



# MARATHON COUNTY PARK COMMISSION AGENDA

**Date and Time of Meeting:** Tuesday, August 4, 2020 at 10:30am

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

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 Commission members and the public to attend this meeting remotely. To this end, instead of attendance in person, Commission members and the public may attend this meeting by telephone conference. If Commission 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: 1-408-418-9388.

**Access Code: 146 068 7699 Password: Parks080420 (72757080420 from phones and video systems)**

If you are prompted to provide an "Attendee Identification Number," enter the "#" sign. No other number is required to participate in the telephone conference

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

## **Park Commission Members -**

Commissioners: Connie Conrad, Dawn Herbst, Jean Maszk, Allen Opall, Pat Peckham, Rick Seefeldt, James Wadinski

***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. (Last updated: 12-20-05)*

***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.*

## **Agenda Items**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Public Comment Period – Not to Exceed 15 Minutes – Any Person Who Wishes to Address the Commission Must Provide, Name, Address and the Topic to the President of the Commission No Later than Five Minutes Before the Start of the Meeting.**
3. **Approval of the Park Commission Portion of the Minutes of the June 30, 2020 Joint Park Commission and Forestry/Recreation Committee Meeting**
4. **Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination**
  - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
    1. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Targets Utilized at the Duane L. Corbin Shooting Range
    2. Discussion and Possible Action Reallocating 2020 Small Project Funds
5. **Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance or Resolution:**
  - A. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee
    1. None
  - B. Discussion and Possible Action by Committee to Forward to the Environmental Resource Committee for its Consideration
    1. None
6. **Policy Issues for Discussion and Committee Determination for Consideration by Environmental Resources Committee**
  - A. None

**7. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**

- A. Department and Park Commission Overview
- B. Project Update – Park Maintenance and operations- Dells of Eau Claire Beach/Picnic Area, MPB #1 Controller, Farm Museum, McMillan Marsh, Mountain Bay Trail, Routine Operations

**8. Announcements**

- A. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location – Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 10:30am at 212 River Dr., Wausau WI 54403, Room 5
- B. Future Agenda Items -

**9. Adjourn**

Signed /s/ Jamie Polley  
Presiding Officer or Her 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 715-261-1500 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

THIS NOTICE POSTED AT THE COURTHOUSE

(Email/Fax City Pages, Marshfield News, Midwest Radio Group)

Date July 31, 2020 Time 3:27 pm

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

By David Patridge

By \_\_\_\_\_

**AGENDA SUMMARY**

**4A1. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Targets Utilized at the Duane L. Corbin Shooting Range**

On June 9, 2020 members of the Park Commission received an email from a County Board Supervisor passing on concerns by a constituent of human silhouette targets being utilized at the County's Duane L. Corbin Shooting Range. Staff contacted the County's Corporation Counsel on this matter. The ability to choose the target used in shooting practice has First Amendment "freedom of expression" implications. A park, by its very nature as a public space, has been traditionally viewed by courts to be a public forum for expression of ideas.

Discharge of firearms is prohibited in all other City/County Parks, except Duane L. Corbin Shooting Range Park, pursuant to the rules and regulations established by the County. The County does have authority to regulate the manner in which firearms are discharged. For example, customers are not permitted to shoot outside of their designated lanes. One hallmark of permissible First Amendment regulation is that it must be content-neutral. Not allowing a silhouette target is considered regulation of content. It is a subjective judgment based on an image that offends the sensibility of some people, but not others.

The County can restrict targets that contain personal likeness as this is not content neutral. The only content-neutral restriction would be to require that customers use only targets purchased (or provided upon payment of the fee) at the park. Staff does not recommend this restriction due to staffing needs and, during this time of COVID-19, increased face to face interaction. A list of the current rules and regulations is included in the packet. A rule could be added such as "All targets must be content neutral and not contain the likeness of an individual".

**4A2. Discussion and Possible Action Reallocating 2020 Small Project Funds**

The PRF budget includes \$100,000.00 each year to complete small projects that fall outside of the general maintenance items but are not large enough to submit as Capital Improvement Program requests. In 2020 \$106,729.00 was allocated to small projects. Each year the department chooses which projects are priority projects. Items this year have shifted as different opportunities have presented themselves. Attached is the list of small projects that were submitted with the 2020 budget process. The items highlighted in red are the changes that are being presented for approval by the Park Commission.

The Marathon Park MPB Sound System upgrade is a high priority project. Marathon Park MPB currently has three different sound systems that have all reached their life expectancy. These sound systems were each put in by different user groups to serve their particular purpose. The County is replacing these systems with one universal system that can be used by all groups. The project scope changed to include both rinks based on the needs of the user groups therefore requiring a reallocation of funds.

In addition, the repaving of the Dells of Eau Claire Campground Road was an opportunity that was presented as the Highway Department was paving County Road Y through the park. The road was in need of repair. Partnering with the Highway Department provided a significant cost savings to this project.

The Park Commission is asked to approve the reallocation of funds to the revised 2020 priority small projects.

