

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 P.M. - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2014
LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - LOWER LEVEL
FLORENCE NATURAL RESOURCE CENTER
FLORENCE, WI 54121

PRESENT:

SUPERVISOR / CHAIRMAN
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

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

Absent or excused: Ed Wenger

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Ed Kelley, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:30 P.M. Supervisor Wenger was excused.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

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

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of August 13, 2014 as read.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Glenn Johnson and Jay Weber from the Spread Eagle Lake Association inquired about possibly building a shed at the Spread Eagle boat landing to house their pressure washer. This way the pressure washer would be easily accessible for use during the summer months. Forestry & Parks Administrator Pat Smith said there is not a lot of land/space at the landing – but would be willing to work with Lake Association to figure something out.

If a boat launch fee ordinance is passed – Mr. Johnson said the Lake Association would like to see a portion of that money go towards the clean boats – clean waters initiative.

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. HARV SKJERVEN - USFS DISTRICT RANGER

USFS District Ranger Harv Skjerven was not in attendance, however, he asked Business Manager Mary Podnar to share with the committee that Katie Thiesen will begin her job as our new silviculturist in the Florence office on September 15th. Also, the USFS has one more timber sale to award in late September to complete their annual program.

B. HUBER & ASSOCIATES

Tony Derleth was not in attendance.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Administrator Smith reported that the crews are busy up and running. One contractor is working specifically on oak wilt pockets. The roads took a hit with the recent rain storm. Most of the roads will be repairable with a grader. Loggers may have a tough time getting wood out of certain areas.

B. WCS GRANT APPLICATION-UPDATE

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

C. LAND ACQUISITION-UPDATE

Administrator Smith passed around two new slides that captured the potential revenue that would be generated if Florence County decided to purchase the Pine River property. The committee discussed possible loan alternatives. Smith would like to have a special County Board meeting held to explain exactly what the Pine River property purchase would mean to the county. After discussion it was decided to have a special County Board meeting held before next month's Forestry & Parks meeting. Smith and County Forest Liaison Henry Sullivan will present a slide show and answer questions.

D. ROOFING BIDS

Administrator Smith reported to the committee that there were three bids for re-roofing of the Resource Center. The lowest bid came from The Markell Company at \$37,700. It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and unanimously carried to accept The Markell's Company bid and proceed with the new Resource Center roof.

E. 2015 BUDGET

Administrator Smith passed around a draft copy of the 2015 Forestry & Parks budget. He reviewed the revenues and expenses with the committee. Revenues are roughly \$64,000 higher than expenses. Smith explained the difficulty in budgeting for grants because the dollar values are normally a "wash". However, it gets tricky because these grants follow the State's fiscal year (*July 1 – June 30*) versus the county's (*January 1 – December 31*). The budget was passed along to Financial Manager Joe Bestor so he could enter the numbers into his system. Smith asked the board to review the draft budget and if they had any questions or changes to please let him know.

F. 15 YEAR PLAN AMENDMENTS

County Forest Liaison Henry Sullivan has been working on the map needed by the county for the 15 Year Plan and for the potential Pine River Land purchase. Updating the map proved to be more challenging than expected – so it was not done for this meeting. Sullivan should be finished by next month's meeting.

7. RECREATION

A. PAVILLION RESERVATION FEE

A concerned citizen contacted Administrator Smith and told him he made a reservation at one of our pavilions and later cancelled. The citizen was wondering if he could get his money back. There is no policy on this. The reservation fee is \$25.00. After discussion amongst the committee - it was decided not to return the fee.

B. BOAT LAUNCH FEE

Smith passed around the proposed Florence County Boat Launch User Fee Ordinance for boat landings in the county that have back up launches. The ordinance states that effective January 1, 2015 the county would begin charging a user fee for use of its boat landings. Fees will 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 improvements

under Forestry & Parks control. Permits must be displayed on the vehicle used for launching the boat. It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Halada, and unanimously carried to hold a Public Hearing at next month's meeting to regarding the ordinance.

8. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

The Wisconsin County Forests Association (WCFA) meeting will be held in Rothschild, Wisconsin on Friday, September 26, 2014. Committee members attending will be Chairman Kelley, Supervisor Neuens, and Supervisor Wenger.

Disc Golf at Keyes Lake is up and running and Smith recommends the committee members to check it out. Plans are also underway for possibly building steps to the top of Keyes Peak leading to a Veterans Memorial. This would be similar to the Pine Mountain Steps.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Supervisor Neuens would like Smith to follow-up on if handrails were necessary on the retaining wall at the Keyes Lake.

Supervisor Neuens also wondered if the electrical was up-to-date at the lodge. Smith said he has not heard any complaints from renters.

10. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Halada, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:07.

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