

Members present: Arnold Schlei (c), James Bove, Rick Seefeldt
Also present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Director, John Beatty, Kathy Welter,
Nathan Welter-Boy Scout

Call meeting to order – Meeting called to order by Chairman Schlei 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 June 4, 2019 regular Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Wisconsin Endurance Mountain Bike Race Participation and Revenue – Lovlien reported the event had 79 participants and the County received \$642.75 in revenues. The trails are not closed to the public during the event.

B. 2019 – 2021 Wisconsin State Budget Initiatives Affecting Forestry Programs – Lovlien explained that the State budget has been forwarded to the Governor to accept, veto in entirety, or line-item veto. Three things affecting county forestry programs are currently in the budget that Lovlien hopes remain. The first is local transportation aids which would increase the payment of County forest roads that are open to the public from \$336.00 to \$351.00 per mile. The second is for a two year-extension of the stewardship program. The Governor has suggested creating a blue ribbon coalition made up of interested groups to discuss over the next two years what the stewardship program might look like in the future and how it will be funded. The third is the recommendation for an additional \$165,000 in the Sustainable Forestry and County Forest Administrator grant program.

C. Forestry Division Timber Sale Revenue Through June 30, 2019 – Lovlien explained that after 20% payment to the State and 10% to the towns the Department has netted about \$ \$378,000 in timber sale revenues already this year. The even flow amount is set at \$245,000 so it will be well over that by the end of the year. He cautioned that while we have two high revenue years that future years it will go down. They sell a sustainable amount of timber and the contracts are for two to three years so if they are all cut early the following years will be lighter in revenue. Lovlien noted that expenses were also up because there have been numerous washouts on the trails. More money has been put into County forest roads, ski trails, ATV trails which are getting damaged by erosion and culverts getting washed out. Staff continues to work on fixing those trails. Questions were answered.

Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

Forest Citizen Advisory Subcommittee Appointments – Lovlien reported that five members of the Subcommittee terms are expiring. They are all returning members who have an interest in staying on the Subcommittee. Lovlien said there are staggered terms and the next group will expire next September. Typically there is not a lot of outside interest so if the people on the Subcommittee are in good standing and want to remain on it, his recommendation is to reappoint. If any outside applications are received those will be brought forward for consideration. Lovlien gave information about each of the members whose terms are expiring. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Seefeldt to reappoint Klocko, Weiland, Wieloch, Heil, Schleifer to the Forest Citizen Advisory Subcommittee. 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. Resolution: Consider the Purchase of Kerswill Property for County Forest – Lovlien gave an update on the Kerswill property acquisition. He said the State had notified him that the purchase was a good candidate for grant funding. The idea was to use land donated by the Park Foundation as match lands to help qualify for additional funding to purchase this property. Currently the rules allow that if match lands are acquired by the County within one year of purchasing an additional property that is all going to be enrolled at once into the County forest law program, that a

separate appraisal can be done on that match parcel and the grant funding is supposed to give full value of that match parcel. The Park Foundation donated land that was appraised just short of \$170,000. This amount plus fifty percent of the purchase price for the Kerswill property would be a total state grant amount of \$347,000. The grant plus the forest segregated land purchase account would acquire the land at a cost to the County of about \$8,400.00. If an application for a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant is made for above \$250,000 it automatically triggers a State Joint Finance Committee passive review process. There has been an objection filed on this purchase so it's in a holding pattern until there is a meeting of the State Joint Finance Committee to discuss it. Lovlien is concerned about the time it's going to take because he has a September 15th deadline for closing on the Kerswill property. The County will be contacting Senators to try to have them lift the objection otherwise they have to wait until the objection hearing is scheduled. Lovlien is not sure if the objections will be lifted or if JFC will allow the match property to be pulled from the project and just move on with the fifty percent match, or if the County has to reapply altogether. Lovlien noted that the lower of the two amounts is still the same amount of money, a fifty percent grant the County has received for other land purchases. Lovlien speculated that the objection was raised because some Senators may not like the provision in the law that allows counties to use match lands plus fifty percent of the parcel that is being purchased if acquired within one year. The other is trying to explain the difference between having wetland soils and having forested soils where timber can be grown in perpetuity. Lovlien discussed the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship program. **Motion** / second by Bove / Schlei to forward to Environmental Resource Committee that the County purchase the Kerswill property for County forest taking into consideration one of the two fiscal impact estimate scenarios. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

2. Resolution: Approving an Application to Acquire Funding through the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program – A landowner is interested in selling 40 acres that are adjacent to the Kronenwetter Forest Unit to the County. Lovlien will be attending the July 23rd Village of Kronenwetter meeting. Lovlien discussed the process of purchasing land. This resolution to the County Board is to apply for the grant, negotiate and secure an appraisal on the property. **Motion** / second by Schlei / Bove to forward the resolution to the Environmental Resource Committee that authorizes staff to apply for land acquisition grant funding, negotiate the purchase and complete an appraisal on the property Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.

Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – August 6, 2019 at 12:30pm, 212 River Dr., Rm. 3

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – none

B. Future Agenda Items – Timber Sale Closeouts, Good Neighborhood Authority Program, Consider Approving Public Comment Process for County Forest Plan Revision

Adjourn – **Motion** / second by Seefeldt / Schlei to adjourn at 1:23 pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, no dissent.