

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 P.M. - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 2014
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
USFS DISTRICT RANGER
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
HARV SKJERVEN
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 3:30 P.M.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

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

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

USFS District Ranger wanted it noted that there was a correction to the May 14, 2014 Minutes. Morgan Lake is in the process of being designated on ATV campground, but it is not set up for ATV use quite yet. It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of June 11, 2014 with the correction as read.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. HARV SKJERVEN - USFS DISTRICT RANGER

USFS District Ranger Harv Skjerven reported that the Stewardship Master Agreement contract has been finalized and is ready for signature. It was moved by Supervisor Gardner, seconded by Supervisor Halada, and unanimously carried to approve the Stewardship Master Agreement contract and send this decision to the County Board.

The USFS is moving ahead with new hiring's. They will be interviewing for Silviculturist Bob MacGregor's position soon. Skjerven also plans on hiring a new forester by using special money that has been assigned to the regional office. This position would be hired based upon a two year trial period and housed in the Eagle River office for training purposes. This position would then most likely be stationed at the Florence office. Nicole Schutt will be filling in for the vacant Botanist position as well.

Skjerven wanted to note that he read a nationwide report on the impact of the 2012/2013 fire spending transfers. He believes the reporting about the fire spending taking away from the timber budget was inaccurate for the state of Wisconsin. The regional office is clarifying where the information for this report came from. If you have any questions – he would be happy to answer them.

The USFS still has one more timber sale to sell.

Skjerven asked the committee if they knew of anyone who would be interested in becoming a member of the Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). After discussion it was agreed that Florence County needed representation on this committee so Administrator Pat Smith volunteered to apply.

B. HUBER & ASSOCIATES

Tony Derleth was not in attendance.

C. DNR – HENRY SULLIVAN

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan reported that 277 acres were burned in the Spread Eagle Barrens area. Everything went as well as could be expected. Sullivan thanked the county for the help they provided.

The state is working on establishing their timber sales for the year.

Sullivan said the fire season is officially over.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. APPROVAL OF BIDS FOR SPRING 2014 TIMBER SALES

Assistant Administrator Andy Nault passed around the 2014 Spring Timber Sale Summary. Advertised sale #1 – Lake Edith and Advertised sale #6 – Majesty Special had no bids. The bids were approved as follows:

Advertised sale #2 – Snow Trail Hardwood: Administrator Smith said Connor Forest Management was the high bidder for this sale. He is a new contractor and has never bid on a county sale before. The committee agreed that because this was a scale sale – the county should ask for a pre-payment before work begins. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and unanimously carried to accept this bid with a onetime pre-payment clause.

Advertised sale #3 – Camp 12 Aspen: Wild Rivers Forestry was high bidder on this sale. It was moved by Supervisor Gardner, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to accept this bid.

Advertised sale #4 – Sand Lake Oak: Timber Valley was high bidder on this sale. Administrator Smith would like to put on this contract a pre-payment clause as it too is a scale sale. Timber Valley has never bid on a scale sale with the county before and Smith would like to treat all new contractors the same. It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and unanimously carried to accept this bid with the pre-payment clause.

Advertised sale #5 – Tower Aspen 2: Tigerton Lumber was high bidder on this sale. Tigerton is new to bidding with the county as well. However, because this is a lump sum sale – there is less risk to the county. Work cannot begin until blocks are paid so he feels a pre-payment clause is not necessary. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to accept this bid.

Advertised sale #7 – Burma Oak: Frank’s Inc. was high bidder on this sale. It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Halada, and unanimously carried to accept this bid.

B. TIMBER SALES UPDATE

Nault reported that there are two active sales going on in the county right now. Last week they started on Fall Timber sales.

C. NHI CONCERNS FOR MANAGEMENT

Jim Woodford from NHI met with Smith and Sullivan and looked at two of the 2014 Spring Timber Sales. He agreed that Advertised sale #1 – Lake Edith - should not have a wood turtle restriction on it as well as one block found on Advertised sale #6 – Majesty Special. Smith felt like the visit was extremely beneficial as he learned what NHI considered wood turtle streams and what the county should be looking for. Both Smith and Sullivan are comfortable with directing questions to him.

D. EQUIPMENT USE AGREEMENT WITH HIGHWAY

The Equipment Policy between Forestry & Parks and Highway was passed around and discussed. It was moved by Supervisor Halada, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to approve this agreement.

E. WCS GRANT APPLICATION

Smith wanted the committee to be aware that he applied for a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). A non-profit organization needs to submit the application for the replanting grant. Smith asked Don Peterson for his help. They worked with the forest service out of the northern research station in Houghton, Michigan. A project was put together for tree planting. The goal is to see how different soil applications work for helping with tree survival in the Spur Lake area. This will be a \$120,000 - \$150,000 grant for planting on roughly 400 acres of county land. This will be 50/50 grant. Smith would like the counties half of the grant to be “in-kind” work. They are looking for a representative from the committee to be a “reference” person to follow the project. Supervisor Wenger volunteered because of his forestry background.

7. RECREATION

A. COSGROVE LAKE DREDGING - UPDATE

Smith is working on getting quotes for getting this project done.

B. SKI LODGE RENTAL CONTRACT & INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

The master cover letter and Rules & Regulations governing the use of the Florence County Keyes Peak Ski Lodge contract was passed around and discussed. The committee decided to change the payment and insurance requirements. The full \$400 rent and \$200 security deposit must now be paid up-front. If an event is cancelled 6 months in advance – the full rent and security deposit will be returned. If the event is cancelled less than 6 months before scheduled use – this will cause forfeiture of the rental payment, however the security deposit will be returned.

Also, proof of insurance will be required by any organization making a profit from use of the facility. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Gardner, and carried to approve the lodge contract changes by a 4-1 vote. Supervisor Neuens opposed this decision.

C. BOAT LAUNCH FEE

Nothing has been done to date.

D. LAKE EMILY BOAT LAUNCH PROJECT UPDATE

Recreation Forester Eric Brolin shared a slide presentation showing the progress being made on various projects

going on in the county. The committee was brought up to speed on the Lake Emily Boat Launch Project. He also showed slides of the new retaining wall that was just built at Keyes Lake.

Smith shared with the committee that WE Energies is putting in a new power plant at Twin Falls Flowage. They were launching a barge from our boat landing and broke the cement pads in the process. They will be replacing these. They have also volunteered to make forms for the leftover cement and make spare pads for the county for a minimum amount of money. These forms can always be used. It is one of those opportunities the county cannot pass up.

E. PARKS

The 2014 Campground Revenue / Days Camped report was passed around and discussed.

Supervisor Kelley heard concern about sections of Lake Emily looking bad due to dying trees. Smith is aware of this and there is not much that can be done. It appears that too much water in one area caused the dieback.

8. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

There are some tax delinquent parcels that will be put up for sale. There will be two lots to sell and a 40 acre parcel on Lake of Dreams in Tipler. This parcel is land locked. The access issue will need to be addressed.

Details on the WCFA 2014 Summer Tour were discussed.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Supervisor Neuens inquired about the rug service in the building. Smith already addressed this issue. We will be purchasing our own rugs for the Resource Building. We are just waiting for our contract to run out.

10. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Halada, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:49.

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