



## MARATHON COUNTY FORESTRY/RECREATION COMMITTEE AGENDA

**Date and Time of Meeting:** Monday, November 2, 2020 at 2:00pm

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

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

***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: 146 929 3599

If Required, the Password is 1234

**When you enter the telephone conference, PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!**

### **Agenda Items:**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Public Comment (15 minute limit)**
- 3. Approval of the Minutes of the Tuesday, September 29, 2020 Committee Meeting**
- 4. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**
  - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
    1. Consider Timber Sale Contract Extension Requests
    2. Consider Timber Bids and Award Contracts
  - 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 – Resolution: Approving the Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.**

[Here is a link to the plan:](https://www.co.marathon.wi.us/Departments/ParksRecreationForestry/PlanningandDevelopment/FINALDraftMarathonCountyForestComprehensiveLandUsePlan20212035.aspx)  
<https://www.co.marathon.wi.us/Departments/ParksRecreationForestry/PlanningandDevelopment/FINALDraftMarathonCountyForestComprehensiveLandUsePlan20212035.aspx>
- 6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**
  - A. Senator Tammy Baldwin's Letter to Verso Corporation
  - B. Update on Verso Corporation Mill
  - C. Fall Timber Bid Summary
  - D. New Chief State Forester Named

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

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence

B. Future Agenda Items: Consider Renewing Private Road Access Permits, 2021 County Forest Work Plan, 2021 County Forest Wildlife Work Plan, Application for County Forest Acreage Share Payment, 2021 Forestry/Recreation Committee Tentative Meeting Schedule, McMillan Marsh Lease Amendments, Consider Cash Farm Lease

**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 [INFOMARATHON@MAIL.CO.MARATHON.WI.US](mailto:INFOMARATHON@MAIL.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: October 27, 2020 11:30 a.m.

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

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 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**TIMBER SALE EXTENSION REQUESTS**

Timber Sale Extensions to December 30, 2021

0% increase in stumpage	#668-18	Bell Timber Inc. Requested Extension Cash Bond
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0% increase in stumpage	#665-18	John Denfeld Logging Requested Extension Letter of Credit
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0% increase in stumpage	#666-18	Jacobs Logging Requested Extension Cash Bond
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0% increase in stumpage	#671-18	Javorek Logging Requested Extension Letter of Credit
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0% increase in stumpage	#660-17	Tigerton Lumber Co. Requested Extension Cash Bond
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**Contracts 5 Years Old (3<sup>rd</sup> Extension)**

0% increase in stumpage	#642-15	Tigerton Lumber Co. Received Letter Requesting Extension Cash Bond
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0% increase in stumpage	#644-15	Central Wisconsin Lumber Received Letter Requesting Extension Cash Bond
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REVIEW AND UPDATE - MARATHON COUNTY FOREST  
COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN 2021- 2035 – NOVEMBER 2020

- Thirty (30) Counties in Wisconsin have County Forest lands entered into the County Forest Law (Wis. Stats. 28.11) All Counties are required to revise plans at 15 year intervals.
- Revisions began August 2019.
- All counties followed a statewide template when making revisions then tailored the plans policies to best fit their individual counties.
- Plan addresses future management direction for sustainable timber harvests, recreation, land acquisition, wildlife management, ecological protection, public uses and more.
- There was an extensive public involvement period:
  - +began with a survey asking interested user groups and public their ideas and thoughts on possible revisions.
  - +674 were emailed or mailed – 65 returned.
  - +Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee, Park Commission, Forestry/Recreation, and Environmental Resources Committee's reviewed all Chapters at quarterly meetings.
  - +Draft Chapters were posted on the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Department website.
  - +30 day public comment period – Class I Notice in paper and press release – only 1 comment received.
  - +Public listening session was held at a regular Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting - no one appeared, no comments.
- The survey provided several broad themes:
  - +Most comments received were on trails. Some groups want more, some less trails. Majority want trails that are multi-use. Following the current policy that has been in place since 2004 on no new trail expansion it was determined not to expand on trail mileage for any groups – rather maintain the existing trails in the best possible condition.
  - +Most want continued sustainable forest management to keep forest healthy, to provide a source of revenue to County, etc.
  - +Provide a wide array of forest wildlife habitat.
  - +Continue the land acquisition process and add lands for the public to access. – (meets Counties current Strategic Plan).
  - +Concerns about exotic and invasive species.
  - +Forest protection.
  - +Continue the feasibility of snowmaking at Nine Mile Forest.
  - +Not exclude traditional users especially hunting or trapping on County Forest lands with excessive development or recreation.

