

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020
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 MANAGER
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY
LARRY DZEKUTE
SUSAN THEER
HOLLY STRATTON
CHAD KIRSCHBAUM
TYLER WOOD
PATRICK SMITH
MARY PODNAR

ABESENT OR EXCUSED: Larry Neuens

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chairman Kelley called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Roll call was taken – Larry Neuens was excused.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute seconded by Supervisor Stratton and unanimously carried to approve the agenda without changes.

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

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

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Blue Ox Trail Rider representatives - Tom Harrison and Fran Modschiedler discussed with the Committee the possibility of leasing a piece of property for a storage building by the Fairgrounds. Forestry & Parks Administrator Pat Smith will follow up to see if the Fairgrounds had plans for the proposed property. He will add this item to next month's meeting. Harrison thanked the Forestry & Parks department for their cooperation and working relationship with the Blue Ox Trail Riders club.

Smith passed around a compliment regarding the excellent condition of the Halls Creek cross country ski and snowshoe trail.

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. USFS

USFS District Manager Chad Kirschbaum reported that activity in the woods is picking up with four active sales. There will be four new positions located in the Florence office: Botany Technician, Firefighter, Forester and Recreation position.

Kirschbaum was asked about grooming on the Lauterman trail. He said it is groomed at least once per week. He recommended visiting skinnyski.com to check out conditions of the trails.

B. DNR – TYLER WOOD

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Tyler Wood reported that there are no active timber sales in the County.

The North East Sands Master Plan has been approved. There is a new Property Manager for the Pine/ Popple Wild Rivers in the Florence office. His name is Duane Hartwick.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Smith reported that there are two active timber sales in the County.

B. 15 YEAR PLAN – REVIEW PREVIOUS CHAPTERS

Smith asked if the Committee had any questions/suggestions from the chapters they have received. There were none.

C. 15 YEAR PLAN – CHAPTERS 600, 700, 800 & 900

Smith passed around chapters 700, 800, & 900 for the Committee to review. He did not have chapter 600 complete – but will have for next month’s meeting.

7. RECREATION

A. SKI HILL UPDATE

There is a truck hill climb scheduled for March 14, 2020. The Ski Hill Committee, Blue Ox Trail Riders, and Florence Fire Department will sponsor the event.

8. RESOLUTIONS

It was moved by Supervisor Stratton seconded by Supervisor Dzekute and unanimously carried to approve resolutions A – F on the agenda and send to County Board for approval.

It was moved by Supervisor Stratton seconded by Supervisor Theer and unanimously carried to approve the Wolf Resolution and send to County Board for approval.

It was moved by Supervisor Stratton seconded by Supervisor Dzekute and unanimously carried to approve the Snowmobile Trail Funding Increase Resolution and send to County Board for approval.

9. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Smith asked if any Committee members would be interested in attending the Sustainable Forestry Conference which will be held on April 23, 2020 at the Keyes Peak Ski Hill. Supervisors Dzekute, Theer & Stratton plan on attending.

Smith also asked if anyone would be interested in attending the WCFA Spring Meeting being held March 19th and 20th in Marshfield as reservations need to be made. Chairman Kelley plans on attending.

Smith presented a slide show of the new snowmobile bridge over the Popple River.

Smith said there have not been any applications for the Assistant Administrator position. Deadline is March 6, 2020.

10. COMMITTEE MEMBER’S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

None

11. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

Smith passed around a voucher for FA Industrial Services for project #S-4898 Little Popple River Bridge Rehab. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute seconded by Supervisor Theer and carried to approve bills being paid for Forestry and Parks and the Florence Natural Resource Center for January.

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Stratton, seconded by Supervisor Theer and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:25 PM.

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