

Park Commission Members present: Connie Conrad (President), Al Opall, Jean Maszk, Dawn Herbst, Pat Peckham, Rick Seefeldt (via phone)

Park Commission Members excused: James Wadinski

Forestry/Recreation Committee Members present: Tom Rosenberg, Arnie Schlei(c)(via phone), Rick Seefeldt (via phone)

Also present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Marcus Aumann-Assistant Director Customer Service (via phone), Greg Freix-Assistant Director Operations, Jean Kopplin-I.T. (via phone), Dave Patridge-Administrative Manager

1. Call Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting to order – The meeting was called to order by Chairman Schlei at 1:33pm, Rm. 2, 212 River Dr., Wausau. Official notice and the agenda for the meeting was posted publicly in accordance with State statutes.

2. Call Park Commission meeting to order – The meeting was called to order by President Conrad at 1:34pm, Rm. 2, 212 River Dr., Wausau. Official notice and the agenda for the meeting was posted publicly in accordance with the State statutes.

3. Public Comment - temporarily suspended (details on agenda)

4. Approve Minutes – **Motion** by Peckham, second by Maszk to approve the minutes from the June 2, 2020 Park Commission meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0. **Motion** by Rosenberg, second by Schlei to approve the minutes from the May 5, 2020 Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee and Commission 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 1000 – 2000 – Lovlien said that both the Committee and Commission are reviewing these chapters because of recreation and the Park Commission has purview over some of those areas. The Forest Citizen’s Advisory Subcommittee has reviewed them and unanimously recommended they move ahead for approval. Chapter 1000 is the appendix and includes an overview map of County forest locations and potential acquisition acreage by forest unit. The County’s strategic plan supports blocking in County forests and purchasing lands for both parks and forests. Chapter 1000 also includes information on laws, ordinances, permits, use agreements, policies, contracts, facilities, reports, miscellaneous maps, and brochures. Chapter 2000 includes information on planning, reports, and budgets. There is historical information on timber sales, wildlife, timber stand improvements, recreational developments and wildlife projects. Monitoring is required due to forest certification and must be included in the plan so it can be compared to what it was before and what it’s going to be now in terms of timber types and conversion to other types. Lovlien explained that the 15 year plan is not static and can be revised at any time. He noted that regarding recreation there is about the same amount of trail mileage as the last plan. Early in the process there was public comment asking for additional trails especially at Nine Mile. Nine Mile won’t support any additional trails because of the amount of trails currently there, potential user conflicts, resource damage and safety. Attempts are made to spread out recreation throughout the County forest system so as not to have safety, resource or user conflicts. If there is a proposal for a new type of recreation or trails, there is language in the plan that covers it and the Committees, Commission and County Board would ultimately have to amend the plan which has been done in the past. The key to the whole 15-year plan is to find a balance between all the uses. Lovlien said the thirty-day public comment period will start on July 13 and be followed by a public listening session at the August 4th Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. The plan will go to the DNR for a review and then come back for final County Board approval in November. Lovlien encourages everyone to review the chapters online and submit comments. Questions were answered. **Motion** by Opall, second by Peckham to accept Chapters 1000 and 2000 as submitted (with a couple of minor grammatical changes) and forward them on to the Environmental Resource Committee. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0. **Motion** by Schlei, second by Rosenberg to accept Chapters 1000 and 2000 as submitted (with a couple of minor grammatical changes) and forward them on to the Environmental Resource Committee. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports – Park Commission

A. Project Update – Eau Claire Dells Campground Road: Asphalt overlay is complete from Highway Y through the entire campground loop. Staff is completing shoulder work and site entrances with granite. MPB #1: Dasher board installation is complete. Staff is now working on treating dasher boards for puck marks and final glass cleaning. Refrigeration controller installation is in progress. Marathon Park Farm Museum: Contractor is preparing to move into farm museum for roof rebuild from winter snow load collapse. Marathon Park Pickle Ball Courts: Courts were color coated this week and nets were installed. Staff will work with contractor for last sections of fence installation. McMillan Marsh: Staff will work with the DNR to complete reconstruction (granite grading) on approximately 1 ¼ mile of trail/dike. Routine Operations/Programs: Mowing Operations; all three mowing crews are in routing mode with full staffing. Urban forestry program; tree trimming, removals, stump grinding, EAB treatments in progress. Horticulture; Greenhouse plants are planted in outside beds. Building and structure maintenance. Shelter reservations and Special Events; Equipment maintenance and repair, Shooting Range, Marathon Junction, Campgrounds, Restroom Maintenance; increased maintenance (daily) and staffing due to COVID 19 recommendations. Questions were answered.

