

**FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**3:30 P.M. - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2018**  
**LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - LOWER LEVEL**  
**FLORENCE NATURAL RESOURCE CENTER**  
**FLORENCE, WI 54121**

**PRESENT:**

SUPERVISOR / 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  
LARRY DZEKUTE  
SUSAN THEER  
HOLLY STRATTON  
HENRY SULLIVAN  
PATRICK SMITH  
MARY PODNAR

**ABSENT OR EXCUSED:** Ed Wenger

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Chairman Kelley called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Roll call was taken. Supervisor Wenger was excused.

**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 Stratton, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of December 13, 2017 as read.

**4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

**5. AGENCY REPORTS**

**A. USFS**

Administrator Pat Smith said there is nothing to update regarding Stewardship work. He has been speaking with NEPA Coordinator Adam Felts regarding the Facilities Master Planning process. If the USFS decided to pull out of their contract with the Resource Center – it would be a long process.

At this time USFS District Manager Chad Kirschbaum arrived to the meeting with Rhinelander Public Service Staff Officer Lanore Lamb and Jamie Davidson, Deputy Forest Supervisor of the Chemaquegon/Nicolet National Forest. They were touring USFS district sites.

Kirschbaum reported that the USFS has four active sales and two GNA sales. He also said there hasn't been enough snowfall to groom the Lauterman trail. They continue to move forward with the Recreational Site Analysis. They have received over 500 public comments.

He reported that in an effort to be efficient with all resources - the USFS is undergoing Facilities Master Planning

(FMP). There has been a strong emphasis from the Washington office on down to reduce facilities square footage. They are looking at the possibility of having one district office per district. The planning process is in the “gathering information” stage. Regional Forester Kathleen Atkinson will decide what options to pursue.

There is a new law enforcement officer based out of Lakewood/Laona. He will be helping with the Florence/Eagle River districts as well.

Chairman Kelley thanked Lamb and Davidson for coming. He explained the uniqueness of the building in that it houses the USFS, State DNR, County, UWEX, and DOT.

**B. HUBER & ASSOCIATES**

Tony Derleth was not in attendance.

**C. DNR – HENRY SULLIVAN**

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan reported that there are three active timber sales and one being a GNA sale. Sullivan explained to Kirschbaum and his guests the advantages of having the USFS Forester and DNR Forester under the same roof while working on this GNA sale. When State Forester Tyler Wood was working on the prescription for the sale – he was able to walk right down the hall and collaborate with District Silviculturist Katie Theisen. Sullivan went on to speak about the help the USFS has given the State on the Spread Eagle prescribe burn program. Having the agencies housed under the same roof is not only unique – but provides a working environment which promotes collaboration and is an extremely efficient tool in getting projects complete.

Smith went on to say that the County is working on their second Stewardship Project with the USFS. Smith works with USFS Eric Anderson very closely on these projects. Being able to walk down the hall to ask and answer questions has proven to be very efficient.

The State has money set aside for surveying. There is line work that needs to be done by Salvage/Robego Lake. Bids have been sent out and will be opened in February.

Later this month the department will be having their bi-annual State wide meeting where all the area department foresters get their direction. The theme this year is trust.

The State is at 58% of goal in terms of time standard hours. He feels they are well on their way to meeting the goal.

**6. COUNTY FOREST**

**A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE**

Smith reported that there are three or four active timber sales in the County. Assistant Administrator Andy Nault told Smith that after next week we should be down to one as contractors will be pulling off of jobs. An extension was sent out with penalty for a sale that expired December 31, 2017. Nault has been busy setting up Spring sales.

**B. GUNNELSON LAND PURCHASE UPDATE**

Smith has still not heard back from the State regarding this purchase.

**C. APPROVAL TO BID UTV**

Smith passed around and discussed the bid specifications for a new UTV. After discussion, it was moved by Supervisor Stratton, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried advertise for a new 2017 or 2018 UTV.

**D. APPROVAL BIDS FOR TRUCK**

Smith passed around and discussed the bid for a new 2018 F-150 truck. After discussion, it was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Stratton, and unanimously carried to approve the bid and send on to County Board.

**7. RECREATION**

**A. SKI HILL CONCESSIONAIRE**

Smith reported that the ski hill opened on December 22, 2017. There were a few days over Christmas break that the hill closed down due to the cold weather. Business Manager Mary Podnar will have spreadsheet for next month's meeting tracking expenses & revenues in the kitchen as requested by Supervisor Larry Neuens.

**B. HORSE TRAILS**

Forestry & Parks received a complaint about someone riding their horse on the designated Horse Trail near Halls Creek. Smith passed around a letter he received days after last month's meeting. Smith is concerned about limiting the use of County Forest. The forest is not closed to "non-hunters" during hunting season – therefore anyone could be walking on those trails or in the forest for that matter. Smith believes it would be foolish to walk on a trail or be in the forest without blaze orange on during the rifle gun season – but there is no law to say you cannot. After discussion it was agreed to close the Horse Trail during gun rifle season and post signs stating this. Smith will inform the Norther Saddle Club of this decision.

**C. LAND FOR SALE ADJACENT TO FAIRGROUNDS**

Smith passed around a GIS map showing 4.4 acres of land for sale which is located next to the Fairgrounds. Smith contacted Highway Commissioner Jeff DeMuri and Jessica Klump from the Fair Board to see if they were interested in this parcel. Klump was extremely interested. Smith said Forestry & Parks would have no use for this land but would be willing to help with the purchase. Smith left a message with the owner to find out a price. After discussion, it was moved by Supervisor Theer, seconded by Supervisor Stratton, and carried to have Smith follow-up with this purchase and report back to Klump, UWEX and Forestry & Parks Committee.

**8. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Smith passed around and discussed the Resource Center lighting project. He reviewed the cost breakdown and incentives that were available. Annual customer bill reduction would be \$5,336 per year. After discussion, it was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Theer, and carried to allow Administrator Smith move forward with this project.

Smith informed the Committee that he received an email from County Clerk Donna Trudell regarding Forestry & Parks workweek. They were under the assumption that Forestry & Parks worked a Sunday – Saturday workweek. However, the department has always operated Monday – Sunday. For over 35 years - overtime, comp time, weekend scheduling, back-payments, and payroll vouchers have been based on a Monday – Sunday workweek. Trudell is asking Smith to get approval to change to a Monday – Sunday workweek. Smith only wants to continue to operate the department as it has been – which is Monday - Sunday. Supervisor Theer wants clarification as to how many departments are working different schedules. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Stratton, and carried to allow Forestry & Parks to operate its Monday – Sunday workweek until this issue has been sorted out with Personnel. Supervisor Theer abstained. This issue will be discussed at next month's meeting.

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

None

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

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Stratton, and carried to approve bills being paid for

Forestry and Parks and the Florence Natural Resource Center for December.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Supervisor Theer, seconded by Supervisor Stratton, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:56 PM.

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