

**FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**3:30 P.M. - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2016**  
**LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - LOWER LEVEL**  
**FLORENCE NATURAL RESOURCE CENTER**  
**FLORENCE, WI 54121**

**PRESENT:**

SUPERVISOR / CHAIRMAN  
SUPERVISOR / VICE CHAIRMAN  
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER  
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER  
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER  
USFS DISTRICT SILVICULTURIST  
DNR – WOODRUFF AREA FOREST SUPERVISOR  
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER  
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR  
FORESTRY & PARKS ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR  
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY  
ED WENGER  
LARRY DZEKUTE  
HOLLY STRATTON  
SUSAN THEER  
KATIE THEISEN  
HEATHER BERKLUND  
HENRY SULLIVAN  
PATRICK SMITH  
ANDY NAULT  
MARY PODNAR

Absent or excused: None

**MINUTES**

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

Ed Kelley, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. DNR – Woodruff Area Forest Supervisor Heather Berklund introduced herself to the Committee.

**2. APPROVAL / AGENDA**

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute seconded by Supervisor Stratton, 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 July 13, 2016 as read.

**4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Administrator Smith received an email regarding a wedding that was held at the Keyes Peak Ski Lodge. The mother of the bride was impressed with the crew associated with the lodge – and specifically mentioned Parks & Ski Hill Manager Rudy Vassar.

Supervisor Larry Neuens sent an email to Smith regarding boat launch fees. He wanted the Committee to know that he stills supports the original decision of boat launch fees being earmarked for repair/replacement of County Boat Landings.

**5. AGENCY REPORTS**

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

USFS District Ranger Harv Skjerven was not able to make the meeting. However, USFS District Silviculturalist Katie Theisen reported that the Forestry position is open and they are interviewing right now.

They are finishing the final stages of the NEPA process for the Morgan Lake Project.

The USFS also finished a 227 acre Grandma Lake area salvage categorical exclusion. The specialists all agreed that it would be a good idea to harvest the salvaged timber.

Supervisor Wenger suggested the USFS mow the grass around their property on Keyes Lake.

Discussion was had about the invasive species along the highways. Smith suggested that the USFS look into applying for a Secured Rural Schools grant to work on this issue.

**B. HUBER & ASSOCIATES**

Tony Derleth was not in attendance, however Smith said they are still working on a possible easement trade.

**C. DNR – HENRY SULLIVAN / HEATHER BERKLUND**

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan told the committee that they are working with Huber on a Conservation Easement Grant for road maintenance. The State is asking for \$18,000 for this work.

The fire season has been slow. It has been extremely dry and Sullivan is hoping for rain.

There are currently no active timber sales. Next week the State will be conducting a FSC/SFI certification audit.

DNR Woodruff Area Forest Supervisor Heather Berklund informed the committee that there will be a bid opening for Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) sales.

**6. COUNTY FOREST**

**A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE**

Administrator Smith reported that there is one active timber sales in the County. The markets are slow.

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. LAND PURCHASE FROM DNR**

Administrator Smith passed around a map showing the boundaries of property that is being sold by the State. He is not sure of the cost – but told the committee that Stewardship funds cannot be used for purchase. This property has a very nice oak resource. After discussion it was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Theer, and unanimously carried for Smith to continue to pursue researching the purchase of this State land.

**C. RECREATION COORDINATOR POSITION - UPDATE**

Smith said he would like to keep this position open. Next summer possibly hire two LTE summer employees. He would like to keep it budget in case they find it doesn't work. The committee would like to see this kept on the agenda so workload issues can be discussed.

**D. PLANTATION RELEASE PROJECT**

Last year Smith asked for extra money to pay for an aerial release for spraying herbicide to kill hardwood competition in the County's pine plantations. A grant has been applied for to do more spraying. Smith asked the committee for permission to move forward in getting a contract for a sky line helicopter to perform this work. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried for Smith to move ahead with this contract.

## **7. RECREATION**

### **A. PARKS**

Smith passed around and discussed the 2016 Campground Revenue report. The campgrounds have been full and doing well – better than last year at this time. There still is a “boil water alert” at West Bass campground well and the department continues to test it.

The Ski Hill Committee would like to see a permanent stage at Keyes Lake. The committee would like to see a design and the costs related.

### **B. BOAT LANDING PROJECTS**

They are still waiting for the dock on the Sea Lion Lake project.

They are very close to being done on the Menominee River Boat Landing project. They paved on Monday and it is looking good. Smith is pleased with how it is turning out.

### **C. SKI HILL ARCHERY RANGE**

Ski Hill Committee member Fred Erwin gave a presentation on possibly developing an archery course on top of Keyes Peak Ski Hill. The Ski Hill Committee received a donation of \$6,000 to get this project started as well as expand upon the Disc Golf Course. This range would benefit the school archery program as well. After discussion it was decided that Erwin would come back to the committee with the actual design and cost of the course. Smith would check on insurance issues.

### **D. BOAT LAUNCH FEES**

Smith passed around and discussed handouts from the DNR detailing how Boat Launch Fees can be used. He also received an email from Joe Buchanan from the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes Association (SECLA) regarding the maximum fee that can be charged per launch. After much discussion - it was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute and unanimously carried it keep the fees as is in accordance with the County ordinance.

## **8. LAND SALES**

A piece of property was taken back by the Treasurer last year. Smith looked at it to see if he should put it up for sale. He thought it was a bare lot. When he opened up the County GIS site to print a map – he discovered there was a house and garage on it. Smith had the property surveyed and discovered there was actually a ½ house, a well, and a driveway and garage on it. Smith is asking the committee to pursue this issue by working with the landowners, Treasurer and attorney. It was moved by Supervisor Stratton, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute and unanimously carried to handle the issue in the best way possible.

## **9. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

Smith and Podnar are working on the 2017 Forestry & Parks budget. The proposed budget will be put on next month’s agenda.

## **10. COMMITTEE MEMBER’S COMMENTS & CONCERNS**

Supervisor Stratton expressed concern about the lack of cutting in the woods.

## **11. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER**

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

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:02.

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