

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

ED KELLEY  
ED WENGER  
LARRY NEUENS  
DON GARDNER  
HARV SKJERVEN  
HENRY SULLIVAN  
PATRICK SMITH  
MARY PODNAR

Absent or excused: John Halada

**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 Wenger seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as posted.

**3. APPROVAL / MINUTES**

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

**4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

**5. AGENCY REPORTS**

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

USFS District Ranger Harv Skjerven updated the committee on the stewardship proposal. It should be ready to send to the regional office in Milwaukee very soon. The sale is laid out and ready to go and everything should be finalized by June or July at the latest.

The USFS is moving ahead with the job descriptions of the three new positions here in Florence. Skjerven hopes to have them filled by this Spring.

Chairman Ed Kelley asked Skjerven if Congress will be addressing the separation of fire and forest management in their budget. Skjerven said he heard there is a budget bill out there but believes it is going to be turned down. Kelley said he would contact our local representative Shawn Duffy & Ron Johnson about this matter.

**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's timber sale job in the Barrens is complete. Right before deer season the contractor pulled off the job located near Savage Lake and has not yet returned. The department will begin working on establishing a job near the Oxbow. The State had some concern about accessing the property – however they believe they have found a way.

There will be a state bid opening on January 22, 2015 advertising sales in both Florence & Forest counties.

The State received a complaint from a land owner and Huber and Associates regarding road maintenance issues near the Savage Lake sale. Sullivan would like to see some type of budget source set up so road maintenance issues can be addressed in the future.

**6. COUNTY FOREST**

**A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE**

Forestry & Parks Administrator Patrick Smith informed the committee that the county will be advertising a sale in conjunction with the State in January as well. The county sale is a small 32 acre sale that is located right next to the State's LaSalle North sale. Smith is hoping that the same contractor will purchase both sales.

There is one active timber sale going on in the county right now – all other sales have come to a halt since deer season.

Smith spoke with corporate council regarding the proposed contract amendment to sale #761-12S and the attorney did not like the verbiage. Smith spoke with the original contractor and it appears this amendment may not be needed as the contractor plans to begin this job within the next couple of weeks.

**B. DAVE MAJEWSKI MEMORIAL**

Smith passed around a picture of an example of a memorial that was done for Steve Jackson in Langlade County. Smith spoke with Linda Majewski and said both she and her family would be interested in something similar for Dave. Smith priced out the material and the stone was \$300.00 and the bronzed plaque (20" X 16") was \$1,000.00. The family felt that the Bass Tower Lake Road would be the best location for the memorial. The memorial could be labeled in the recreation maps as well. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Gardner and unanimously carried to approve the Dave Majewski Memorial. Chairman Kelley added that he remembers being on the hiring committee for Dave and at the time the county forest brought in \$9,000... and last year the county forest brought in over \$1 million dollars. This had much to do because of Dave's dedication.

Linda Majewski asked the committee if it would be okay if the family purchased a plaque for the Resource Center to be hung as well. The committee overwhelmingly agreed to this idea.

**C. 2015 ANNUAL WORK PLAN**

Administrator Smith passed around the 2015 Annual Work Plan. Everything remained mostly the same. Smith said he made updates for the boat landings to include the fees and the upcoming planting project. It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Gardner and unanimously carried to approve the 2015 Annual Work Plan and to send to County Board for approval.

**D. ERIC BROLIN 1 YEAR EVALUATION**

Administrator Smith said Eric is still learning – but is doing good work and recommends that he receive a \$1.00 raise. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Gardner and unanimously carried to approve the Eric

Brolin's raise and send this recommendation to Personnel.

**E. WCS TREE PLANTING UPDATE**

Administrator Smith reported that the trenching for this project was completed today – which ended up being 324 acres of trenching. Spring will be very busy as they plan on planting roughly 500,000 trees.

**7. RECREATION**

**A. NORTHERN SADDLE CLUB/HORSE TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS FOR 2015**

Smith passed around a letter he received from the Northern Saddle Club detailing proposed trail improvements for Hall's Creek and Bush Lake Flats Trails Head. The club needs permission from the land manager (*which is the Forestry & Parks Committee*) to begin applying for grants. Smith wanted the committee to be aware that one of things the club was asking for were non-potable (*not suitable for human drinking*) water pumps at the trail heads. Smith checked with the State and the water at these pump sites will have to be tested because it is on public property. Testing the wells only becomes a burden if something comes back and you have to continue to test and treat them. After discussion it was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to support the Northern Saddle Club moving forward with the grant funding process.

The Horse Club thanked the Forestry & Parks for working with them and the improvements they have made on the Halls Creek Trails. People trailer their horses from all over the state and country to use our trails.

**B. SKI HILL UPDATE**

Smith shared with the committee that they started making snow – but had to stop because of issues with the pump. He is hoping to open the hill this weekend. Smith made the decision not to open the snow trails because of the warming weather.

**8. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

Representatives from the Keyes Lake Association had a meeting with Smith and asked about the "Fish Stick" program. You take whole trees and stack them up to the shoreline to create fish cribs. The Association is looking for trees. Smith offered up the dying birch that is located in the Keyes Peak Park right now.

Smith plans to start building vaults for the boat landings. Our summer LTE is off for Christmas break and has taken welding classes – so Smith is going to have him start building them. Supervisor Neuens suggested he make a vault for the rifle range as well.

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

Supervisor Neuens inquired about the ATV work being done on the Oxbow. Smith said Highway Commissioner Jeff DeMuri has been working with the DNR Property Manager Jeff Pennucci on how to widen this trail.

Neuens attended the Governor's Conference and learned about the Madison Wood Products Lab and encouraged the committee members to visit it. The research that is done there sounds fascinating.

Supervisor Gardner informed the committee that beginning next year - one will need a trail pass and license registration to ride the snowmobile trails in Wisconsin.

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

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

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:28.

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