

**FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**3:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 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  
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER  
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER  
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR  
FORESTRY & PARKS ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR  
RECREATION COORDINATOR/FORESTER  
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY  
ED WENGER  
JOHN HALADA  
LARRY NEUENS  
LARRY DZEKUTE  
HENRY SULLIVAN  
PATRICK SMITH  
ANDY NAULT  
ERIC BROLIN  
MARY PODNAR

Absent or excused: Harv Skjerven

**MINUTES**

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

Ed Kelley, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Kelley welcomed Supervisor Larry Dzekute to the committee.

**2. APPROVAL / AGENDA**

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

**3. APPROVAL / MINUTES**

There was a correction to the “Absent or excused” listing of the minutes. It showed Larry Neuens and Mary Podnar as being absent – when in fact they were actually in attendance of March’s meeting. With this correction, it was moved by Supervisor Halada, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve the Forestry & Parks minutes of April 15, 2015.

**4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

A thank you card was passed around – it was found in the donation box located on North Lake thanking Florence County for the family’s “awesome” fishing trip.

**5. AGENCY REPORTS**

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

USFS District Ranger Harv Skjerven was not in attendance. Forestry & Parks Administrator Patrick Smith told the committee that there has been no progress with the stewardship proposal. He also gave Supervisor Larry Dzekute a brief update as to what the stewardship contracting proposal was all about.

**B. HUBER RESOURCES**

Tony Derleth from Huber Resources was not in attendance.

**C. DNR-HENRY SULLIVAN**

DNR-County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan reported that the state currently has one active sale.

He believes another will be starting up within the next couple of weeks.

Sullivan informed the committee that Forestry Technician Jim LaChapell will be retiring from the department at the end of the month. This is a protected position so he believes there should be no issues with it being filled – it is just a matter of when. If the position is not filled by October 1<sup>st</sup> using the DNR’s current “hiring pool” – it might have to wait a year before it gets filled because of the DNR will then have a new “hiring pool”.

Chairman Kelley asked if this was going to affect the County’s time standards – and Sullivan reassured him that time standard hours are a top priority with the state and they will be met. Talks are in the works about potentially contracting out timber sale establishment work on the Pine Popple Wild Rivers properties.

If the weather cooperates – the DNR may start burning in Spread Eagle next week on the 18<sup>th</sup>. They are looking to burn roughly 160 acres. June 1<sup>st</sup> will be their next burning target date.

## **6. COUNTY FOREST**

### **A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE**

Forestry & Parks Assistant Administrator, Andy Nault reported that the county has two active sale being harvested right now. Hauling is being finished on a third sale. Nault expects more sales to begin July 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **B. WCS TREE PLANTING - UPDATE**

Smith reported that the tree planting took longer than expected. It took seven days to plant 409,000 trees. There are trees left over.

### **C. APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE SPRING TIMBER SALES**

Nault passed around and discussed the Spring 2015 Florence County Timber Sale Summary packet. The county plans on advertising seven sales which will consist of 543 acres. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to approve advertising the Spring 2015 sales.

### **D. PARKS & SKI HILL ASSISTANT POSITION**

Smith told the committee that we received twelve applications for the Parks & Ski Hill Assistant position. He feels comfortable interviewing eight of the twelve candidates and would like to begin the interview process on May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Dzekute and Neuens both volunteered to be on the interviewing panel.

## **7. RECREATION**

### **A. MENOMINEE RIVER P.U.D. BOAT LANDING - UPDATE**

Smith was pleased to report to the committee that the County received full funding for the Menominee River Boat Landing project. Work will begin next year.

### **B. PARKS**

The pay polls and envelopes are all up at the boat landings and the yearly stickers are available for purchase at the Resource Center.

Parks & Ski Hill Manager Rudy Vassar has been working hard at getting the parks ready for the upcoming camping season.

## **8. AMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Smith did not have anything to report.

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

Supervisor Neuens wanted everyone to be aware that Bay Lakes Regional Planning Committee is available to apply for grants. It might be worthwhile to research the actual cost.

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

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

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 PM.

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