

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016
LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - LOWER LEVEL
FLORENCE NATURAL RESOURCE CENTER
FLORENCE, WI 54121

PRESENT:

SUPERVISOR / CHAIRMAN
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER
USFS NEPA COORDINATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY
ED WENGER
LARRY DZEKUTE
ADAM FELTS
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 January 13, 2016.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. HARV SKJERVEN - USFS DISTRICT RANGER

USFS District Ranger Harv Skjerven was not in attendance. USFS NEPA Coordinator Adam Felts came in his place. Felts said there was much to update. The contractor working on the Stewardship project moved off the job and he is not sure when he will move back in. Otherwise – all things seem to be going well on the 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 reported that the Florence/Forest team has a GNA LTE working out of the Crandon office. He has been busy working on a project in the Lakewood Laona district. Sullivan reported that Administrator Smith just met with State GNA Liaison Tim Friedrich. The County might begin helping with GNA projects in the Phelps area in the Spring.

Sullivan also reported that it has been a busy winter for the State with three active sales. The State has a marking contract for 344 acres – and currently there is roughly 130 acres of it marked and cruised.

Sullivan said there is a new Managed Forest Law (MFL) bill that is at the Senate. This bill would eliminate the 5% severance tax being paid. This money used to go back to the local municipalities to help compensate for the loss of land being off the tax roll program. However, the \$7 - \$8 closed acreage share payments that the landowners currently pay would go back to the local municipalities. This law would also allow MFL open or closed lands to be leased.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

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

Smith also reported that there is a contractor who would like to receive a 4th extension on a current sale. The sale cannot be cut this winter because the terrain is swampy and it has not been cold enough to freeze. Our contract only allow for three extensions. Smith would like to agree to a 4th extension because this sale originally went no bid. It was sold as a direct sale and Smith believes it would be extremely difficult to re-sell. It was also moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve a 4th extension with a 5% penalty.

B. HIRING UPDATE FOR PARKS & SKI HILL ASSISTANT

Smith informed the committee that Mat Gummin was selected as the new Parks & Ski Hill Assistant. This decision has already been approved by Personnel. Gummin's first day of work will be February 19, 2016.

7. RECREATION

A. SKI HILL

Smith passed around the 2015-2016 Ski Season report. Unfortunately, the ski hill is off to slow start due to the weather. The Mike Roberts' Memorial Ski Race was a success. They are now getting the hill ready for the upcoming snowmobile climbs.

B. APPROVAL OF SEA LION LAKE BOAT LAUNCH BIDS

The results from the bids for the Sea Lion Lake Boat Launch project were passed around and discussed. Smith said there were four bidders. The estimate came in lower than they thought. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve the Sea Lion Lake Boat Launch low bid.

C. APPROVAL OF MENOMINEE RIVER P.U.D. BOAT LAUNCH BIDS

The results from the bids for the Menominee River Boat Launch project were also passed around and discussed. There were five bidders for this work. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously carried to approve the Menominee River Boat Launch low bid.

D. HORSE TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

Smith passed around a letter he received from the Northern Saddle Club regarding projects they would like to pursue in 2016. They are interested in improving Hall's Creek road and putting in a drilled well at the Hall's Creek Equestrian Trail. They would also like to see a pit toilet put in at Bush Lake Flats Equestrian Trail. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously carried to approve Administrator Smith moving forward with the projects that he sees fit.

8. RESOURCE CENTER

A. WATERWAYS COMMISSION PROJECT

Smith passed around and discussed the 2016 Waterways Commission resolution. This resolution is needed to apply for state and federal grants. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously

carried to approve this resolution.

B. OUTDOOR MOTORIZED RECREATION AIDS

Smith passed around and discussed the 2016 Outdoor Motorized Recreation Aids resolution. This resolution is needed to apply for state and federal grants. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously carried to approve this resolution and send to County Board.

C. SNOWMOBILE TRAIL MAINTENANCE & DEVELOPMENT

Smith passed around and discussed the 2016 Snowmobile Trail Maintenance & Development resolution. This resolution is needed to apply for state and federal grants. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously carried to approve this resolution and send to County Board.

D. COUNTY FISH & GAME PROJECT

Smith passed around and discussed the 2016 County Fish & Game Project resolution. This resolution is needed to apply for state and federal grants. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously carried to approve this resolution and send to County Board.

E. OUTDOOR RECREATION AIDS

Smith passed around and discussed the 2016 Outdoor Recreation Aids resolution. This resolution is needed to apply for state and federal grants. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously carried to approve this resolution and send to County Board.

9. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Smith passed around the voucher which shows the stumpage revenue payments to the Towns for 2015.

Smith received a letter complementing our Halls Creek cross country ski trail. Our LTE had to get access from a private landowner for a small grant the County is working on. The landowner was impressed and happy to work with him.

10. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

None.

11. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:16 PM.

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