

The Florence County Board of Supervisors met pursuant to adjournment on June 18, 2013. The meeting was called to order by the Chair. Members present were Supervisors: Bomberg, Erickson, Gardner, Halada, Johnson, Kelley, Neuens, Stratton, Steber, Theer, and Wenger. Absent: None.

Moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Stratton to approve the Agenda, as presented. Ayes: Eleven (11). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Supervisor Halada to approve the minutes of the last meeting, as read. Ayes: Eleven (11). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Supervisor Steber to approve a general fund transfer for repairs on the Pavilion/Stage at the Fairgrounds for up to \$1,000. Ayes: Eleven (11). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Stratton to approve sending a letter regarding the impact of residency requirements in the local government, emergency services, and public schools. Ayes: Eleven (11). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Chairwoman Bomberg informed the Committee that she just received a letter from Representative Rob Swearingen who requested a meeting with Speaker Robin Vos and was able to relay the concerns of Florence County regarding residency at the border. Representative Jeff Mursau also weighed in with concerns and had several conversations with leadership. As a result from all the lobbying from Florence County to the Representatives, the ending residency at the border has been included in the budget and is being debated in both houses this week. The residency requirement is not a done deal until it survives the process in both houses this week but at least Florence County was heard.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Gardner to approve sending a letter to state legislators opposing the assembly Bill 138, with the sale or transfer of firearms, with providing a penalty. Ayes: Eleven (11). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Supervisor Steber to approve a new Permanent Part-time Position as the Disability Benefit Specialist, which the ADRC, Aging and Disability Resource Center, Grant requires. Ayes: Eleven (11). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Supervisor Steber to approve to advertise for the new Permanent Part-time Disability Benefit Specialist Position. Ayes: Eleven (11). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Neuens to approve the sale of the Keyes Lake Campground. Supervisor Kelley explained to the Board that Mr. Nelson has been leasing the property from the County for many years and on advisement from Corp Council Steve Garbowicz, the County can sell directly to Mr. Nelson. The fair market value on the 2.93 acres is \$6,622. Ayes: Eleven (11). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Johnson to adopt the resolution for the year-end 2012 Overdrawn Accounts. Ayes: Eleven (11). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION # 2013 - 16**

WHEREAS: The following accounts were overdrawn at year end due to unforeseen and additional expenditures,

WHEREAS: The Audit, Budget and Administrative Committee requests the approval of the Florence County Board of Supervisors to transfer \$96,387.80 from the General Fund Account # 34000 to the following accounts:

51520	TREASURER	13,793.90
51945	REAL ESTATE TAX REIMB.	2,125.58
51958	RETIREMENT DEPT. HEAD	9.26
52105	JAIL	29,078.29
52106	ELECTRONIC MONTORING	330.00
52107	HWY SAFETY DEPT HEAD	946.92
52550	HAZMAT	4,895.14
54105	FAMILY CENTER	4,362.53
55110	LIBRARY	2,365.50
55440	SKI HILL	881.48
56120	FORESTRY	36,873.03
56122	FOREST ROADS	698.47
56425	ADDRESSING	27.70

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The above accounts be covered by the transfer of funds from the General Fund of \$96,387.80 to the respective accounts for the 2012 budget year.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Stratton to adopt the resolution to Oppose Modifications to Wisconsin State Statute Section 710, Land Ownership in Wisconsin. Ayes: Eleven (11). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION # 2013-17**

**Oppose Modifications to Wisconsin State Statute Section 710**

**WHEREAS**, the Wisconsin 2013-2015 proposed budget would change regulations governing foreign ownership of land in Wisconsin; and,

**WHEREAS**, current state law prevents an individual from another country from owning land in Wisconsin unless they reside in the state; and

**WHEREAS**, a separate provision in state law prevents foreign investors from owning more than 640 acres of land in Wisconsin; and,

**WHEREAS**, farming continues to be a vital economic component to Wisconsin's business industry and source of agricultural production.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Florence County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013, does hereby oppose any modifications to Wisconsin State Statute Section 710.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Florence County Board of Supervisors will forward this resolution to Wisconsin's Land and Water Conservation Board, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection, and to state legislators representing Wisconsin landowners' and agricultural consumers' interests.

Moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Gardner to adopt the resolution for the National Forest Policy. Ayes: Eleven (11). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION #2013-18**

Resolution offered by **Forestry and Parks Committee with support of the AD Hoc Federal Sustainable Forest Committee**

**WHEREAS**, Florence County recognizes the tremendous importance of the lands contained within the 1.6 million acres of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF) as an exceptional natural resource capable of producing a sustainable supply of timber products on an annual basis to provide forest health, economic, social, and biological benefits to Forest County, the State of Wisconsin, as well as the Nation.

