

**FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**3:30 P.M. - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016**  
**LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - LOWER LEVEL**  
**FLORENCE NATURAL RESOURCE CENTER**  
**FLORENCE, WI 54121**

**PRESENT:**

SUPERVISOR / CHAIRMAN	ED KELLEY
SUPERVISOR / VICE CHAIRMAN	ED WENGER
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER	LARRY DZEKUTE
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER	HOLLY STRATTON
USFS DISTRICT SILVICULTURIST	KATIE THEISEN
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER	HENRY SULLIVAN
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR	PATRICK SMITH
FORESTRY & PARKS ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR	ANDY NAULT
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER	MARY PODNAR

Absent or excused: 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 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 August 10, 2016 as read. Supervisor Stratton noted that her name was once spelled wrong in the minutes.

**4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Administrator Smith read an email he received asking if paying for campsites could include boat launch fees and if the County ever considered offering military discounts for camping. After discussion it was decided to keep things the same.

**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 Jason Bramstadt has been hired for the Forestry position and will be starting October 31, 2016.

A proposal has been put together for the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) regarding the weed problem on Highway 70 – it will be discussed at the September 27<sup>th</sup> meeting. Administrator Smith said he was appointed onto the RAC Committee.

**B. HUBER & ASSOCIATES**

Tony Derleth reported that they had five crews running. The markets do not seem to be improving.

There was an ATV trespass issue on Huber property.

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

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan told the committee that they are no active timber sales. The department is finishing up work for their bids – they hope to have a timber sale yet this Fall.

The Fall Pine Popple Wild Rivers meeting will be held Friday.

There is still a Forestry Technician position vacant in the Florence office. Until further notice this position will be frozen until the State’s restructuring is finished.

**6. COUNTY FOREST**

**A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE**

Assistant Administrator Andy Nault reported that there are three active timber sales in the County with a fourth one beginning next week. Contractors are having hard time moving wood.

**B. RECREATION COORDINATOR POSITION - UPDATE**

Administrator Smith is waiting for the results of the County wage study before he decides how he wants to proceed with the hiring of this position.

**C. 2017 BUDGET**

Smith passed around and discussed a draft copy of the 2017 Forestry and Parks budget. After reviewing the budget in detail it was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve the budget as presented and send on to Audit and Budget.

**D. FALL 2016 TIMBER SALE ADVERTISE FOR BIDS**

Nault passed around the upcoming Fall 2016 Timber Sale prospectus and sale maps. The County would like to advertise six sales which total 369 acres. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously carried to advertise the Fall 2016 Timber Sales.

**7. RECREATION**

**A. PARKS**

Smith passed around and discussed the 2016 Campground Revenue report. There is a oak wilt issue at West Bass campground in which the department will begin working on soon. The “boil water alert” is still a problem at West Bass campground and the department continues to test it.

**B. BOAT LANDING PROJECTS UPDATES**

The Menominee River Boat Landing project is 99% complete. A few issues came up due to the recent heavy rains. Smith is very pleased with the way it turned out.

The dock is in for Sea Lion – however the department has not had time to put it in.

**C. SKI HILL ARCHERY RANGE**

Smith spoke with County Clerk Donna Trudell about liability insurance for the archery range. They are waiting to hear back from the insurance company – hopefully next week. Smith asked the Committee if they could move forward with the archery range as long as there no insurance issues. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and carried to move forward with the archery range once Smith hears back from the insurance company. Supervisor Stratton opposed.

**D. SNOWMOBILE & ATV TRAIL UPDATES**

Smith informed the Committee that the County has received over \$350,000 worth of grants for the ATV/Snowmobile program. Close to \$250,000 are for rehab projects.

There is an issue with snowmobiles going over the US2 Bridge leading into Iron Mountain. An engineer for the Michigan DNR has deemed it unsafe and therefore wants it closed. The bridge is in good shape – but the decking needs work. The cost estimate for this project is extremely high. Possible re-routes were discussed. Smith will continue to work with the Michigan DNR to resolve this issue.

Most of our trails held up through the rain. However, Huber did have an issue with the Blue Ox Trail Riders grooming a trail on their land. Huber now has to rebuild a road that they did not ruin. Smith said he would go out there and see if it is something the County can fix.

**8. LAND SALES**

Smith spoke with both landowners that have been occupying County owned property. All parties came to an agreed upon price to purchase the property. In addition to the purchase price – each landowner will have to pay for the recording fees. It was moved by Supervisor Stratton, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute and unanimously carried to accept the purchase price and send to County Board for approval.

**9. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

Smith invited the Committee to see the Log-A-Load sale that is being held September 28, 2016.

Herbicide release work for pine was conducted last Friday.

**10. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS**

None

**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 August.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Stratton, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:48.

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