- Because the 30,675 acres of County Forest lands are enrolled into the County Forest Law DNR has oversight and has completed its 30-day review of the plan and determined the plan follows the intent of the law.
- The plan balances all uses of the Forest during the next 15 years recognizing that all user groups will continue to need to compromise as managing the forest will require protections for future generations.
- The plan hasn't changed much from your initial quarterly reviews of Chapters over the last 1+ years. Edits were made due to words missing, grammatical errors and some minor corrections including additional language for better explanation of policies. However, no major policy changes were made!
- The plan will guide the management of the County Forest through 2035. We have met our goal for the 30,675 acre Marathon County Forest that balances the ecological, recreational, social and economic values for the public now and into the future.
- It's important to point out that this is not a static plan and can/will require amendments as new things emerge over the next 15 years. These can be made anytime with County Board and DNR approval.
- The County Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee and Forestry/Recreation Committee unanimously recommends approval.
- We are asking the Environmental Resources Committee forward a recommendation for approval to the County Board at their November 10th and 12<sup>th</sup> meetings. Approving the plan will also maintain eligibility for interest free loans, grant funding and assistance of about 675 hours per year from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- Thank you for reviewing, offering comments and assistance in updating the plan.

**MARATHON COUNTY FOREST COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLAN**

WHEREAS, Marathon County has lands enrolled as County Forest pursuant to §28.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes; and

WHEREAS, subsection (5)(a) of said statute requires that a Comprehensive County Forest Land Use Plan be prepared by the County Forestry Committee to encompass 15 year periods and upon expiration of the initial 15 year plan period and upon expiration of each subsequent 15 year plan period, the plan shall be revised and shall be in effect for another 15 year period; and

WHEREAS, §(5)(a) also requires that the plan shall include land-use designations, land acquisition, forest protection, annual allowable timber harvests, recreational developments, fish and game management activities, roads, silvicultural operations, an inventory of the County Forest documented with maps, records and priorities, and a listing of the involved management activities needed during said plan period; and

WHEREAS, this plan highlights: sustainable forest management, the incorporation of a separate recreation chapter and implementation of Chapter 800, integrated resource management; and

WHEREAS, the Counties' goals, objectives, policies, and operating procedures with respect to implementation of said plan are also enumerated in the plan; and

WHEREAS, §(5)(a) of the above-referenced statute requires that said plan be approved by the County Board of Supervisors and the Department of Natural Resources; and

WHEREAS, the plan for the fifteen year period encompassing 2021 – 2035 has been prepared by the Forestry/Recreation and Environmental Resources Committees with input from the Forest Citizens' Advisory Subcommittee and interested citizens is submitted for the approval of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board of Supervisors in consideration of the contents of said plan hereby approve it and direct the Forestry/Recreation Committee to forward an official copy of the plan to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for their approval.

Dated this 12th day of November, 2020.

**FORESTRY/RECREATION COMMITTEE**

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**ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

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Fiscal Impact Statement: Approval of this resolution has no direct tax levy impact.



## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMERCE  
HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

September 29, 2020

Mr. Adam St. John  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Verso Corporation  
8540 Gander Creek Drive  
Miamisburg, OH 45342

Dear Mr. St. John:

As Verso considers how it will divest from the Wisconsin Rapids facility it idled at the end of July, I write to encourage you to be a good steward of the paper and pulp assets that have provided good jobs to North Central Wisconsin for over one hundred years. During most of that time, the mill's owners have been more than just employers, but active members of a vibrant community in Wisconsin Rapids. As such, I ask that you consider the impact of the sale on all the people in the North Central Wisconsin region, and not just your shareholders. The shared prosperity of the Wisconsin Rapids community depends on the continued operation of the pulp and paper mill, free from any unreasonable conditions placed on its sale by Verso.

