

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

4:00 PM - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

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
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER
USFS DISTRICT MANAGER
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY (PHONE)
LARRY DZEKUTE
SUSAN THEER
FRAN MODSCHIEDLER
MATT BRUNETTE
TYLER WOOD (PHONE)
CHAD KIRSCHBAUM (PHONE)
PATRICK SMITH
TAYLOR ZIOLKOWSKI
MARY PODNAR

ABESENT OR EXCUSED: None

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chairman Kelley called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. He turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Dzekute. Roll call was taken and all were present.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

It was moved by Supervisor Theer seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to approve the agenda and move item number “7. Recreation, C. North Lake Boat Landing Update” to the beginning of the meeting. Please see below:

Administrator Smith informed the Committee that he is still working on a plan for the North Lake Boat Landing. He would like to update the launch and replace the pads. They would like to improve the flow of the parking lot as well. The design is very preliminary right now. Once a final proposal is in place – Smith will bring it to the Committee. Members of the public were in attendance and provided comments.

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

It was moved by Supervisor Brunette seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to approve the minutes as read.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. USFS

USFS District Manager Chad Kirschbaum shared that the department will be telecommuting whenever possible. Timber sales have been slow - they still have lots of salvage work going on. Our NEPA Coordinator is leaving – she was located in the Florence office. Kirschbaum plans on filling the position in Florence in the future. He also plans on filling two recreation positions in the Florence office as well.

B. DNR – TYLER WOOD

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Tyler Wood reported that there is one active timber sale in the County. The State plans on selling +/- 450 acres in a spring timber sale.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Assistant Administrator Taylor Ziolkowski reported that there are three active timber sales in the County.

B. BID PLANTING CONTRACT

Smith passed around and discussed the 2021 Tree Planting bid packet. It was moved by Supervisor Modschiedler seconded by Supervisor Theer and unanimously carried to approve advertising the 2021 Tree Planting work.

C. PURCHASE OF HIGHWAY TRUCK

Smith discussed the pros and cons of purchasing highways 1 ton extended cab pickup truck. It does not have a box – so one would need to be purchased. After discussion - it was moved by Supervisor Brunette seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to have Smith research potential funding sources for this truck purchase and report his findings at next month's meeting.

D. BID OUT TRUCK

Smith passed around the 2020 or 2021 bid truck specifications for the Committee to review. It was moved by Supervisor Modschiedler seconded by Supervisor Theer and unanimously carried to approve the truck bid.

7. RECREATION

A. SKI HILL

Smith informed the Committee that the ski hill hours have been changed. They will be open on Thursdays from 3:00PM – 9:00PM and earlier on Fridays due to the Florence schools being closed on Fridays. This is a trial and will be evaluated to determine if these hours make sense.

B. SNOWMOBILE CLUB AMICUS CURIAE BRIEF UPDATE

The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) stated they will look into filing a amicus curiae brief since this case has statewide implications. Smith asked WCA to contact the attorney for the snowmobile club for more detailed information on the case.

D. LANDOWNER AGREEMENTS FOR SNOW/ATV TRAILS

The department will not be sending out landowner agreements until after the snowmobile season.

E. EASEMENT AT WEST BASS FOR WE ENERGIES

WE Energies wants to put up a poll with a receiver that would collect meter information. They need to determine if the poll will be on County or Town property.

D. LOON LAKE ACCESS

Smith wanted the Committee to know that he was contacted by a citizen with a complaint regarding trespassing on their property going to Loon Lake. Upon investigation – it appears the citizen is trespassing on County land. There has been people not using the county trail leading to the water. The area is signed decently so there is no reason for this to be happening. Smith will inform the landowner that he will need to call the Sheriffs office if he is having problems. Smith will let the Committee know how he plans to move forward.

8. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

None

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Supervisor Brunette asked if Smith followed up on the Lake Emily road condition. It appears the Town contacted Highway for a quote to brush the road open.

10. BILLS / REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

It was moved by Supervisor Theer seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and carried to approve bills being paid for the month of December and January by Forestry and Parks and the Florence Natural Resource Center.

11. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Modschiedler seconded by Supervisor Theer and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:27 PM.

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