offset about \$50,000 of the budget to make it a zero percent increase. The Department is significantly over its three-year average amount of \$245,000 in timber revenues however next year it could be under the even-flow amount. Overall, the Department lost some revenues but not as much as anticipated because camping and timber revenues were up this year. The Department cut back on expenditures knowing that revenues would be down.

3. 2021 County Conservation Aids Project – Lovlien said this annual grant of \$4,314.00 can be matched with County funds on fish and game projects. The Department already planned on doing some improvements to the archery range at the Duane Corbin Shooting Range Park. The project includes repairing/replacing shooting platforms and purchasing targets. His recommendation is to apply for this archery range improvement project. **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to approve the 2020-2021 County Conservation Aids project archery range improvement at the Duane Corbin Shooting Range. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

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. DNR/County Forest Partnership Meeting Minutes – Keranen gave history on the County forest partnership between the County and the DNR. The minutes consisted of information on the County forest time standards, County forest work plan, conservation aid projects, forest certification, land use issues, and forest health. He said it's been a good partnership between the County and the DNR and expects that to continue. Lovlien said the DNR's technical assistance help is integral in getting the County's field work done.

B. Wisconsin Endurance Mountain Bike Race Participation and Revenue - Lovlien said this was the only race held at Nine Mile to date and was small. There were 49 racers and the total revenue was \$555.25.

C. Wisconsin County Forests Association – 2020 Annual Report – Lovlien discussed the annual report put together by the WCFA's Executive Director. It includes information on the organizations goals, challenges, budgets, etc. He said WCFA will be working on their strategic plan and also will be exploring new options for generating revenues for their organization. He mentioned the WCFA's Executive Director's office will be moving from Rhinelander to the Lincoln County Service Center.

D. 2021-2022 Wisconsin State Budget Process and Items that Affect Forestry Programs – Lovlien explained that forestry programs could be affected in the DNR's preliminary budget. DNR is requesting reauthorization of the stewardship program at 50 million dollars per year for another 10 years. They've also requested \$618,000 in annual ongoing funding for county and local ATV/UTV trail projects and support facilities which Lovlien thought would be on a competitive basis. Other DNR grants and aids that WCFA is supporting to remain at the same level as in the last biennium budget include the County Forest Administrator Grant, the Wildlife Habitat Grant, the County Conservation Aids Grant, the County Forest Road Aids Grant, reauthorization of the stewardship program, an increase in the acreage share payment to the towns, and some regulatory streamlining of wetland and water permits. Lovlien also mentioned that counties will be eligible for a grant which reduces the amount the County pays towards their WCFA dues.

7. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: November 3, 2020, 1:30pm, Rm. 5, 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – none brought forward

B. Future Agenda Items: Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Timber Sale Contract Extensions, Consider Timber Bids and Award Contracts

8. Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Rosenberg / Seefeldt to adjourn the meeting at 2:30pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.