

The Florence County Board of Supervisors met pursuant to adjournment on October 21, 2014. The meeting was called to order by the Chair. Members present were Supervisors: Bomberg, Brunette, Erickson, Gardner, Halada, Johnson, Kelley, Neuens, Steber, Stratton, Theer, and Wenger. Absent: None.

Moved by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Supervisor Gardner to approve the Agenda. Ayes: Twelve (12). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Theer, seconded by Supervisor Stratton to approve the minutes of September 16, 2014 meeting, as read. Ayes: Twelve (12). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Those wishing to address the Board – None

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Wenger approval to amend the County Forest Blocking Boundaries in the Forestry and Parks 15 Year Plan as recommended by Forestry & Parks Committee. Ayes: Twelve (12). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Patrick Smith, Forestry & Parks Administrator, explained to the Board that when the County applies for State Grants for the County Boat Landings the State will reduce the boat landing grant by a dollar amount up to \$5,000 each if the County does not start collecting a Boat Launch Fee. This Ordinance only applies to boat landings under the control of the County Forestry & Parks.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Neuens approval to amend Chapter 19: County Forest & Parks System, Subchapter 1: Florence County Forestry and Parks Ordinance, Section 27.0 Boat Landing Fees as recommended by the Forestry & Parks Committee.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Stratton to approve a letter to be sent opposing listing Northern Long-Eared Bats as endangered species as recommended by the Legislative Advisory Committee. Ayes: Twelve (12). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Stratton, seconded by Supervisor Kelley to approve a letter to be sent opposing Wisconsin developing a threatened or endangered species list beyond federal requirements as recommended by the Legislative Advisory Committee. Ayes: Twelve (12). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Stratton to approve a letter to be sent supporting funding for PILT to counties included in Federal Continuing Resolution as recommended by the Legislative Advisory Committee. Ayes: Twelve (12). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Stratton to approve a letter to be sent opposing the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protections (DATCP) proposal to modify the funding formula to Wisconsin counties that supports implementation of Chapter ATCP 50 as recommended by the Legislative Advisory Committee. Ayes: Twelve (12). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Johnson to adopt Resolution #2014-14 for the County to oppose the proposed lapse in State funding to circuit court system as recommended by the Legislative Advisory Committee. Ayes: Twelve (12). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2014-14

REGARDING: OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED LAPSE IN STATE FUNDING TO CIRCUIT COURT SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the 2013-15 State Biennial Budget requires the Wisconsin court system to return a total of \$11.8 million to the state general fund over the next two-year period, resulting in budget cuts affecting the counties' circuit court system; and,

WHEREAS, if said budget cuts are made, Wisconsin Counties' Circuit Courts will no longer receive state funding at previous levels in the form of court payments; interpreter assistance; and guardian ad litem assistance; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed reduction of funding and resulting budget cuts would create a financial challenge to Wisconsin counties, potentially resulting in increased tax levy, while striving to meet the challenge of the state levy cap; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of maintaining quality court services to Wisconsin communities that the Florence County Board of Supervisors oppose this proposed budget reduction.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Florence County Board of Supervisors state opposition to the lapse of Wisconsin judicial branch funding to the State general fund over the next two-year period; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to Governor Scott Walker, Wisconsin Legislators, the Director of State Courts and all other Wisconsin Counties.

Moved by Supervisor Kelley, seconded by Supervisor Wenger to adopt Resolution #2014-15 for future direction of staffing and support funding to Wisconsin Counties as proposed by the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP) as recommended by the Legislative Advisory Committee. Ayes: Twelve (12). Nays: None (0). Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2014-15

REGARDING: The Future Direction of Staffing and Support Funding to Wisconsin Counties as proposed by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin legislature declares it to be the policy of this state (Chapter 92.02) "...to halt and reverse the depletion of the state's soil resources and pollution of its waters;" and,

WHEREAS, each county shall submit for DATCP approval, a *Land and Water Resource Management Plan* with contents that include: water quality and soil erosion assessments; state and local regulations; water quality objectives for watersheds; water quality and soil erosion problem areas and their conservation practices to address them; plans to identify priority farms and those subject to WDNR "Notice of Intent" or "Notice of Discharge;" farms located in watersheds draining to "impaired waters;" local strategies to encourage voluntary implementation of conservation practices; compliance procedures; information and education strategy; and, a multi-year work plan for implementation with federal, state, and local coordination, listing measurable benchmarks and responsibilities; and,

WHEREAS, the department (DATCP) is directed through ATCP 50 to reimburse 100% of every Wisconsin county's Land Conservation Department first position, along with additional staffing and support costs, to implement locally led conservation as identified in individual county *Land and Water Resource Management Plans*, as recommended by the state Land and Water Conservation Board and approved by DATCP.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Florence County Board of Supervisors are strongly opposed to DATCP "qualifying conservation activities" through modifying the funding formula to Wisconsin counties. Proposing to offer priority and greater support to agricultural conservation practices only; not in accordance with approved *Land and Water Resource Management Plans*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the Governor, the DATCP Secretary, all Wisconsin Legislators and local officials and County Conservationists representing the 72 counties of the State of Wisconsin, multi-county, state, and federal conservation partner organizations, Cooperative Weed Management Areas, and to riparian landowners and lake associations interested in maintaining the soil and water quality in the state of Wisconsin as the expressed intent of Chapter 92 of the State Statutes.

Under Committee reports, Supervisor Stratton reported that Jim Golembeski representing Bay Area Work Force Development emailed a new service plan for Florence County. Zana Keener, FSC Case Manager, will be available on Fridays at the Jail in the morning and at the Library in the afternoon. Workforce Development services are currently advertised with posters at the post office, grocery store, courthouse, laundromat, and the library. They will also have announcements in the Mining News, The Daily News, and Advertiser papers.

Supervisor Kelley, Chairman of the Alliance of Northern States Working to Ensure Regional Stability (ANSWERS), reported that he recently accepted the Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council's "Chairman's Special Achievement Award." This award is presented each year to a group or individual in a nine county area for outstanding contributions in promoting good forest stewardship as an advocate for forest management.

Supervisor Kelley reported that the Florence County Library has been selected to receive the Standing Up for Rural Wisconsin Libraries and Schools Award. Stephanie Weber, County Librarian and Ben Niehaus, Florence School Superintendent, will go to Stevens Point in November to accept the award from Tony Evers, the State Superintendent. This award is an honor for the entire County and represents all the hard work done this past year.

Supervisor Neuens reported he recently attended the North Central Region Highway Conference. A few things discussed at the meeting; Highway Fatalities are down on state highways, the state is offering rumble strips for some counties to try out for added safety measures, damage done to the highways from overweight trucks and to get out and vote yes for the upcoming Transportation Fund Referendum.

Chairwoman Bomberg reported that she received a letter from the Northern Saddle Club thanking Patrick Smith, Andy Nault, Eric Brolin, Rudy Vassar, and Bob Butterfield of Forestry and Parks Dept., and Raymond Thomas of the Highway Dept. for the excellent job in completing a large trail improvement project and the continued help since their 2008 beginning of the equestrians trail. They also thanked the County Board for their support.

Chairwoman Bomberg reminded all board members that the next meeting has been moved to Wednesday, November 12, 2014 to comply with State Statutes for Veterans Day.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Trudell
County Clerk