While the mill has been producing paper since 1904, it has been more than just an employer to the people of Wisconsin Rapids. The owners of the Consolidated Water Power & Paper Co., the Mead family, provided assistance for public projects, served in local government, and used the mill's resources to meet the community's needs—especially in difficult times. Similarly, during a rough patch in the Great Depression, the unionized workers agreed in 1931 to move to a five-day work week to prevent layoffs.<sup>1</sup> This type of cooperation allowed the company and the community to have a close relationship that was mutually beneficial for decades.

Unfortunately, after the sale of the company by the Mead family in 2000, the relationship between the owners and the city frayed. Two of the mill's owners, NewPage and later, Verso, went bankrupt while under the control of New York-based private equity firms. The private equity model relies heavily on debt—which increases the risk of bankruptcy. Instead of making long-term investments, private-equity owned companies are more likely to aggressively cut costs and sell off assets to cover their debts. While Wisconsin Rapids was largely spared from these bankruptcies—the stress from the uncertainty was very real. Other cities in Wisconsin weren't so lucky and lost their mills for good. Since 2000, Wisconsin has lost over 20 paper mills and one-third of its paper mill jobs.

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<sup>1</sup> Caitlin Shuda. "Unfolding 126 years of history at Wisconsin Rapids paper mill." Wisconsin Rapids Tribune. 22 September 2020. Accessible at: <https://www.wisconsinrapidstribune.com/in-depth/money/2020/09/22/wisconsin-rapids-paper-mill-unfolding-126-years-history-consolidated-papers-verso/3401093001/>

It is with this recent, painful, history in mind that I ask you to consider yourself a steward of these assets as you search for a buyer. In order for the mill to be set up for success, the buyer must be free from any unreasonable conditions on the mill's operation, specifically any limitations on the paper grades that the buyer may produce at the facility. I would also encourage you to sell the mill to a buyer that is committed to keeping the proceeds from the mill's operation in the community to the maximum extent possible.

The operation of the pulp and paper machines is important not just to the 900 plus workers who might remain employed at the facility, but also the thousands of workers in Wisconsin who work in industries upstream and downstream from Verso as well as the small business owners who depend on those workers spending their income. A report by the University of Wisconsin estimates more than 1,600 indirect job losses and statewide economic losses of more than a \$250 million annually if the mill were to close.<sup>2</sup>

I firmly believe that the pulp and paper assets have more value to contribute to this Wisconsin Rapids community. My office has been in close contact with the elected officials and stakeholders in the North Central Wisconsin region and continues to participate in task force meetings to ensure the best possible outcome for the sale. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office if you would like to discuss my request further.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

CC: The Verso Corporation Board of Directors:

Mr. Sean T. Erwin - Chairman  
Dr. Robert K. Beckler  
Mr. Marvin Cooper  
Mr. Jeffrey E. Kirt  
Mr. Randy J. Nebel  
Mr. Adam St. John  
Ms. Nancy M. Taylor

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<sup>2</sup> Deller, Kures, Parr. "Addendum on Impact of Verso Corporation Closure of the Wisconsin Rapids Paper Mill." University of Wisconsin-Madison. August 2020. *Accessible at:* [https://legis.wisconsin.gov/rapidstogether/media/1071/impact-of-verso-closure\\_6-august-2020.pdf](https://legis.wisconsin.gov/rapidstogether/media/1071/impact-of-verso-closure_6-august-2020.pdf)



# WISCONSIN LEGISLATURE

P.O. Box 7882 • Madison, WI 53707-7882

## Krug and Testin to Verso: “Get Serious”

### Wisconsin Rapids area lawmakers call on papermaker to step up for the community

Contact:

Rep. Scott Krug  
207 North, State Capitol  
Madison WI 53708  
608-266-0215  
[rep.krug@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:rep.krug@legis.wisconsin.gov)

Sen. Patrick Testin  
131 South, State Capitol  
Madison WI 53707  
608-266-3123  
[sen.testin@legis.wisconsin.gov](mailto:sen.testin@legis.wisconsin.gov)

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

Rep. Scott Krug (R-Nekoosa) and Sen. Patrick Testin (R-Stevens Point) today called upon the leadership of the Verso Paper Company to “get serious” about their plans for the Verso paper mill in Wisconsin Rapids.

