

**FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**3:30 P.M. - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2014**  
**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  
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER  
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR  
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

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

Absent or excused: none

**MINUTES**

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

Ed Kelley, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:30 P.M. All members were present.

**2. APPROVAL / AGENDA**

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

**3. APPROVAL / MINUTES**

It was moved by Supervisor Gardner, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of July 9, 2014 as read.

**4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Administrator Smith passed around a letter he received from Gary Bovee. Smith is concerned about the safety of the building and wanted the committee to be aware of what was going on.

Smith received a phone call regarding the Cosgrove Lake Dredging project.

**5. AGENCY REPORTS**

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

USFS District Ranger Harv Skjerven was not in attendance.

**B. HUBER & ASSOCIATES**

Tony Derleth reported they still have the same five crews running. The woods are extremely dry and the recent rain was welcomed. The seed crop coming up this year is amazing.

Huber & Associates had a meeting with the state last week working on issuing agricultural deer permits again this year.

**C. DNR – HENRY SULLIVAN**

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan reported that there are currently no active timber sales. He doesn't foresee any starting up until October or November. The department continues to work on Fall sales. While setting up these sales - they are finding patches of oak wilt. The plan is to spray these areas.

**D. DNR – GREG MATZKE**

A letter from DNR Fish Biologist Greg Matzke regarding the Long Lake aeration system was passed around. It stated that it was up to the town (*Long Lake*) to decide if they wanted to run the aerator or not. He explained in the letter why the aerator would need to run from January 1<sup>st</sup> until ice off to prevent winterkill. If the town chooses not to run the aerator non-stop during this time period – the DNR would have no choice but to stop stocking muskellunge into the lake.

Supervisor Halada said the Lake Association normally budgets \$400 to cover the utility portion of running the aerator. This past winter it cost \$1,700 due to the long-cold weather. The Lake Association would like help in paying the utilities. There are currently four entities that claim taxes on Long Lake: Florence County, Forest County, Town of Long Lake, and Popple River. Supervisor Halada will contact a representative from each entity to see if they can help with the cost. The Lake Association is only looking for help with winters that are bad – like last winter. Supervisor Halada will report back to the committee what he finds out.

**6. COUNTY FOREST**

**A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE**

Administrator Smith reported that there are five sales going on in the county right now – and one beginning tomorrow. One contractor had a piece of equipment start on fire. No one was hurt. The woods are active and a lot of wood is moving.

**B. WCS GRANT APPLICATION-UPDATE**

Administrator Smith is still waiting for the tree planting grant approval.

**C. LAND ACQUISITION-UPDATE**

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan created a PowerPoint presentation detailing the potential Connor Land (Pine River Lumber Properties) acquisition. The slides showed such things as acreage, potential revenue, species, maps, loan options, grant options, etc. Smith and Sullivan would like to present this slide show to the full County Board. Smith has not found out from Dick Connor the cost of purchasing this land yet. He is looking for guidance as to how to proceed with this potential acquisition. After much discussion it was decided to go ahead and get ready to present this slideshow to County Board for the September meeting.

**D. FORESTER 6 MONTH EVALUATION**

Administrator Smith reported to the committee that Recreation/Forester Eric Brolin has been do a good job for the department and recommends he receives a pay raise for his six month evaluation. It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Halada, and unanimously carried to approve Eric Brolin's six month raise and send this decision on to Personnel for approval.

**E. HIGH SCHOOL INTERN FOR RESOURCE CENTER**

The Florence High School has two interested students who would like to be hired as an intern at the Resource Center. Last year the Resource Center hired a student intern and it worked out well. The intern's minimum wage would be paid by DNR Fisheries, Friends of the Resource Center, County and possibly the USFS. Smith already brought this position to the Personnel so someone could be hired before the school year began. It was moved by Supervisor Gardner, seconded by Supervisor Halada, and unanimously carried to approve Personnel's

recommendation to hire a Resource Center intern.

