

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 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
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER
USFS NEPA COORDINATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY
ED WENGER
LARRY NEUENS
LARRY DZEKUTE
JOHN HALADA
HENRY SULLIVAN
ADAM FELTS
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 PM.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute 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 Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve the Forestry & Parks minutes of October 14, 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 NEPA Coordinator Adam Felts reported on the USFS timber sales – noting that the active ones were located in Forest County.

Felts is beginning work on the Morgan Lake Vegetation Project which will cover 33,000 acres. The County will have the opportunity to comment on the USFS harvesting activities.

B. HUBER RESOURCES

Tony Derleth from Huber Resources was not in attendance.

C. DNR-JASON COTTER

Wildlife Biologist Jason Cotter reported in regards to the upcoming deer season. He said the State will begin on-line registration this year. There were no antlerless tags distributed except to the youth, veterans, or disabled. There were 150 Forest Investment Associates (FIA) tags issued as well. Cotter has not received any notifications of Native Americans hunting in Florence County. The State plans on working with meat processors to access deer aging for

population data.

Supervisor Neuens asked Cotter if the LaSalle Falls Hunter Walking Trail could be improved for better handicap accessibility. Cotter said there no plans at the moment because of the distance to the river. Cotter will investigate because he understands that it is a very popular Wild Rivers location.

D. DNR-GREG MATZKE

Fisheries Biologist Greg Matzke introduced new Fisheries LTE Tyler Sikora and the committee welcomed him. Matzke said their fish team was not yet full – they are still waiting to hire Fish Technician. Matzke thanked Forestry & Parks for providing staff help with the fish surveys while they were understaffed.

Matzke passed around and discussed the finding of the fish surveys that were conducted on lakes in the County. He also informed the committee that there will be fishing regulation changes on some of the county lakes. They center around the pan fish bag limits on each lake. These regulations will be posted on signs at the boat launches and will be in the regulations handbook.

Matzke has topographical maps of the lakes that will eventually be available on the DNR website.

E. DNR-HENRY SULLIVAN

Florence County Forest Liaison/DNR Public Lands Forester Henry Sullivan reported that the new Forestry Technician – Tom Ernst began last week.

The department has two main pushes – one being work on the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) and the other meeting the County Forest time standards hours. Currently, the State is at 37% of goal.

Sullivan reported that there are no active sales going on in the County on State Lands due to the rain.

MW Forestry was the successful contractor for the States marking contract.

The State would like to have one more timber sale bid opening before the end of the year. They are waiting on cruising information on two of the potential sites.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Smith reported that there are eleven active timber sales in the County. Four are scale sales, one is a ticket sale and six are lump sum. Nault has been extremely busy administering to these sales.

B. TIMBER SALE BID OPENING/APPROVAL

The Fall 2015 Timber Sale Bid Summary packet was passed around and discussed. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Halada, and unanimously carried to approve the winning bids.

Smith also passed out and discussed the Florence County Forest Sold Values through the fall of 2015.

C. STEWARDSHIP TIMBER SALE BID OPENING/APPROVAL

Smith reported that there were two bidders for this contract and Timber Valley was the successful one. It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Halada, and unanimously carried to approve the stewardship timber sale bid.

D. STEWARDSHIP MARKING CONTRACT BID OPENING/APPROVAL

The County received four marking contract bids. The successful bidder was MW Forestry. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve the marking contract bidder.

7. RECREATION

A. SKI HILL CONCESSIONAIRE

With the ski season right around the corner - Smith wanted to know if the committee wanted bids put out for the concessionaire position at the ski hill. After discussion – it was agreed that we should continue on with our current contractor.

Smith passed around an update on projects that the department has been working on. He also passed around the final boat launch revenue report.

8. LAND SALES

A. BID OPENING/APPROVAL

Smith passed around and discussed the results of the recent County Land Sale. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Neuens and unanimously carried to approve the bids and send to County Board for final approval.

9. AMINISTRATOR REPORT

Smith informed the committee that there are two bills out there in regards to the funding of the Interpretive Center. One is in the Senate and one is in the Assembly. Smith plans on attending the hearing for the Assembly bill in Madison on November 17th. The Senate hearing is scheduled for some time in December.

Evaluations for the department are almost complete.

The department may have a potential vacancy in the department – Parks & Ski Hill Assistant. Smith wanted the committee be aware.

10. COMMITTEE MEMBER’S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Supervisor Neuens said the Sherriff’s department received grants from the DNR for patrolling the recreational trails – he would like to make sure they are doing it. It was recommended that it be brought up at Personnel.

11. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

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

It was also moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to approve the Wallace Stewardship bill being paid for \$158,026.32 by the Forestry and Parks Department.

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Halada, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:55 PM.

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