

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 2015
LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - LOWER LEVEL
FLORENCE NATURAL RESOURCE CENTER
FLORENCE, WI 54121

PRESENT:

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

ED KELLEY
ED WENGER
JOHN HALADA
LARRY NEUENS
HENRY SULLIVAN
PATRICK SMITH
MARY PODNAR

Absent or excused: Larry Neuens, Mary Podnar and Harv Skjerven

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 Halada, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as posted. There was a moment of silence in remembrance of Supervisor Don Gardner.

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Halada, and unanimously carried to approve the Forestry & Parks minutes of March 11, 2015 as read.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. HARV SKJERVEN - USFS DISTRICT RANGER

USFS District Ranger Harv Skjerven was not in attendance. Forestry & Parks Administrator Patrick Smith passed around the USDA Forest Service Stewardship Contracting Proposal. Smith explained that this was the trading of goods (*313 acre Northern Hardwoods timber sale*) and services (*work that goes into a timber sale and other agreed upon work items*) type of agreement. Smith said he will be sitting down with Highway Commissioner Jeff DeMuri to go over the actual costs for the service portion of this proposal. Committee members discussed at great lengths the details of the proposal and the pros and cons of entering into this agreement.

Smith also informed the committee that he was going to be interviewed to be a member on the USFS CADRE at 8:00AM Friday, April 10, 2015.

B. HUBER RESOURCES

Tony Derleth from Huber Resources shared with the committee that all logging crews were shut down. They are now catching up on cruising and marking work.

C. DNR-HENRY SULLIVAN

DNR-County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan reported that the state does not have any active timber sales.

Sullivan is preparing for the Spring Pine Popple Wild Rivers Meeting being held on Friday, April 10, 2015. And on Tuesday, April 21, 2014 there will be a meeting with Huber Resources regarding easement and road maintenance issues. Smith said he would be interested in attending.

Sullivan wanted the committee to be aware that Forest Health Specialist, Linda Williams from Green Bay has offered to come to a meeting and introduce herself and discuss the services they provide. The committee didn't think it was necessary for Linda to come because they are satisfied with her service – anytime Smith has called – she has been quick to respond.

The state continues to have discussions with the USFS regarding the Good Neighbor Authority Project.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

The County has one sale being harvested right now. Spring Timber Sale bids should be ready next month.

B. GRAVEL PITS

A meeting was held with representatives from the Town of Florence, the Town of Commonwealth, Highway, and Smith representing Forestry & Parks. Discussion was had about gravel pits on County property. The towns are concerned with not having enough gravel. They believe there is only enough gravel for one or two more years. So it was discussed to possibly hire a company to test core samples of County land and see what we have. The goal is to get proposals for a longer lasting gravel pit.

Supervisor Neuens inquired about turning old gravel pits into a landfills. Smith is not sure if that can be done on the county forest. He will need to check the 15 Year Plan.

7. RECREATION

A. SKI HILL

Smith passed around and discussed the last two years Ski Season Reports. The lodge is now getting cleaned up and ready for the rental season.

B. MENOMINEE RIVER P.U.D. BOAT LANDING - UPDATE

Smith informed the committee that it will cost an estimated \$314,000 to put a boat landing on the Menominee River. The County has applied and received a 50% matching State Grant for this project.

In the meantime - Smith is waiting to hear if he is approved for a Federal Grant to cover the rest of the costs for this project. If the County is not approved for this Federal Grant, it will have to pay the other half of this project which equates to roughly \$157,000. Smith wants guidance from the committee as how to proceed. It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Halada, and unanimously carried to have the County Board determine if the Menominee River P.U.D. Boat Landing project should move forward.

C. PARKS

Smith updated the committee on the clean-up work being done at Keyes Lake.

The Ski Hill Committee contacted Smith regarding a 24' x 24' addition to the existing Keyes Lake pavilion. They have

\$6,000 to give towards the project.

Smith plans on bringing in Clean-Kill to do FECON work and mulch brush to help clean up the park. They might have Clean-Kill go to West Bass as well.

D. BOAT LANDINGS

Florence High School made the pay polls and they are ready to be installed at the boat landings. Smith will soon be ordering envelopes and stickers for the new fee that will be charged to use the boat landings.

8. AMINISTRATOR REPORT

The auditor was here today and everything went smoothly.

They did spread ash on the sites off of Spur Lake Road. The trees will be coming towards the end of the month and it will be a busy time for the department.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

None.

10. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:49.

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