

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 P.M. - WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 2016
LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - LOWER LEVEL
FLORENCE NATURAL RESOURCE CENTER
FLORENCE, WI 54121

PRESENT:

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

ED KELLEY
ED WENGER
LARRY DZEKUTE
ADAM FELTS
PATRICK SMITH
ANDY NAULT
MARY PODNAR

Absent or excused: Holly Stratton and Susan Theer

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 minutes of June 8, 2016 as read.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Jay Weber from the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes Association (SECOLA) discussed boat launch fees and the monies being used to help support invasive species – specifically staffing at the Spread Eagle Boat Landing. Land Conservation Technician Scott Goodwin was also in attendance and spoke about supporting Clean Boats.

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. HARV SKJERVEN - USFS DISTRICT RANGER

USFS District Ranger Harv Skjerven was not able to make the meeting. However, USFS NEPA Coordinator Adam Felts reported that they will be posting a Forestry position here at the Florence location. He also reported that there is one active sale in the town of Fence.

Cleanup was needed on some of the roads in areas around Morgan Lake due to the recent storm. It worked out where they were able to deck some of the wood and sell it.

Felts wanted the committee to be aware that they will continue to accept comments from the public regarding the Morgan Lake Project until June 30, 2016. Comments so far have been what the department has expected.

B. HUBER & ASSOCIATES

Tony Derleth reported that they currently have six crews working in the woods and three are in Florence County.

Huber will be pursuing issuing nuisance deer tags this year. He believes it will be on a smaller scale.

Derleth also reported that he has been working DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan on repairs that will be done on shared roads.

The markets are poor and are getting worse.

C. DNR – HENRY SULLIVAN

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan was not in attendance, however, Administrator Smith reported a few things for him. There is one active timber sale going on in the County. Private Lands Forester Tyler Wood has been working on GNA prescription writing for the Lakewood/Laona area.

There will be two more vacancies in the department – the recently hired Forester Technician and Wildlife Biologist will be leaving the Florence DNR office.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Assistant Administrator Andy Nault reported that there are no active timber sales going on in the County. He foresees jobs starting up after July 15th.

Nault would like to set up a salvage sale due to the storm. There are roughly 135 cords of blown down Popple on 8 acres. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to allow the direct sale this salvage wood.

B. RESOURCE CENTER JANITOR PART TIME POSITION

Administrator Smith reported that he has not received any updates from Building and Grounds regarding filling this position. Supervisor Wenger said it is on the agenda.

C. RECREATION COORDINATOR POSITION - UPDATE

Smith said he received two more applications after advertising for this position. He now has a total of twelve. He is uncertain how to proceed. Supervisors Wenger and Dzekute volunteered to serve on the interview committee.

D. BURMA ROAD PROJECT – TOWN OF HOMESTEAD

The town of Homestead would like to fix one of the curves on Burma Road. Smith said the curve is quite sharp. Smith has no issues with this work being done. Supervisor Neuens wanted to know if the town of Homestead was going to perform the work and who was going to plant the trees. Smith said the town was going to do the work and anyone could plant the trees. He may even have some trees this fall. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to allow this road work to be done.

E. LOG-A-LOAD

Smith was approached by the Great Lakes Timber Producers Association (GLTPA) and Florence School District to sell a timber sale on the County Forest for a Log-a-Load presentation. Nault found a spot along Hwy 101/D. The County will set up a timber sale contract with GLTPA and they will buy the timber from the County. The funds will get donated to the Children's Miracle Network. Loggers donate their time to cut the wood. Students from the school district get to experience firsthand a timber sale from start to finish. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded

by Supervisor Dzekute to allow the Log-a-Load timber sale to the GLTPA.

F. SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY GRANT APPLICATION

Smith would like to apply for herbicide release work on recently planted plantations. Over the last five years the County has planted over 410,000 trees on 745 acres. They are starting to see some hardwood competition. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Wenger and unanimously carried to apply for the Sustainable Forestry Grant Application.

7. RECREATION

A. PARKS

Smith passed around and discussed the 2016 Campground Revenue report. The campgrounds have been full and doing well. Smith did inform the committee that there was a “boil water alert” at West Bass campground well.

B. BOAT LANDING PROJECTS

The Sea Lion Boat Landing project is 99% complete. They are now waiting for the dock.

All the in-water work is done for the Menominee River Boat Landing project. They are now working on pouring cement.

C. SKI HILL ON CALL PROCEDURES

Smith explained to the committee our current on-call procedures for weddings at the lodge. There isn't anything in the Personnel Policy that says how calls should be handled. After discussion it was unanimously agreed upon to keep our current on call policy the same.

8. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Smith is working with Huber on easement exchanges in the Goodman Forest. This is to prevent access issues in the future. Normally – the County does not give out easements. However, Smith spoke with Jeff Barkly and found out that exchange in easements are allowed if it benefits the County forest and is in line with Wisconsin State Statutes 28.11.

Smith was asked to attend a meeting in Ann Arbor Michigan regarding the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Planting Grant on October 5th – 7th. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute and unanimously carried to allow Smith to attend this meeting.

Smith will also be attending an ATV/ORV Council meeting August 21st -23rd.

The Bad Water Bass Tournament is this weekend.

There will be a Cure SMA 5K / Walk / Mini Golf Tournament in honor of Blake Sternhagen at Keyes Lake on August 21, 2016.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

None

10. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:28.

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