

**FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**3:30 P.M. - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014**  
**LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - LOWER LEVEL**  
**FLORENCE NATURAL RESOURCE CENTER**  
**FLORENCE, WI 54121**

**PRESENT:**

SUPERVISOR / CHAIRMAN  
SUPERVISOR / VICE CHAIRMAN  
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER  
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER  
USFS – SILVICULTURE  
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR  
FORESTRY & PARKS RECREATION/FORESTER  
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY  
ED WENGER  
JOHN HALADA  
DON GARDNER  
BOB MACGREGOR  
PATRICK SMITH  
ERIC BROLIN  
MARY PODNAR

Absent or excused: Larry Neuens & Henry Sullivan

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

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

**2. APPROVAL / AGENDA**

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

**3. APPROVAL / MINUTES**

It was moved by Supervisor Gardner, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of February 12, 2014 as read.

**4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

**5. AGENCY REPORTS**

**A. HARV SKJERVEN - USFS DISTRICT RANGER**

USFS Silviculture/Forester Bob MacGregor reported that timber sales are going strong. They usually shut down sales by March 15<sup>th</sup> – but will continue to let them go as long as the weather holds up. Hardwood pulp prices are high so wood is moving.

MacGregor said he finished the prescriptions for the stewardship sale.

There is a proposal to change the Morgan Lake Campground Boat Launch to become ATV accessible because Fence is opening their roads to ATV's.

**B. HUBER & ASSOCIATES**

Tony Derleth was not in attendance.

**C. DNR – HENRY SULLIVAN**

Henry Sullivan, DNR-County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester was not in attendance because he was at a Pre-Fire Season meeting in Suring.

**6. COUNTY FOREST**

**A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE**

Administrator Smith reported to the committee that there are no active sales going on right now.

**B. NHI CONCERNS FOR MANAGEMENT**

Administrator Smith wanted the committee to be aware of the Wood Turtle Specie Guideline regulations that recently came out last June. It restricts timber activity within 1,000 feet of any water body. This would affect over 7,000 acres of county forest. DNR-County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan and Smith plan on disputing this guideline. Both Smith & Sullivan believe that this was written without the understanding of how it would affect timber harvesting in the state. This guideline would restrict harvesting from March 15<sup>th</sup> thru the end of October. If you take into account both the Wood Turtle Specie Guideline and the Oak Wilt Restrictions – almost 1/3 of the county forest would not be harvestable during this timeframe. Smith is going to talk about this issue at the WCFA Conference next week as Florence is not the only county facing this challenge.

**C. SKID STEER**

Bids were going to be opened tomorrow afternoon at 1:00 for the skid steer purchase.

**D. LTE FORESTER 2014**

There is still money left from the 2012 Sustainable Forestry Grant for an LTE Forester position. Administrator Smith received approval from the Personnel Committee last week to advertise and hire this position. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Halada, and unanimously carried that this LTE position be filled.

**7. RECREATION**

**A. LAKE EMILY LANDING GRANT – ACCEPT AND/OR REJECT BIDS**

Recreation/Forester Eric Brolin passed around the bid results for the Lake Emily Park Improvement Project. He said there were six bidders. Both Brolin and Coleman Engineering Project Manager Steve Friberg recommended accepting the bid from J.H. Zawada Supply & Lumber Company for \$39,786.25. Friberg spoke to Joe Zawada about an error in calculation due to rounding and the mistaken addenda notation. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and unanimously carried to accept the Zawada bid with the understanding that the bid errors must be corrected and bring this decision to County Board for approval.

**B. COSGROVE LAKE DREDGING - UPDATE**

Don Augustine gave Administrator Smith a cost estimate for this project of \$13,040. The lake owners raised roughly \$5,000.00. Brolin applied for a grant to the Waterways Commission for the remaining balance. If all goes well, this project could be complete by the end of summer.

**C. SKI HILL**

Keyes Peak Ski Hill was closed the weekend of February 21<sup>st</sup> and March 1<sup>st</sup> due to electrical issues. These weekends were also bitterly cold. Big thanks for the Florence Utility crew and Demko Electric for working hard on the electrical issue during the cold weather. It is great to have great cooperation from them.

Crews are busy getting the hill ready for the Snow Climb event coming this weekend. Now that we know what they want – we can plan for it better next year.

**D. LAKE EMILY WALLEY SPAWNING REEF PROJECT**

Administrator Smith has been working with Fish Biologist Greg Matzke to put in a spawning reef at Lake Emily. A permit has been applied for and should be approved. They are looking at ways to secure funding for it.

**8. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

The groomer located at the Fence Town Hall burned earlier this week. This groomer was financed through the county, however, the loan was paid off.

Smith is looking at possibly opening a dual sport trail system. These trails would allow motorbikes and ATV riders. Smith wants to make sure he has the approval from private land owners before he moves forward. It was moved by Supervisor Halada, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and unanimously carried to allow dual sports on the Nicolet Trail and look into the rest of the Florence County trail system.

**9. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS**

Supervisor Wenger brought to the attention of the committee the Supreme Courts Rails to Trails decision. Government easements used for railroad beds over public and private land reverts back to its owners. This could be very costly and affects mainly railroad land in the West.

**10. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER**

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

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:20.

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