

**FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**3:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 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  
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER  
USFS – SILVICULTURE  
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER  
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR  
FORESTRY & PARKS ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR  
FORESTRY & PARKS RECREATION/FORESTER  
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY  
ED WENGER  
JOHN HALADA  
LARRY NEUENS  
DON GARDNER  
KATIE THEISEN  
HENRY SULLIVAN  
PATRICK SMITH  
ANDREW NAULT  
ERIC BROLIN  
MARY PODNAR

Absent or excused: None

**MINUTES**

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

Ed Kelley, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:45 PM.

**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 September 10, 2014 as read.

**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, he asked new Silviculturist Katie Theisen to take his place. The committee welcomed Katie and introduced themselves.

Theisen reported that the USFS sold roughly 13,000,000 board feet of timber between Florence and Forest Counties this year and is on track to sell the same volume for next year. Projections look like over the next five years the USFS should be able to increase their volume in these counties to 19,000,000.

They had one timber sale in Florence and next year Florence will have a stewardship sale.

The USFS is hoping to be hiring three new positions in Florence by this winter. The positions are an Ecologist, NEPA Planner, and a new forester.

**B. HUBER & ASSOCIATES**

Tony Derleth was not in attendance.

**C. DNR-HENTRY SULLIVAN**

The state has two active sales going on in the county right now – one in the Savage Lake area and the other in Spread Eagle off the Barrens Lake road. They will have 500 acres to advertise this fall. The state has also begun field work for next year's fall timber sale by Lauterman Lake.

**6. COUNTY FOREST**

**A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE**

Assistant Administrator Andy Nault reported that there are eight active timber sales in various stages right now. There are two big hardwood thinking's going on as well. Nault passed around an informational packet and discussed the details of the upcoming fall timber sales. He noted that the county was under target for allowable cut acreage due to the results of over 7,000 acres of updated recon information. Nault said because of this – he had to re-schedule and defer some stands out a few years.

Sullivan told the committee that the state has a timber sale right next to county advertised sale #5 and sale #7. They plan to advertise these sales together in hopes of enticing bids. It is a long drive to get to both these sales – so they anticipate by adding more volume – the sale will be more appealing for contractors to bid on.

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to accept and advertise the fall 2014 timber sales and piggyback advertised sale #5 with the state.

**B. WCS GRANT APPLICATION-UPDATE**

Administrator Smith said the county was awarded the \$140,000 WCS Grant for tree planting. The department is now lining up site prep equipment in hopes of getting as much work done this fall as possible. Nault spoke with Future Forest Company and they are going to site trench the areas we need planted this fall.

Smith said the county needs to send a letter to the non-profit organization Wildlife Conservation Society stating that Florence County agrees to work being done on county forest land. Therefore, it was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and unanimously carried to allow tree planting on county forest property.

**C. LAND ACQUISITION-UPDATE**

Administrator Smith asked the committee if they wanted him to present the Pine River Land sale presentation to the County Board. Actual dollars amounts still have not been discussed with Conner. Smith believes that an appraisal should be done to see what the value of the land is. Supervisor Wenger asked if Conner was willing to sell parts of land. The committee agreed it would be a good idea to discuss this again at next month's committee meeting before going to County Board.

**D. 15 YEAR PLAN AMENDMENTS**

Sullivan passed around a map detailing the revised County Forest blocking boundary. In order to apply for industrial forest grants or potential land purchases – these boundary's need to be adjusted. County Board must approve changes to the 15 Year Plan. Therefore, it was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and unanimously carried to amend the 15 Year Plan blocking boundary and send this recommendation to the County

Board.

**E. ROAD USE AGREEMENT**

Administrator Smith passed around a proposed road use agreement for a landowner in the Sand Lake area. Zoning performed survey work in this area to try and straighten lines. This changed some of the roads. The proposed road use agreement would allow the landowner use of a county owned road to get to their land. It was moved by Supervisor Gardner, seconded by Supervisor Halada, and unanimously carried to accept the road use agreement.

**7. RECREATION**

**A. BOAT LAUNCH ORDINANCE**

After listening to the concerns/statements of the public regarding charging a boat launch fee, it was decided to move forward. Smith said according to state statute - money from the boat launch fee can only be used for the operation and maintenance of boat launch facilities. Therefore it cannot be used for boat washing. The sheriff's department and Forestry & Parks will be responsible for enforcement. It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and unanimously carried to send the ordinance change to County Board for approval.

**8. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

Administrator Smith informed the committee that he received an estimate from American Dock for \$6,500 for a new dock for Lake Emily. According to the new policy – it does not have to go out for bids.

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

None

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

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

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:37.

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