

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015
LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - LOWER LEVEL
FLORENCE NATURAL RESOURCE CENTER
FLORENCE, WI 54121

PRESENT:

SUPERVISOR / CHAIRMAN
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER
SUPERVISOR
USFS DISTRICT RANGER
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY
ED WENGER
GARY STEBER
HARV SKJERVEN
HENRY SULLIVAN
PATRICK SMITH
MARY PODNAR

Absent or excused: John Halada, Larry Neuens & Don Gardner

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 Wenger seconded by Supervisor Steber, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as posted.

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Steber, and unanimously carried to approve the Forestry & Parks minutes of December 10, 2014 as read.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. HARV SKJERVEN - USFS DISTRICT RANGER

USFS District Ranger Harv Skjerven informed the committee that outreach for the three jobs in Florence went out last week and there has been a lot of response. They should be ready to advertise by February 1st, 2015 and the positions will hopefully be filled by June 1st, 2015.

Skjerven reviewed and signed the stewardship proposal – seven more signatures are needed. Skjerven expects final approval in roughly 30 days. Discussion was had on the different work that will need to be done on the stewardship project such as: road construction, site prep, culvert replacement, wildlife openings, canopy gaps, ect. Skjerven briefly reviewed what work that can and cannot be done. The USFS would like to see 30% of all timber sales to be set up as stewardship sales.

Chairman Kelley asked Skjerven if he knew the status of PILT monies – Skjerven said he would get back to him with more details.

DNR-County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan asked Skjerven what is the “States Good Neighbor Authority”. Skjerven replied that this has been tested in two states. Basically – the forest service can enter into

agreement with state government to take the receipts that would normally go back to Washington and hire the DNR to do work on the next timber sale. It is similar to the stewardship agreements the USFS has with the county.

B. HUBER & ASSOCIATES

Tony Derleth was not in attendance.

C. DNR-JASON COTTER

New DNR Wildlife Biologist Jason Cotter introduced himself to the committee. He started his position in mid-October and is familiarizing himself with the projects going on in the Wildlife program. Cotter said he is preparing for the Integrated Property Management Meeting that is going to be held on February 12, 2015. He looks forward to working with the departments in the future.

D. DNR-HENRY SULLIVAN

DNR-County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan reported that the State has one active timber sale in the County right now – the LaSalle South sale. There are roughly 70 acres left to finish – and this sale will then be ready for closeout.

The State is also preparing for a bid opening on January 22, 2015. The bids were advertised in the paper last week and are also available on the county's website.

Right now the State is has 100 acres to prepare for harvesting in the Oxbow.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Forestry & Parks Administrator Patrick Smith informed the committee that the County has two active sales going on right now.

B. TIMBER SALE APPROVAL OF BID (SALE WITH DNR) BID OPENING ON 1/22/15

The County is advertising a sale in conjunction with the State as well. He passed around a map of the sale. Smith would like permission to approve bids so he would not have to wait until February's committee meeting to let the contractor know. The sale is a small one – and if there was anything controversial – he would let the committee know immediately. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Steber and unanimously carried to allow Smith to approve the sale's bid.

7. RECREATION

A. SKI HILL

Smith passed around the 2014-2015 Ski Season report prepared by Business Manager Mary Podnar. The hill has brought in \$6,392.00 for the season so far.

B. SEA LION BOAT LANDING

Smith passed around the Coleman Engineering Sea Lion Lake Improvement plans. Smith said the DNR Waterway grant specialist told him that these plans need to be submitted ASAP in order to get funded.

8. RESOLUTIONS

Chairman Kelley explained that these are the same resolutions that are approved every year. These resolutions need approval so the Forestry & Parks department can apply for grants. It was moved by Supervisor Steber, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously carried to approve all the resolutions and send on to County Board.

9. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Smith wanted the committee to be aware that there might be a Planned Urban Development (P.U.D.) meeting on January 29, 2015. Most of the focus will be on the boat landing on the Menominee River.

Trees have been ordered for our WCS Tree Planting grant. The challenge now is figure out a way to spread ash into the trenches. Smith plans on purchasing a salt spreader to try and accomplish this.

The 2015 Spring Wisconsin County Forest Association (WCFA) meeting is being held in Minocqua March 18th – 20th. Smith asked the committee members to let Podnar know if they plan on attending.

10. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Steber, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:30.

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