

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 P.M. - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2016
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
LARRY DZEKUTE
HOLLY STRATTON
SUSAN THEER
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 PM.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

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

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of October 12, 2016 as read.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. HARV SKJERVEN - USFS DISTRICT RANGER

USFS District Ranger Harv Skjerven was not able to make it to the meeting. However Administrator Smith told the Committee that two portions of the Stewardship Agreement were complete – the road package & timber marking. The County is waiting for re-imbusement.

B. HUBER & ASSOCIATES

Tony Derleth said there were five crews working in the County right now. They continue to work with the State on road work.

Derleth said he would be handing out doe permits here at the Resource Center on Monday & Thursday of next week.

C. DNR – HENRY SULLIVAN

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan told the committee that they are no active timber sales. The department will be opening their Fall Timber Sale bids tomorrow.

GNA work is not being done in Florence specifically – however this could change as the Morgan Lake sale begins.

All hiring of forestry positions will be on hold until DNR restructuring is complete. Smith will bring a letter to next month's meeting which supports filling the DNR Forestry Technician position here in Florence County.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Smith reported that there are three active timber sales in the County.

B. ROAD LIMITS

Administrator Smith reported that the Economic Development Committee had the topic of road limits on their agenda. There was good discussion on how this issue is affecting local truckers and how contractors bid on County sales. The issue is the 90,000 pound road limit. Contractors are asking that Florence County change the road limits to 98,000 pounds to allow more efficient movement of forest products on our roads. Also, the County's loss in timber sale revenues are between 6% - 10% because of the 90,000 pound limit. Considering our recent Fall 2016 Timber Sale bid was \$697,391 – that is a \$70,000 loss - which is quite an impact.

One can legally haul 80,000 pounds and any road in the State of Wisconsin that is not posted for less weight. To haul more weight - a trucker can buy a permit to allow them to haul 98,000 pounds. This is allowed in every County – except Florence - because our County roads only allow 90,000 pounds. The University of Wisconsin Platteville Civil Engineering Department did a road study in the State of Wisconsin on the effects of raising road limits to 98,000 pounds. The study found that having 6 axels on 98,000 pounds provides far less damage to the roads than by hauling 90,000 pounds on 5 axels.

Smith would like the Committee to make a motion to ask the Highway Department to support the 98,000 pound road limit because it is directing affecting our timber sale revenues. Supervisor Stratton and Theer requested that Smith bring written documentation to the next meeting supporting the benefits.

C. ACCESS AGREEMENTS

Smith passed around a letter Chairman Kelley received from a landowner requesting an implied easement across County Forest. He also passed around maps detailing the property. Smith shared his "draft" response letter stating that the landowner had other accessible routes to their property which did not require crossing County Property. After discussion it was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to allow Smith to send a letter.

D. ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR PLOW TRUCK

Smith passed around and discussed the advertisement and specification list requesting sealed bids for the purchase of a new 2017 ¾ ton truck. It was moved by Supervisor Theer, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve advertising for the plow truck.

7. RECREATION

A. SKI HILL CONCESSIONAIRE

With ski season fast approaching – Smith asked if the Committee was interested in advertising the Ski Hill Concessionaire position. After discussion it was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Theer, and unanimously carried to approve advertising for the Ski Hill Concessionaire for a three year contract.

B. CAMPGROUND / BOAT LANDING REPORTS

Smith passed around and the 2016 Campground Revenue report. The County had a great camping season – taking in

more than \$3,200 from last year. He also passed around and discussed the 2016 Boat Launch Revenue report.

Smith wanted the Committee to be aware that the boat launch pad at North Lake is in bad shape from power loading. It will need to be taken out and replaced next year. Keyes Lake has the same problem.

8. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Smith informed the Committee that would be on vacation beginning November 14th and returning November 28th.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

None

10. 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 October.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

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