

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
5:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 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
USFS NEPA COORDINATOR
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY
ED WENGER
LARRY NEUENS
LARRY DZEKUTE
ADAM FELTS
HENRY SULLIVAN
PATRICK SMITH
MARY PODNAR

Absent or excused: John Halada

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Ed Kelley, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

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

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to approve the Forestry & Parks minutes of July 15, 2015.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. HARV SKJERVEN - USFS DISTRICT RANGER

USFS District Ranger Harv Skjerven was not in attendance, however, new USFS Nepa Coordinator Adam Felts did attend and introduced himself to the committee. Everyone welcomed him to the area.

Felts said he getting familiar with the USFS stewardship agreement with the County and will be the point of contact.

B. HUBER RESOURCES

Tony Derleth from Huber Resources was not in attendance. However DNR-County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan reported that Shawn & Shane McLain have been awarded the Conservation Infrastructure Project for road improvement on the Savage and Robago Lake road. They will raise the low spots and spread six inches of crushed gravel down the entire road.

Kelley asked if Huber had any intentions of shutting down the Goodman grade road. Sullivan said the road in question is from Patten Lake north to the Pine River and is in bad shape. If this road does get shutdown, Huber would have to provide an alternative route.

C. DNR-HENRY SULLIVAN

Sullivan reported that there are two active sales going on in the County. One is located in Fence and the other is near Savage Lake.

The State has decided to contract out timber sale establishment work for the FY2016. Forestry Team Leader Craig Williams met with Sullivan last week to discuss the details of the bidding process for this work.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Administrator Smith said there are many active sales going on in the County right now. They are busy working on sale establishment as well.

B. WOOD CUT PERMITS

Smith said due to forest health issues he would like to see the dates changed on our wood cut permits. The department has been finding oak wilt patches showing up in places they shouldn't be. There seems to be a correlation with fresh stumps. Smith would like to see the cutting period be from July 15th – April 30th. This would eliminate cutting during the months of May and June. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to approve changing the wood cut permit cutting periods.

C. ADJACENT LAND OWNER DISPUTE

Smith met with the landowner last week and he brought in a lot of paperwork from his file for this property. There was a letter from Walter Dallagrana stating he was going get an easement from the County to cross its property. There was a handwritten note on the bottom of the letter stating that Dallagrana had called and told him that he had gotten approval from the County Board for this easement and paperwork would follow. The landowner did not have the follow-up paperwork. Smith had the County Clerk research all of the County Board's Minutes of that year to see if any easements were granted - they could not find any.

The landowner may be interested in pursuing an Adverse Possession claim. Smith spoke with our DNR attorney about this issue. Smith will keep the committee informed.

D. BUDGET

Smith passed out and reviewed the 2016 Forestry & Parks budget. After much discussion, it was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to approve of the 2016 budget and send on to the Audit & Budget Committee.

E. SFI/FSC AUDIT

Smith wanted the committee to know that Assistant Administrator Andrew Nault and Sullivan did a great job answering questions during today's SFI/FSC audit. As of right now – there were no findings. All the time spent preparing was time well spent.

F. SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY GRANT APPLICATION

Smith passed out the 2015 Sustainable Forestry Grant Application. He would like to hire a LTE Forestry Technician for the 2016-2017 field seasons to monitor regeneration on the County forest. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to approve the Sustainable Forestry Grant application.

7. RECREATION

A. US2 RAILROAD BRIDGE MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Smith passed around a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Florence County Forestry and Parks Department regarding the Menominee River Bridge near Iron

Mountain. This MOU was originally written up by the MDNR for the WNDR to sign. The WDNR did not sign it – so Smith changed it to be a MOU with the Florence County Forestry and Parks. He forwarded it on the MDNR and is waiting to hear back from them. He will then have our attorneys review it before signing the final agreement.

B. PARKS

Smith passed around and discussed the Boat Launch and Campground Revenue Reports. Camping season is coming to an end and it looks like we will make budget.

C. PROJECT UPDATES

At the committee's request – Smith gave them an update of the open projects that were granted to the County.

D. FROG LAKE BOAT LANDING

There was a complaint about the Frog Lake Boat Landing. People have been driving to the shoreline. At one time – there were logs blocking this from happening. Smith said even though this is not a heavily used lake - he would still like to improve the access to the water.

8. LAND SALES

Smith passed around the summer 2015 land sale list. He reviewed the areas that are going up for sale. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried approve advertising the summer 2015 land list.

9. AMINISTRATOR REPORT

The 2015 WCFA Annual Meeting will be held Friday, September 25th at the Heartwood Conference Center in Trego Wisconsin. Please let Business Manager Mary Podnar know if you are interested in going so she can make reservations.

10. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Supervisor Neuens would like to know the rationale between burming and gating a timber sale road. Smith said the County prefers not to burm a road – but will if there is another access point. Gates are more expensive.

Neuens also said he attended a meeting with Chief State Forester Paul DeLong in which DeLong complimented Florence County on doing a great job with invasive species.

11. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Dezkute, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM.

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