

Members present: John Burke, Mark Chickering, Susan Haug, Paul Klocko, Mike Lane, Gary Weiland, Marcell Wieloch

Excused: Dale Heil, Greg Klos, Carol Mills, Ryan Schleifer

Wausau and Marathon County Parks, Rec, and Forestry Department staff present: Tom Lovlien-Forest Administrator, Jamie Polley-Parks, Recreation and Forestry Director

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Lane. Members introduced themselves and Polley gave some background information about herself.

### **I. Minutes**

**Motion** by Wieloch to approve the March 21, 2018 minutes. Motion **carried**.

### **III. New Business**

#### **A. 2018 Anticipated Timber Harvest Activity at Nine Mile Forest**

Lovlien said there are two sales that potentially will be cut this summer and fall in Nine Mile. Staff will notify major user groups when these sales become active. They are select cuts close to the chalet and on many recreational trails. Burke mentioned the Nordic Ski Club was interested in internet access for a web camera and Lovlien asked that Burke contact him. A bird survey will be completed to determine if any threatened or endangered species are present.

#### **B. September 2018 Subcommittee Appointments**

Mike Lane, Susan Haug, John Burke, Mark Chickering, Greg Klos and Carol Mills are the members whose terms are up as of September 1, 2018. Lovlien asked that members let him know by July 15<sup>th</sup> if they would like to serve again on the committee for another two years.

#### **C. 2018 Scheduled Nine Mile Events**

Lovlien discussed a number of events that will be happening at Nine Mile. He said there will be five ATV safety classes, four high school cross country running races, three mountain bike races including a high school mountain bike race, two bike demo's, one Ragnar running relay race, and the chalet has also been rented for some private events. Nine Mile is very popular and gets heavily used. Lovlien asked members to let their user groups know about the dates of upcoming events.

#### **D. 2018 Spring Timber Sale Bid Summary**

Lovlien said fifteen bids from eight different contractors were received. There was one tract that didn't sell and will be re-bid this fall. The weighted average of the high bids was low overall. Lovlien thought prices were lower because the mills are full. Overall it was a good bid opening even though prices were down a little bit.

#### **E. Article – Baldwin's Bipartisan Good Neighbor Authority Legislation Becomes Law**

Lovlien said the State is helping out the Federal government establish timber sales and the proceeds pay the DNR for their wages, time and materials. Some northern counties have entered into the same agreement with the federal government. Lovlien said some people may question if there is more wood on the market that it will drive the price down. Lovlien said it could, but if there isn't enough wood on the market and the price is so high it could have a negative impact on the forest industry. Its positive because it gets the federal, state, and county forests managed. The other part of the law is the fire borrowing fix. Northern U.S. forest service parks and campgrounds have been opening later and closing earlier and doing less maintenance because sometimes as much as sixty percent of their funds go to the western United States to fight fires. That is now going to be capped so more money will stay in Wisconsin to keep the 1.5 million acres of federal parks and forests open in Wisconsin. There is also the Secure Rural Schools program which doesn't affect Marathon County but in other counties it guarantees 25% of the timber proceeds go to schools and local governments to help in lieu of taxes.

#### **F. DATCP Extends EAB Quarantine Across Entire State**

Lovlien said with the entire State under quarantine, forest products can move freely which helps the logging industry. Emerald Ash Borer is here and most likely already in many areas. However, the firewood restrictions will remain in effect on County parks, campgrounds, and County forests because there are a lot of insects and diseases that can be transported via firewood. Lovlien discussed how the Department handles its firewood process. Lovlien explained that signs were placed at Nine Mile prohibiting firewood from being brought in. The signs were placed at the south end on Fawn road and at the chalet. Lovlien discussed DNR silviculture guidelines for landowners not to remove every ash but to reduce their ash component in case anything is found to combat the borer.



