

Revised (per June 19, 2019 and July 12, 2019 Committee Meeting) and TENTATIVE Scheduling for Preliminary Public Participation Plan for the Development of the 2021-2035 Chippewa County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan

(M. Dahlby, County Forest Administrator, 6/12/2019-7/12/2019, 8/21/2019)

Context / Background

Chapter 28 of Wisconsin Statutes. Section 28.11(5)(a) requires that Counties manage county forest lands pursuant to a Comprehensive County Forest Land Use Plan prepared for a 15-year period by the County Forestry Committee with the assistance of technical personnel from the Department of Natural Resources and other interested Agencies.

Comprehensive County Forest Land Use Plans establish policy and provide a cooperative management framework that guides counties to administer County Forests in compliance with the purpose and direction of the County Forest Law as defined in s. 28.11 Wisconsin Statutes, giving consideration to input from citizens and groups to meet local needs and objectives.

The 15-year period of the time covered by the current Comprehensive County Forest Land Use Plans is 2006 through 2020. The State Department of Natural Resources has asked that counties implement a process to update plans, for the time period covering 2021-2035, that is consistent among counties and is complete for DNR review and approval by the end of September in 2020.

Public Participation

The LCFM Dept. proposes to use the following approach to collect, analyze, and incorporate input from citizens into the 2021-2035 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan:

I. Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee – (Mail stakeholder invitation letters July 19, 2019 August 28, 2019)

- A. The Land Conservation & Forest Management Committee will appoint an Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee
B. An Advisory Committee is defined as a fixed number of citizens convened to provide advice to a decision maker. They meet regularly until their task is done. They are commonly used to gather representatives of all the interests or stakeholders to work in-depth and make recommendations for aspects of a project or decision. They work collaboratively to resolve conflicting issues, analyze available information, and find recommendations that best meet multiple needs and are commonly expected to be conduits between the decision-making process and the broader group of stakeholders they represent. (International Association for Public Participation, 2003)
C. Members from the following interests or stakeholder groups will be invited to provide a representative to serve on the Advisory Committee:

Table with 3 columns: General, Industry, Environmental. Lists various stakeholder groups such as Adjacent Private landowners, Chippewa County Tourism Council, and Beaver Creek Reserve.

D. Wisconsin DNR Staff will be available to provide technical assistance relating to forestry, wetland and water resources, fisheries, and wildlife.

II. Public Notice/News Release – released by LCFM Staff ~~on or before August 2, 2019~~ **September 17, 2019** to increase public awareness.

A. Provide notice of the intent to develop the 2021-2035 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

B. Provide information about the planned public participation process

~~C. Advertise the forthcoming Public Open House~~

~~III. Public Open House – prepared and staffed by LCFM and Wisconsin DNR Staff~~

CONDUCT PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE AFTER DRAFT PLAN UPDATE IS AVAILABLE

~~A. Interested citizens can attend at their leisure during the Open House time period.~~

~~B. Advisory Group Members are encouraged to attend.~~

~~C. A series of tables will be used to present background information and specific policy and management issues relating to:~~

~~Timber Sale Contracting~~

~~Forest Management~~

~~Water Resources~~

~~Wildlife/Fisheries~~

~~Recreation~~

~~D. A written questionnaire will be used to collect input from citizens and to identify focus issues.~~

III. Advisory Group Meetings – to systematically collect public input from direct stakeholders

A. Advisory Group Meeting #1 – The Group will: ~~(August 6, 2019)~~ **October 3, 2019**

1. Review proposed plan format, specific policy and management **issues relating to recreation and access**, and public input from the ~~Public Open House~~.

2. Provide input to clarify and further define specific policy and management issues.

3. Identify and define any specific policy and management issues not previously identified.

~~4. Determine a sequence of issues to be considered at Advisory Group Meetings 2, 3, and 4.~~

~~B. Advisory Group Meeting #2 – The Group will: (September 3, 2019)~~

~~1. Review staff analysis of a subset of specific policy and management issues and options that are available to address issues.~~

2. Provide Feedback.

- C. Advisory Group Meeting #3 ~~2~~ - The Group will: (~~October 1, 2019~~ November 5, 2019)
1. Review staff analysis of a subset of specific policy and management issues relating to soil and water, fish, and wildlife, and options that are available to address issues
 2. Provide Feedback.
- D. Advisory Group Meeting #4 ~~3~~ - The Group will: (~~November 5, 2019~~ December 3, 2019)
1. Review staff analysis of a subset of specific policy and management issues relating to silviculture and forest administration, and options that are available to address issues.
 2. Provide Feedback.
- E. ~~Advisory Group Meeting #5 - The Group will: (December 3, 2019)~~
1. ~~Review draft of approximately one-half of the 2021-2035 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan~~
 2. ~~Provide Feedback~~
- F. Advisory Group Meeting #6 ~~4~~ - The Group will: (January 7, 2019)
1. ~~Review draft of approximately one-half of the 2021-2035 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan~~ Provide Feedback
 2. Provide Feedback

IV. Public Open House January 28, 2020 – prepared and staffed by LCFM and Wisconsin DNR

- A. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend at their leisure during the Open House time period.
- B. The Draft Plan will be available for review online.
- C. A series of tables will be used to present Plan content and management issues relating to:
 - Timber Sale Contracting
 - Forest Management
 - Water Resources
 - Wildlife/Fisheries
 - Recreation

V. Public Hearing (February 11, 2019)

- A. LCFM Staff will summarize the planning process and present the draft 2021-2035 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- B. Citizens will provide oral and written testimony

~~Public Participation Committee/County Board Participation~~

VI. Land Conservation & Forest Management Committee Meetings – The Committee will:

- A. Regularly receive reports on the planning progress and public input.
- B. Prior to the public hearing (January 15, 2020), approve, modify, or reject a draft the 2021-2035 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan for public review.
- C. Will receive a report on public testimony following the Public Hearing (March 18, 2020)
- D. Will consider the final 2021-2035 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan for review and approval by the County Board. (May 20, 2020)

VII. County Board Meeting– The County Board will: (June 9, 2020)

- A. Will consider the final draft the 2021-2035 County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, as recommended for approval by the LCFM Committee, and forward for final review and approval by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

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