#### 7A. Department and Park Commission Overview

Staff will provide the Park Commission with an overview of their role as Park Commissioners and review an orientation binder that will be presented to each member. Staff will also provide the Park Commission with an overview of the department. Past, current and future projects will be highlighted and department goals moving into the next 5 years and beyond will be reviewed.

#### 7B. Project Update

##### **Eau Claire Dells Beach/Picnic Area:**

Due to recent flooding on Jul 27-28; Park staff will need to repair washouts, make turf repairs, road and trail repairs, debris cleanup, and restroom remediation. Repairs will start week of August 1 after site firms up.

##### **MPB #1:**

Refrigeration controller installation is in progress. Staff recently completed upgrades on electrical in switch boxes (electrical control panel) to prepare for controller. Staff will work with a contractor after next scheduled event to install a new dehumidifier unit (replacement) in the northwest corner of the arena

##### **Marathon Park Farm Museum:**

Contractor has completed repairs/rebuild from winter snow load collapse. Park staff will now start to rebuild electrical system

##### **McMillan Marsh:**

Staff recently completed granite leveling on approximately 1 ¼ mile of trail/dike.

##### **Mountain Bay Trail:**

Trail grading for leveling and vegetation control is in progress

##### **Routine Operations/Programs:**

Mowing Operations

Urban forestry program; tree trimming, removals, stump grinding, **EAB treatments in progress.**

Building and structure maintenance.

Shelter reservations and Special Events;

Equipment maintenance and repair

Shooting Range

Marathon Junction

Campgrounds; **Firewood processing will begin week of August 1 due to increased demand.**

Restroom Maintenance; **increased maintenance (daily) and staffing due to COVID 19 recommendations.**

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> and finally County Board on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

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 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>.

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.

**PRF Department**  
**2020 County Small Projects List Options**  
**Budget Allowance \$106,729.00**

**Items in Red Completed or to be Completed**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>*Nine Mile Chalet Drinking Fountain</b>  | <b>\$3,600.00</b>                                      |
| Drinking fountain with bottle filler mounted on building for mountain bikers, hikers, etc.  |  |
| <b>*Nine Mile Boiler system line replacement</b>  | <b>\$ 6,500.00</b>                                     |
| Replace existing low efficiency insulated water line with improved efficiency lines   |  |
| <b>Dells of the Eau Claire Main Shelter Fireplace and wall pilings</b>  | <b>\$18,500.00</b>                                     |
| Repair and replace all broken mortar, reset stones and tuck-pointing.   |  |
| <del><b>*Dells of the Eau Claire Park; Steps to overlook</b></del>  | <del><b>\$19,000.00</b></del> – Move to Sound          |
| Reset all loose stones as needed, replace missing stones, add proper base material, mortar and tuck-pointing.   |  |
| <b>Dells of the Eau Claire Park High Bridge Deck Replacement</b>  | <b>\$ waiting on quote</b>                             |
| <b>Eastbay Sports Complex</b>   | <b>\$10,500.00</b>                                     |
| Construct walking/cart path connecting concessions area to north end of complex   |  |
| <b>*Marathon Park Utility Mapping</b>   | <b>\$8,000.00</b>                                      |
| Department does not have an inclusive up to date plan of existing utilities within the property. This information is needed for marking prior to construction or special event setup activities. Make sure to include Fiber on the mapping. |  |
| <b>Marathon Park South Border Fence</b>   | <b>\$26,000.00</b>                                     |
| Existing fence is over 40 years old. H post style posts with no top rail; replacement parts are becoming scarce.  |  |
| <b>*Marathon Park MPB #1 Dehumidifier replacement</b>   | <del><b>\$26,000.00</b></del> Complete <b>\$24,771</b> |
| Ice arena has two dehumidification units. Northeast unit is no longer operational.  |  |
| <b>*New Aluminum Glass Holder – MPB</b>   | <b>\$4,750.00 Complete</b>                             |
| The new dasher boards in MPB #1 and #2 now have real glass which is heavier than the plexi glass. These holders are necessary for staff to change glass safely and efficiently.   |  |



Submitted September 2019

**Big Eau Pleine Park Maintenance Building replacement** **\$33,000.00**

Existing wooden "horse barn" is in need of replacement a more modern, secure and weathertight structure. Building is used to stage and store maintenance equipment and supplies by park department, disc golf group and mountain bike group.

**\*Marathon Park MPB Sound System upgrade** **\$25,500.00 + \$19,000.00 Dells**

Replace multiple existing sound systems from user groups with one user friendly sound/PA system.

**New – Road Replacement Dells of Eau Claire – Cty Rd Y to Campground** **\$28,532.00**

The Highway Department rebuilt County Road Y this summer and contacted the PRF to partner with this project to improve the road to the campground in Dells of Eau Claire Park that was in need of repair. This opportunity presented a significant cost savings to the County.

~~**\*Marathon Park Marquee Replacement**~~ ~~**\$30,000.00**~~ **Moved to CIP**

Replace marquee at entrance to Marathon Park with new digital signage with current technology – project was submitted to CIP but not funded for 2020.

**Marathon Park Master Plan Update** **\$25,000.00**

Develop an updated master plan for Marathon Park that will identify uses, layout, junction, ice arenas and fair facilities.

\* = Priority projects