

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2016
LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - LOWER LEVEL
FLORENCE NATURAL RESOURCE CENTER
FLORENCE, WI 54121

PRESENT:

SUPERVISOR / CHAIRMAN
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER
USFS DISTRICT RANGER
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY
ED WENGER
LARRY DZEKUTE
HARV SKJERVEN
PATRICK SMITH
MARY PODNAR

Absent or excused: Larry Neuens & John Halada

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Ed Kelley, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as posted.

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve the Forestry & Parks minutes of December 9, 2015.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. HARV SKJERVEN - USFS DISTRICT RANGER

USFS District Ranger Harv Skjerven reported that the forest has been a very busy place – they currently have eleven contracts open. With help from Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) workers – they are getting jobs ready for 2016. Also work has begun for an environmental analysis in the Morgan Lake area.

Advertising for Don Vassar's Forestry Technician position will begin next week. USFS jobs must now be advertised as "merit" which means government employees only or as "demo" which means people outside the forest service can apply. There was a time when you could advertise as both. Because there is enough interest within the forest service – it will be advertised as "merit" and the duty station can be in either Florence or Eagle River.

Skjerven reported that they should have a budget within the next month. Recreation numbers will be taking a hit, however the timber budget will remain in good shape.

Skjerven also reported that everything seems to be running smoothly on the stewardship project.

B. HUBER RESOURCES

Tony Derleth from Huber Resources was not in attendance.

C. DNR-HENRY SULLIVAN

Florence County Forest Liaison/DNR Public Lands Forester Henry Sullivan was not in attendance. He was at the statewide forestry meeting.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Administrator Smith reported that there were no active sales in the County right now.

B. HIRING PROCESS FOR PARKS & SKI HILL ASSISTANT

Smith asked if anyone from the committee would be willing to sit in on the interviews. Supervisor Dzekute volunteered. He will plan a day for interviews next week. The interview committee will bring the recommendation for the top candidate and two alternates to the personnel committee for approval.

C. APPROVAL OF TRUCK BIDS

Highway Commissioner Jeff DeMuri reported to the committee that the truck bid opening was held today. The only bidder was Florence Motor Sales. The results for the Forestry ½ ton 4 X 4 pickup truck and 1 ton 4 X 4 dump truck with a plow, and the Highway 1 ton 2 wheel drive stake body truck chassis were discussed. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve all three truck bids and send to County Board. It was also moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve allowing DeMuri to sell the old Forestry & Parks truck on Surplus Auction.

7. RECREATION

A. SKI HILL

Smith reported that the ski hill opened last weekend. He wished they could have opened the hill earlier – but the warm weather made it not workable.

8. RESOURCE CENTER

A. VETERANS MEMORIAL PROPOSAL

Smith had invited representatives from the American Legion, VFW, and Chamber of Commerce to the Resource Center building meeting. Everyone agreed that something should be put up to honor our veterans. Smith is waiting for the design. Funds still need to be raised for this project.

B. FUNDING UPDATE

Smith said that funding for the Wild Rivers Interpretive Center has passed both the Senate and Assembly home committees. We are now waiting for it to go for a full vote.

9. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Smith wanted the committee to be aware that Public Land Specialist Joe Schwantes accepted the Team Leader position in Wausau.

Our recently submitted Sustainable Forestry Grant for a salmon blade has been denied. Smith is going to try and purchase the blade using Wildlife monies.

There is a discrepancy with the tax deed and legal description with one of the land sales. County Treasurer JoAnne Friberg is working on correcting the issue.

The Spring 2016 WCFA conference will be held March 16th – 18th in Marshfield, Wisconsin.

Smith will be putting out bids for the Sea Lion Lake and Menominee PUD boat landing work. It was the consensus of the committee to put these projects out for bid and approve bids at the next forestry meeting.

There is still discussion about hiring a GNA forester. The Forestry Department may start work on GNA timber marking. However, Smith does not want to pursue hiring until he knows there is enough work for this position.

10. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Supervisor Wenger said he attended the Federal Sustainable Forestry meeting and Don Peterson said everything was going well with the USFS Stewardship project.

11. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve bills being paid by the Forestry and Parks and the Florence Natural Resource Center for the month of December.

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Podnar, Business Manager
Florence County Forestry and Parks