Verso closed the Wisconsin Rapids mill in July 2020, ceasing production of paper at the location and putting the mill up for sale. In response Krug and Testin formed a legislative task force (the Wisconsin Rapids Together task force, [www.rapidstogether.com](http://www.rapidstogether.com)). The task force met today by conference call, and it was learned that Verso is now suspending the active search for a buyer for the mill.

“I realize that this is a business decision,” Rep. Krug stated. “And I realize that the economic difficulties stemming from COVID and the pandemic helped Verso decide to close the mill and now are making it hard for Verso to find a buyer. However, there are 900 families in our area who are affected by this. These people need to know that they – and their community – matter, and are not just side-effects of a dollars-and-cents decision by an Ohio company.”

***MORE***

A Wisconsin-based effort has been launched by the Great Lakes Timber Producers Association of Rhinelander to form a cooperative which would buy and operate the mill. This effort would reestablish the mill as a local employer and would provide an outlet for the sale of Wisconsin softwood for use as paper. The Verso mill formerly purchased around one-quarter of the softwood cut for paper pulp annually in Wisconsin, and was an important source of work for loggers and truckers in the timber industry as well as for the employees of the mill itself.

“The Timber Producers Cooperative is a serious potential buyer for this mill,” said Sen. Testin, “and we on the task force think it is the best avenue we know of for getting the mill operating again. However, today we learned that Verso is putting efforts to sell the mill on the back burner. Our community deserves better.”

The task force learned today that attempts by the Timber Producers Cooperative to discuss a sale with Verso have been met with unresponsiveness. “Verso has employed a consultant, Moelis and Company, to market and sell the mill,” noted Rep. Krug, but he added that “What we had been hearing was that inquiries to Moelis were being referred to Verso, and inquiries to Verso were being referred to Moelis. Now today we learn that the whole effort to sell the mill – to let someone buy it and return it to being an active part of our economy – are simply being sidelined.”

“We want two things,” said Sen. Testin. “We want Verso to get serious about selling this mill. No more run around. We want them to tell us, who can a buyer talk to? What is it going to take?” Testin added that if Verso is waiting for a better economy to sell the mill, then the community needs to know what benchmarks would need to be met in order to convince Verso to make a sale.

“We also want to know what it’s going to take to help make the cooperative a reality,” said Rep. Krug. “Verso closed the mill and said it’s for sale. Well, the Timber Cooperative is a likely, informed, and interested potential buyer. What is it going to take to get this done? What assurances might Verso want? When might they be willing to move on this?”

Krug and Testin have pledged that they will be working with the organizers of the Timber Cooperative and with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) to do whatever is necessary to assist in the sale and re-start of the mill. Sen. Testin stated that “If legislation is needed, if loans are what’s called for, we want to make sure these things happen. We represent the community. We want this deal to happen.”

Rep. Krug thanked the members of the Rapids Together task force for their work on the situation and for their unified stance in support of the mill workers and their families. “We have 900 families who are waiting to see how this comes out,” Rep. Krug noted. “Our whole community needs something to happen here. We have the ingredients. We ask Verso to get serious about working with us, with all of us, to make a better reality for tomorrow in Wisconsin Rapids.”