**F. 15 YEAR PLAN AMENDMENTS**

Administrator Smith is still working on updates to the 15 Year Plan. These amendments should be ready by the next Forestry & Parks meeting.

**G. RESOLUTIONS FOR KNOWLES NELSON STEWARDSHIP**

Administrator Smith passed around the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Resolution. This allows Forestry & Parks to apply for grants for potential land acquisitions with the state. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to approve the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Resolution and send the Resolution to County Board for approval.

**H. MOA FOR KNOWLES NELSON STEWARDSHIP**

The Memorandum of Agreement for the Knowles Nelson Stewardship Land Acquisition program was passed around. This agreement establishes the procedures that counties must follow when they submit projects. It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and unanimously carried to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for the Knowles Nelson Stewardship program and send to County Board for approval.

**7. RECREATION**

**A. COSGROVE LAKE DREDGING - UPDATE**

Smith reported that this project was complete and showed the committee “before/after” pictures.

**B. BOAT LAUNCH FEE**

Smith created a draft ordinance for a boat launch fee for lakes in the county that have back up launches. Fees for the launch would be \$3.00 per launch or \$25.00 for a seasonal pass. The ordinance dictates that the money would be put into a non-lapsing account which could only be used for capital purchases for boat launches only. Questions about the details of exactly how the boat launch fee would work were discussed. Until more details were available - it was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Halada, and carried to table further discussion of a boat launch fee. Supervisor Neuens opposed.

**C. KEYES LAKE PARK PAVILION IMPROVEMENTS**

The Ski Hill Committee would like to see an addition to the Keyes Lake Pavilion for Summerfest purposes. Exact plans were not decided yet. The Ski Hill Committee was willing to donate money towards the project. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and unanimously carried to allow an extension to be made to the Keyes Lake Pavilion.

**D. ATV TRAIL EASEMENTS**

Smith wanted the committee to be aware that the snowmobile trail between Highway N & 101 that was closed a few years back has been returned to the original owner. The landowner is going to put the property up for sale again - and sounds willing to sell the land to the county but Smith does not want to buy land for trails for fear that it could start a trend of other private landowners wanting money for trails across their lands.

**E. LAKE EMILY DOCK**

Administrator Smith would like permission to put out for bids a new dock for Lake Emily. It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Halada and unanimously carried to give Administrator Smith permission to advertise and bid for a new Lake Emily dock.

**8. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

Administrator Smith showed pictures of the machine that was on fire at a county timber sale. Amazingly, only the processor burned.

Another fire took place on county land in the town of Aurora. Details of the cause still have not been determined.

Work has begun on the Michigan side for the Nicolet Trail. The bridge contractor is beginning work as well.

The Highway Department will be straightening a corner on Highway N – so a snowmobile/ATV trail will need to be moved.

Smith has been working on the Majewski Memorial. He is trying to get ideas from other administrators to see what they have done in the past. Smith will be forwarding these ideas to Dave's son and a proposal will be submitted to the committee for final approval.

Both Smith and Sullivan received a letter from Gary Bovee. Sullivan shared with the committee the background of his previous interactions the DNR. Smith said that Bovee is in custody and his hearing is being held today.

Smith wanted the committee to know that he is now a member of Deer Council Advisory Board. They wanted a representative from each county. If anyone has any concerns – he would be happy to take them to the council.

Bids were opened for re-roofing the Resource Center. Lowest bid was from the Markell Company for \$37,700. This work will be paid 1/3 by County, 1/3 by USFS and 1/3 by State. The general consensus of the committee was to accept the bid. Final action will be taken the next meeting.

#### **9. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS**

Supervisor Neuens went riding around the county forest in his area and said the re-generation looks great.

Supervisor Wenger asked if anything could be done about the potential deer permits being issued on Huber land. Smith said if the committee wanted anything asked – he could bring it up at the Deer Council meeting.

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

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

#### **11. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Halada, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:39.

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