

**FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**3:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 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 DISTRICT RANGER  
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER  
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR  
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY  
ED WENGER  
JOHN HALADA  
LARRY NEUENS  
DON GARDNER  
HARV SKJERVEN  
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. *NOTE: Larry Neuens arrived 3:43 PM.*

**2. APPROVAL / AGENDA**

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

**3. APPROVAL / MINUTES**

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and unanimously carried to approve the Forestry & Parks minutes of October 8, 2014 as read.

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Halada, and unanimously carried to approve the Public Hearing minutes of October 8, 2014 as read.

A correction was made to the County Board Minutes. Supervisor Halada did not move to approve the agenda of September 10, 2014 meeting – rather it was Supervisor Neuens. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and unanimously carried to approve the Public Hearing minutes of October 8, 2014 as read.

**4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Forestry & Parks Administrator Patrick Smith wanted the committee to be aware that he received two email comments regarding the boat landing ordinance. However, both came in after the public hearing.

**5. AGENCY REPORTS**

**A. HARV SKJERVEN - USFS DISTRICT RANGER**

USFS District Ranger Harv Skjerven reported to the committee that retired USFS Forester Dave Bathel recently passed away.

Next year's budget still has not been approved.

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

The USFS crews will be opening gates to pack down the snow and then closing them up until the trails open.

Skjerven is interested in setting up a meeting with Smith regarding the details of the upcoming stewardship after the holidays.

**B. HUBER & ASSOCIATES**

Tony Derleth was not in attendance.

**C. DNR-HENTRY SULLIVAN**

DNR-County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan reported that the State has two active sales going on in the county right now – one should be finishing up before deer season. The department received a complaint from Huber & Associates on the job located in the Savage Lake area regarding road maintenance issues. Property Manager Jeff Pennucci met with Tony Derleth from Huber & Associates and said the State has infrastructure money that it will use to rebuild the road this Spring.

The State plans on advertising their 2<sup>nd</sup> round of bids in January. The field work is complete. Smith told the committee that the county also has a sale it is going to advertise at the same time. There is a small 32 acre timber sale that is located in the LaSalle area that is surrounded by State land. The hope is a contractor will want both sales.

The State held its bid opening this morning and did not sell the Jennings Falls timber sale. This sale was roughly 3,400 cords. One bid was received which averaged \$24/cd. It was bid below the State's minimum. Sullivan noted that the county had a sale right next to this property – Sins of the Father which was 65 acres – and the average bid price was \$52/cd. There was a wood turtle restriction on the State sale – but not on the county sale. The State will re-advertise this sale in January. Much discussion was had about the specie guidance and its possible affect on price.

**6. COUNTY FOREST**

**A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE**

Administrator Smith passed around proposed Sale Contract Amendment #1 to contract #761-12S. This amendment would allow a different contractor to make payment for the sale. The original contractor is still obligated to fulfill all terms of the contract. Our attorney has not reviewed the amendment verbiage. The committee felt it was important to get the sale going – but it is equally important for our attorney to review the amendment. Therefore, it was moved by Supervisor Gardner, seconded by Supervisor Neuens and unanimously carried to accept Amendment #1 after the county's attorney reviews it.

**B. TIMBER SALE BID APPROVAL**

Smith passed around and reviewed the 2014 Fall Timber Sale bid packet. He was very pleased with the results. Fall sales totaled \$717,159.05. That means for the year 2014, between both the Spring and Fall sales - the county will have sold \$1,134,248.80 in sales. Smith recognized the hard work put in by both the DNR and the Forestry & Parks staff. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Neuens and unanimously carried to approve the 2014 Fall Timber Sale bids.

Smith then passed around and discussed a summary spreadsheet reviewing Florence County Forest sales sold from 1983 to 2014.

**C. LAND ACQUISITION-UPDATE**

Administrator Smith said he received an email from a real estate company listing the Pine River Lumber property from across the U.P. and all of Wisconsin. Smith contacted the real estate company and asked about the Florence County land and he was told Pine River Lumber had no interest in breaking up the property. Smith is drafting up an easement to make sure we can keep our ATV access. So as of now – this acquisition is on hold.

**7. RECREATION**

**A. SKI HILL PRICES**

The Keyes Peak Ski Hill flier was passed around. This flier highlights everything that is offered by Keyes Peak – which includes pricing. New ones need to be printed and Smith wanted to know if the committee was comfortable with keeping the price structure the same or if there is anything they wanted changed or added. After discussion it was agreed that the prices should remain affordable and therefore remain the same. It was moved by Supervisor Halada, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to approve the Keyes Peak price structure.

**B. NICOLET TRAIL - UPDATE**

Smith passed around “before & after” pictures of the Nicolet Trail. Smith pointed out that the county received a grant for Highway to finish the Michigan’s portion too. The project is very close to being complete. It was recommended that Smith consider having some sort of ribbon cutting for the project.

**8. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

Next month Smith plans on inviting our new Wildlife Biologist Jason Cotter to the meeting.

Assistant Administrator Andy Nault and Sullivan have been spending much of their time scheduling timber and making prescription changes.

December 5, 2014 is the partnership meeting between the DNR and Forestry and Parks.

The courthouse asked for the “Annual Year in Review” – Smith will bring to next meeting.

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

None

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

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

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:43.

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