END

## MARATHON COUNTY FOREST FALL 2020 BID OPENING RESULTS

SPECIES	TONS	HIGH BID	LOW BID	Weighted Average of All Bids	Weighted Average of High Bids	Wt. Av. High Bids Spring 2020	Wt. Av. High Bids Fall 2019	Wt. Av. High Bids Spring 2019
ASPEN	15020	\$11.00	\$3.00	\$7.60	\$9.05	\$10.00	\$9.47	\$17.38
MIXED HWD	4930	\$8.75	\$4.00	\$6.62	\$8.03	\$14.95	\$10.07	\$15.69
OAK	560	\$5.00	\$3.00	\$3.98	\$3.79	\$9.59	\$5.91	\$11.40
BASSWOOD	130	\$2.00	\$0.01	\$0.83	\$1.08	\$4.35	\$0.61	\$3.44
RED PINE	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	\$22.48	xxxx	\$48.02
<b>MBF</b>								
RED OAK	36	\$250.00	\$125.00	\$166.35	\$163.19	\$296.52	\$217.93	\$414.66
RED MAPLE	174	\$200.00	\$140.00	\$167.08	\$183.91	\$211.50	\$213.72	\$332.84
WHITE ASH	31	\$200.00	\$100.00	\$132.01	\$175.32	\$185.71	\$142.86	\$257.94
BASSWOOD	34	\$100.00	\$50.00	\$77.42	\$70.59	\$173.68	\$159.38	\$200.00
SUGAR MAPLE	2	\$200.00	\$150.00	\$183.33	\$200.00	\$260.42	\$186.00	xxxx
MIXED HWD	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	xxxx	\$150.00	\$250.00
<b>BIOMASS</b>								
All Species	3495	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	xxxx	\$0.25	\$0.50

Number of sales sold	4/5	5/5	4/5	6/6
Acres sold	312	281	276	397
Value of sales sold	\$190,307.50	\$214,095.75	\$183,708.45	\$551,371.85
Appraised value of sales	\$257,965.00	\$200,722.00	\$253,627.50	\$426,645.25
\$ / acre sold	\$609.96	\$761.91	\$575.96	\$1,388.85
Ton eq. sold	22,140	10,555	13,760	16,880
\$ / ton ave.	\$8.59	\$20.28	\$13.35	\$32.66
Cord eq. sold	9630	4590	5980	7340
\$ / cord ave.	\$19.76	\$46.64	\$30.72	\$75.11

This bid opening was for five county forest timber sales  
 Received thirteen bids from six separate bidders.  
 Only one sale has a dry fall chance, otherwise all frozen ground.  
 One sale will be re-bid in November as it was far under the advertised value.  
 Downward trend on stumpage prices as expected.

From: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources <[widnr@service.govdelivery.com](mailto:widnr@service.govdelivery.com)>

Date: Wed, Oct 21, 2020 at 9:03 AM

Subject: NEWS RELEASE: Heather Berklund Named New Chief State Forester

To: <[rebekah@wisconsincountyforests.com](mailto:rebekah@wisconsincountyforests.com)>



WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES

# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Oct. 21, 2020

**Contact:** Heather Berklund, DNR chief state forester

[Heather.Berklund@Wisconsin.gov](mailto:Heather.Berklund@Wisconsin.gov) or 608-598-9068

## Heather Berklund Named New Chief State Forester

*First Woman In Wisconsin's History To Hold Position*

**MADISON, Wis.** – Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Secretary Preston Cole has appointed Heather Berklund as the department's new Chief State Forester. Her appointment became effective Oct. 12.

"I am proud to announce Heather taking on this leadership role," said Preston Cole, Secretary of the DNR. "She brings years of on-the-ground Wisconsin forest management and fire control experience to this position. As the first woman in Wisconsin's history to hold this role, I know she will bring diverse perspectives to the table in her work."

Berklund began her forestry career with the Wisconsin DNR in the year 2000, serving as a field forester in Merrill, Crandon and Mercer for more than a decade before becoming the Ashland-Iron team leader and then the Woodruff area leader in 2016.

In her role as the Deputy Division Administrator of Field Operations for the past three years, Berklund led the public and private lands programs, Good Neighbor Authority partnership coordination, forest certification, tax law and fire protection programs.

In addition to her field experience and leadership skills, Cole said Berklund brings strong communication, collaboration and partnership building skills to her new position along with a broad knowledge of Wisconsin forestry programs and policies.

"This set of skills is crucial because the sustainable management of Wisconsin forests depends on the collaborative work of forest landowners, natural resource professionals, conservation and industry organizations and many others," Cole said.

