

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

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

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

Public Comment Period – Not to Exceed 15 Minutes – none brought forward

Approve Minutes – **Motion** / second by Bove / Seefeldt to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2019 Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Schlei arrived at the meeting at 12:40pm.

Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. 2009 – 2018 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 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. Update on the 2018-2019 Winter Timber Sale Harvests and Possible Extension Requests – Lovlien reported that this has been a really good winter and loggers have been catching up on completing their contracts. Several closeouts will be brought to upcoming meetings. There may also be contractors requesting extensions which will need determinations made for stumpage increases.

C. Wisconsin County Forests Summer Tour – Jackson/Monroe Counties June 20-21, 2019 – Lovlien said the summer tour will be held in Black River Falls on June 20th and 21st. Committee members should inform Lovlien if they would like to attend after they receive an agenda sometime in late May.

D. Wisconsin County Forests Association Executive Director Retirement – Lovlien said the WCFA Executive Director Jane Severt is retiring at the end of August. She agreed to work until December if needed. Lovlien said it has been a pleasure to work with her. She has been a great executive director the last 11.5 years. She really worked hard for the organization and is very well respected by everyone in the forestry community. She will be greatly missed.

E. 2019 – 2021 Governors State Budget Proposals Affecting Forestry Programs – Lovlien said the Governor is proposing another \$165,000 for County forest grants to help administer the statewide County forest program in addition to what was in the last biennial budget. Lovlien said if they can maintain what they have or get a slight increase that will be good because the program is competing with other agencies using general purpose revenue. The previous Governor eliminated the Forestry mil tax which was a segregated account for forestry funding.

Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Timber Sale Closeout - Kleinschmidt Logging LLC Contract #648-16 – A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 1915 and 1709.87 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$40,412.66. Lovlien's recommendation is to close out Kleinschmidt Logging LLC Contract #648-16 and return their Letter of Credit. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Bove to close out Kleinschmidt Logging LLC Contract #648-16 and return their Letter of Credit. 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. 2018 County Forest Division Annual Report - Lovlien discussed some of the program highlights including revenue and expenses, certification, timber management, road and trail maintenance, wildlife management, recreation, public outreach and professional development. **Motion** / second by Bove / Schlei to approve the 2018 Forestry Division Annual Report and forward it to the Environmental Resources Committee. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee – None

Announcements

- A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – April 2, 2019 at 12:30pm, 212 River Dr., Rm. 3
- B. Future Agenda Items – Review and Consider Approving the 2019 Spring Timber Package, Chapter 16 Ordinance Amendments, Wausau Nordic Ski Club Snowmaking Proposal

Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Schlei to adjourn at 1:15 pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.