7. Park Commission Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – August 4, 2020 at 10:30am, 212 River Dr., Rm. 5

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – none brought forward

B. Future Agenda Items – Duane L. Corbin Shooting Range Rules, Park Commission and Department Overview

8. Adjourn – Park Commission. Park Commission Members are Welcome to Attend the Balance of the Forestry/Recreation Committee Meeting However No Further Action or Vote will be Taken by the Park Commission.

Motion by Opall, second by Maszk to adjourn at 2:10 pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 6-0.

9. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:

A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee

1. Timbersale Closeout – Javorek Logging Contract #661-17 - A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 2646 and 4060.03 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$75,305.56. Lovlien's recommendation is to close out Contract #661-17 and return their Letter of Credit. **Motion** by Rosenberg, second by Seefeldt to close out Javorek Logging Contract #661-17 and return their Letter of Credit. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

2. Timber sale Closeout – Javorek Logging Contract #691-20 - A closeout summary was previously provided. Lovlien reported that the estimated number of tons was 825 and 832.02 tons were cut. Total revenue for this sale was \$15,400.71. Lovlien's recommendation is to close out Contract #691-20 and return both their balance and their cash bond. **Motion** by Schlei, second by Seefeldt to close out Javorek Logging Contract #691-20 and return their balance and cash bond. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.

3. Review and Consider Approving Revised Timeline for Completion of the Marathon County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan – Lovlien explained that because some of the Committee's changed their meeting dates he has updated the plan timeline. After today's meeting there will be a thirty-day public comment period followed by a listening session on August 4th at the Forestry/Recreation Committee meeting. This will be followed by a DNR review of the plan then to Park Commission and Forestry/Recreation Committee November 3rd and finally County Board on November 12th.

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

11. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

A. Spring Timber Sale Bid Summary – Lovlien explained the summary that Keranen, the DNR Forest Liaison, puts together is to keep track historically on what the County is receiving for timber prices. About \$214,000 worth of timber was sold at the spring bid opening which is about \$768 an acre.

B. Update on the Romatowski Land Acquisition – Lovlien explained that the acquisition for this forty acres in the Village of Kronenwetter began more than a year ago. The owner had sent a letter stating he was willing to negotiate so an appraisal was done and DNR grant paperwork completed. Unfortunately, the landowner changed his mind and is going to keep the property. Some money was expended in the process but Lovlien said acquisitions are never guaranteed and unfortunately this happens occasionally. Questions were answered.

C. Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Certification Field Audit August 3-7, 2020 – Lovlien reported that this year Marathon County will have a field audit under the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. It is a third party audit where the auditors look at operations, policies and procedures to determine if the County meets standards under the program. The County is certified because the industry needs certified wood to be able to compete globally. Until last week it was going to be a virtual field audit but it will be done in-person instead sometime between August 3rd - 7th.

D. Verso Corporation Idles Mills in Wisconsin Rapids and Duluth – Lovlien said Verso has two sales with Marathon County and plans to fulfill those obligations and get them cut. Currently, the mill is studying a cooperative ownership business model whereby some different investors would potentially reopen the mill and they are also looking at selling the mill to other buyers that may be interested. The mill will be going through a third party evaluation to value it and then the owners will have to decide what they are going to do. This is stemming from the decrease in demand for high glossy paper used in advertisements. The demand has been going down the last several years and over the last three months during the pandemic orders went down 38%. Lovlien looked back five years at the amount of Marathon County wood hauled into the mill which has been about thirty percent of its volume. Being in central Wisconsin, Lovlien hopes the mill will reopen and the County can continue to harvest and sell their wood. If the forests aren't managed it may lead to forest health, disease, and fire risks in the future. Lovlien will continue to keep the Committee updated.

12. Next Meeting Date, Time, Location: August 4, 2020, 1:30pm, Rm. 2, 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403

A. Announcements/Requests/Correspondence – none brought forward

B. Future Agenda Items: Public Listening Session on the Draft Marathon County 15-Year County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, Forest Citizens Advisory Subcommittee Appointments, Discussion on Timber Sale Extensions Due to Impacts of Covid-19 and Mill Closures

13. Adjourn – Forestry/Recreation Committee. **Motion** by Schlei, second by Seefeldt to adjourn the meeting at 2:30pm. Motion **carried** by voice vote, vote reflected as 3-0.