**WHEREAS**, the health of the forest across the landscape has a direct effect on the sustainability of the communities in our County and across the Nation. The declining harvest on our National forest lands has led to an array of forest health concerns. Forest health issues on national forests often spread to adjacent lands including tribal forests, state forests, county forests and privately owned forestlands. Fire, forest pests and diseases do not adhere to ownership boundaries so reduced management on our National forests increases forest health issues on adjacent forestland and endangers people who may live there; and

**WHEREAS**, declining forest health has resulted in huge costs associated with wildfire response as well as loss of value from degradation of timber quality and mortality of timber assets across our Nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the science of silviculture, through proven studies, has developed management strategies which provides for maintenance of forest health, forest value and forest quality through active forest health management (including timber programs); and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service has forest data available to utilize the science of silviculture to determine the amount of timber that can be harvested from a forest on an annual and sustainable basis. This amount is known as the annual allowable harvest; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service currently utilizes the term Annual Sale Quantity(ASQ) which defines harvesting levels as determined by funding and staffing availability rather than utilization of scientific forest data; and

**WHEREAS**, since there has been a Forest Plan on the CNNF the Forest has never sold the ASQ in the Forest Plan because of the complex analysis process the Forest Service must go through; and

**WHEREAS**, the CNNF has significantly reduced forest health treatments (including timber harvesting) over the past 10 years. Last year the CNNF harvested less than one-half of the timber required to maintain forest health. Harvesting levels on the Nation Forest Lands in both Softwood and Hardwood stands has been reduced significantly nationwide. For example, on the CNNF in Wisconsin with an ASQ of 131 million board feet per year, they have only averaged harvesting 58% of the ASQ. This translates to a long term impact on forest health and wildlife, reduced revenue to local communities from direct Forest

Service payments and a significant reduction in raw materials needed to sustain our forest industry and local economy; and

**WHEREAS**, every 20,000 board feet of timber harvested provides enough raw material to sustain 1 job in our forest industry. Last year the CNNF failed to harvest 88 million board feet of timber available for harvest which could sustain 4,400 Wisconsin jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, Federal appropriations is a funding source that is utilized to meet forest health goals as well as other forest plan goals, and

**WHEREAS**, the percent of Federal appropriations utilized for active forest health management (including timer program) utilized on the CNNF is less than 30% of the total appropriations budget; and

**WHEREAS**, Stewardship contracting authority, as authorized in the 2008 Farm Bill is an additional funding source that can be used to meet forest health goals as well as other forest plan goals; and

**WHEREAS**, Stewardship contracting authority is due to expire in 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, to formally research these issues, the Florence County Board of Supervisors facilitated the development of an Ad Hoc research committee formally known as the Federal Sustainable Forest Committee (FSFC) to make recommendations as well as develop solutions. This committee is comprised of members with a unique, diverse, experienced background including forest professionals from local, county and tribal governments as well as economic, industry, trade and environmental groups; and

**WHEREAS**, the FSFC Committee has proposed some initial solutions to improve forest health and benefit local economies which are hereby supported by this resolution, as follows

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that by County Board Action, Florence County, Wisconsin request the United States House of Representative and the United States Senate to:

1. Change USFS policy to maximize the health of forest at the landscape level by requiring USFS harvesting levels at the annual allowable harvest as determined through silvicultural prescriptions that can be supported by scientific means; and
2. Require forest health management (including timber programs) to be the highest priority in all management areas and change USFS policy to require forest units to provide detailed plans on how forest health management (including timber programs) will be funded through appropriations and the use of Stewardship Contracting receipts. This funding plan shall prioritize spending; and
3. Change USFS appropriation percentages earmarked for forest health management (including timber programs) to be at least 60% of the budget by 2018 with the requirement to harvest at least 80% of the annual allowable harvest in each forest; and
4. Take actions to extend or make permanent Stewardship Contracting Authority; and
5. Change USFS policy to shift funding for non-forest health management programs (recreation, fire, wildlife, etc.) to Stewardship Contracting receipts or user fees by 2018; and
6. Require Forest Plan revisions to meet the directives listed above.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT**, copies of this Resolution be presented to President Barack Obama, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture Tom Vilsack, Chief of the Forest Service Thomas Tidwell, U.S. Regional Forester Kathleen Atkinson, Wisconsin Federal Representative Senator Tammy Baldwin and Senator Ronald Johnson, Congressman Sean Duffy, Congressman Reid Ribble, Representative Dan Benishek, Senator Tom Casperson, Governor Scott Walker, each legislator in the Wisconsin Senate and Assembly who represent constituents from Forest County, all towns in Forest County, Wisconsin Towns Association, Intertribal Timber Council, Forest County Potawatomi Community, Sokaogon Chippewa Community, City of Crandon, Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin County Forest Association, Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Nicolet College. We respectfully request that all entities that rely on the National Forest for recreation, commerce, employment, and energy production, approve and forward the same or similar resolution to your representatives, to safeguard the health and productivity of the natural resources and land that we all utilize.

Under Committee reports, Supervisor Kelley informed the Board that spring timber sales for the County where \$469,000.

Supervisor Stratton reported the Florence County Library hosted the Sturgeon River Quartet on Saturday morning and over 100 people attended this free concert. She explained all who attended really enjoyed the show.

Under future agenda items, Supervisor Neuens asked Supervisor Wenger to explain to the Board on the cuts in the national forest and how the process is all broke down.

There being no further business and on a motion made, seconded, and carried the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna Trudell  
County Clerk