

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 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
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY
ED WENGER
LARRY DZEKUTE
HARV SKJERVEN
HENRY SULLIVAN
PATRICK SMITH
ANDY NAULT
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 February 10, 2016.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. HARV SKJERVEN - USFS DISTRICT RANGER

USFS District Ranger Harv Skjerven reported that the Forestry Tech position is about to be filled. Most of the 2016 sales are marked and they will begin work on 2017 sales. Crews are busy getting ready for break-up. He also said that the Stewardship program seems to be running smoothly.

Skjerven also reported that the budget for forestry came in higher than was anticipated. This was primarily due to the additional work from the GNA & Stewardship programs.

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 State authorized the filling of the Forestry Technician vacancy at the Florence office. The department will be making offers soon. Sullivan anticipates the position will be filled by May.

Filling this vacancy for the current fire season will be retired DNR foresters Pete Solen, Gary Onassis, and Paul Veirauch from the Pembine Station.

State sales are wrapped up for the year. One sale still has hauling left on it. It has been a busy year for timber sales – the State has closed out over a 1,000 acres.

There are changes coming to the Managed Forest Law (MFL) program. This will lead to changes in staffing. The plan is to create a Tax Law Team that will review all MFL plans and cutting notices for completeness.

The State is behind on time standard hours coming into fire season. It has been hard to keep up without the Technician position being filled. The GNA LTE from Forest County has been coming over and doing recon work to try and help catch up.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Assistant Administrator Andy Nault reported that there were two active sales in the County right now. The woods seem to be holding up – but the roads are very sloppy. It has been a good winter for setting up sales. Our Spring sales are ready and we plan on selling 542 acres. We are prepared for our Fall sales as well and will begin setting up for 2017.

B. APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE FOR RECREATION COORDINATOR

Smith passed around and discussed the Recreation Coordinator job description and the Suggested Annual Compensation survey. This was used to determine the position's wage scale. He informed the committee that it has been approved by the Personnel Committee. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve the job description and advertise for the position.

C. ENTRY OF LAND INTO COUNTY FOREST LAW (CFL)

Smith informed the committee that they discovered 120 acres of land that they thought was in County Forest but actually was not. More information will follow for next month's meeting.

D. APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE FOR SUMMER OCCASIONAL WORKER

Smith told the committee that both the Highway and Forestry & Parks would like to begin advertising for summer occasional workers. This position is utilized by both departments. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously carried to approve advertising.

7. RECREATION

A. SKI HILL

Smith passed around the 2015-2016 Ski Season report. The ski season was extremely slow. The snowmobile races were successful, however, attendance was down from last year. The hill will be open on Friday from 3:00PM – 6:00PM so kids can pick up their equipment as the hill is closing for the season.

B. NEW LAWNMOWER PURCHASE

Smith wanted the committee to know that he purchased a new Husqvarna lawnmower from Bob's Midland Service in Aurora. It was part of the 2016 budget.

8. RESOLUTIONS

A. DEER STAND RESOLUTION

Smith passed around and discussed a Uniform Regulations for Tree Stand Use on Public Lands resolution. It originally

came to Smith from Douglas County. Douglas County is trying to get the DNR to allow tree stands to stay up overnight. Currently - Florence County policy requires tree stands to be taken down the same day. Pros and cons were discussed. The committee wanted time to review the resolution before any decision will be made.

9. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Smith informed the committee that Governor Walker will be here next Tuesday to sign the bill for the funding of the Interpretive Center.

The WCFA meeting will be held next week in Marshfield March 16th – March 18th.

Supervisor Wenger asked Smith if he has any more details regarding the Oak Ridge purchase. The DNR will offer this land to sale to the County. He has not heard anything more.

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 February.

12. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO:

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to adjourn to Closed Session pursuant to the following:

A. Wis. State Stat. §§ 19.85 (1) (c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation of any public employee over which the Governmental body has jurisdiction or exercise responsibility. The purpose of the meeting is discussion of compensation for an employee.

B. Wis. State Stat. §§ 19.85 (1) (c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation of any public employee over which the Governmental body has jurisdiction or exercise responsibility. The purpose of the meeting is discussion of compensation for an employee.
A roll call vote was taken and all members voted Aye.

13. ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION AND RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION TO TAKE ACTION, IF APPROPRIATE, ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION.

A roll call vote was taken and all members voted Aye.

14. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:37 PM.

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