Berklund earned a Bachelor of Science in forestry from University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and has continued her education through forestry short-courses in Germany and Mexico. She

participated in the 2019 Women in Government leadership academy and received the Division of Forestry 2014 Supervisor of the Year award.

Berklund is familiar with forests throughout the state. While the bulk of her career has been in the Northwoods, where she currently resides, she grew up in the Boscobel and Reedsburg areas, exploring the hills and river bottoms in the Driftless Area of southwest Wisconsin. She still enjoys spending time hunting and picking morel mushrooms there on her parents' 120 acres.

When she's not working to build relationships with partners and staff, Berklund is engaged and volunteering in her children's school and extracurricular activities. She and her husband Bryce enjoy biking, cross country skiing and other outdoor activities.

Berklund said she is honored to have been selected to lead the Division of Forestry and is committed to continuing to build relationships and collaborate with partners on the sustainable management of Wisconsin's forests.

"I look forward to leading the Division of Forestry on a successful path as we adapt to changes in the climate and cultural needs," Berklund said. "The state forestry program has a long history of innovative, well-respected state foresters. I hope to continue this legacy moving forward by showcasing the value that forestry brings to both our state and nation."

Berklund's office will continue to be in Rhinelander and her contact information will remain the same as listed above. A headshot for Berklund [can be found here.](#)



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# TIMBER PROFESSIONALS COOPERATIVE

October 16, 2020

Dear Wisconsin Forest Industry Stakeholders,

In years past, Wisconsin and the Lake States region has seen several pulp consuming mills close. Those which remain have been sold and purchased several times with an average ownership of 5 to 7 years. This new way of doing business has created an unstable market for raw forest products, small communities, and family run businesses, with enormous personal investments, to provide sustainable forest management services.

Loggers and log truckers impacted by unstable markets have given much thought to finding solutions to curb this instability. As such the cooperative concept has been discussed multiple times as a tool to create stability and to some degree, control of industries destiny. The announcement of and subsequent closure of the Verso mills in Wisconsin Rapids and Duluth MN in June of 2020, provided the impetus to move forward with the formation of a cooperative with a focus on long term ownership of a wood consuming facility.

The following is an activity update for the newly formed Timber Professionals Cooperative. (TPC) The TPC is the result of commitment and ongoing efforts from a cooperative steering committee consisting of representation from the seven Wisconsin and Michigan regions served by the Great Lakes Timber Professional Association.

Formation of the TPC which consists of loggers and log trucker members, was the first step toward development of a larger multi-stakeholder cooperative which will include multiple membership classes. Ideally these will represent the various individuals and/or entities with a vested interest in the long-term success of the forest products industry in the region. Because of its early formation, TPC is leading the organization of this larger cooperative which has unofficially been named the "Consolidated Cooperative." As efforts move forward with more membership classes identified, this multi-stakeholder cooperative will become formalized and will include input from the other membership classes.

The "Consolidated Cooperative" name was chosen to add credence to an "all inclusive" ownership structure for the livelihood and wellbeing of every person from the mills start to finish operation. This includes landowners, loggers, mill workers, service providers, and communities who support these efforts. Although it was not a cooperative, Consolidated Papers was owned and operated by a Wisconsin family that had many of the same interests and values being re-created with the multi-stakeholder cooperative.

With time being of the essence TPC is moving forward to gain data access regarding the sale of the WI Rapids Verso mill, pursuing a general feasibility study for the purpose of gathering information and answering questions regarding the mills current condition and ability to produce economically viable products. TPC has identified potential markets for products that we believe can be produced at this mill as well as potential financing for purchase of the mill.

The cooperative is a serious effort to provide a stable, long-term ownership structure that truly has the best interest of Wisconsin and its workers as a priority. Your acknowledgement and support of this Wisconsin based grass roots effort will add credibility towards making this a reality.

If you have any questions or concerns don't hesitate to contact us at 877-284-3882 or [timberprofessionalscooperative@gmail.com](mailto:timberprofessionalscooperative@gmail.com).

Sincerely,



Dennis Schoeneck

