

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 P.M. - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2017
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
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY
ED WENGER
LARRY DZEKUTE
HOLLY STRATTON
SUSAN THEER
HENRY SULLIVAN
PATRICK SMITH
MARY PODNAR

Absent or excused: None

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 Stratton seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as posted.

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Theer, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of February 8, 2017 as read.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. HARV SKJERVEN - USFS DISTRICT RANGER

USFS District Ranger Harv Skjerven was not in attendance.

B. HUBER & ASSOCIATES

Tony Derleth was not in attendance.

C. DNR – HENRY SULLIVAN

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan told the Committee that there are no active timber sales going on right now. Sullivan sent out contracts for line establishment bids. In terms of GNA – it has been quiet. There are still no updates on the DNR positions. Sullivan also told the Committee that as of March 1st the department has 955 time standard hours in for the County which equates to 85% of goal.

Chairman Kelley asked if the elimination of the mill tax in the Governor's budget was going to hurt the DNR. Sullivan explained that for every \$100,000 of assessment – roughly \$17 goes into the mill tax fund. This fund helps pay for

DNR Forestry staffing, County Administrator Grants, Sustainable Forestry Grants, and a long list of other items. Administrator Smith added that there might not be any changes for the next two years in the Conservation Funds account. Without the mill tax – funding will come out of the general fund and this will be very difficult to fight for. Smith will look into what should be done by the Committee to support the keeping of the mill tax in the Governor’s budget once he finds out more details at next week’s WCFA conference.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Smith reported that there is one active timber sale in the County.

B. TIMBER SALE EXTENSIONS

Smith informed the Committee that there were five sales that needed to be discussed. The County has two sales that need an extension in which there should be a 5% penalty assessed because there was no effort made to harvest them. There are two other sales that need extensions but without penalties. The contractors of these sales contacted the County and made an effort to get the sales started but could not due to weather conditions. The last sale is one that Smith would like to take back because it is so old. This sale was sold in the Spring of 2011 and has been granted extensions due to frozen ground issues. Smith recommends canceling the contract. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Stratton, and unanimously carried to approve the timber sale extensions as discussed.

C. SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY GRANT

Smith passed around and discussed a Sustainable Forestry Grant application for post herbicide release work. They would like to hire a summer LTE to recon the area that was sprayed during the Fall of 2016. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously carried to move forward with Sustainable Forestry Grant application.

D. GNA & STEWARDSHIP WORK

Smith is asking for support from the Committee to allow him and Assistant Administrator Andy Nault to do GNA work as overtime. Currently they are both paid salary with no potential of overtime. All work is reimbursable to the County. After discussion it was moved by Supervisor Theer, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously carried to send this recommendation to the Personnel Committee.

E. INTERVIEW COMMITTEE

Smith is looking for Committee members who would be interested in sitting on the interview committee for the Equipment Operator / Recreation Manager and Summer LTE hiring’s. Smith would like to set up interviews during the weeks of March 20th or March 27th. Supervisor Dzekute, Theer and Stratton all said they would if they are available.

7. RECREATION

A. ATV TRAILS

Smith updated the Committee that Michigan DNR is still working on the engineering for the rehab of US2 ATV bridge route. The cost for this rehab will be split between Florence County and Michigan. Smith plans on applying for Federal, Snowmobile and ATV grants to fund it.

Smith also updated the Committee about the possible ATV route from Florence into Aurora. There was discussion at the Highway meeting about opening up Highway B & N from the south to possibly connect with the Marinette County trails. Aurora town roads would need to be open.

The DNR will not proceed further with a potential route from the north until it has written permission from the landowner to cross their property.

B. KEYES LAKE PARK & BOAT LANDING DESIGN

Smith needs permission to move forward with engineering services to proceed with the Keyes Lake County Boat Landing Improvement project. Smith passed around and discussed a proposal he received from Coleman Engineering. Engineering fees were included in the 2017 budget. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Stratton, and unanimously carried to approve engineering costs for the Keyes Lake Boat Landing project.

C. SKI HILL

Smith passed around and discussed an email he received from Nick Naser regarding a state approved arsenic system for the Keyes Peak Lodge. Smith agreed to ask the Health Department for possible grants regarding this matter. After discussion it was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute and unanimously carried to proceed with the installation of the state approved system for Keyes Peak Lodge.

8. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Smith shared with the Committee that the Florence County Forestry Biochar and Wood Ash Amendments for Forestry was the feature topic in the January 30, 2017 Society of American Foresters Journal of Forestry. He passed around a copy to the Committee.

The Sustainable Forestry Conference will be held on April 20, 2017.

LRB2237 is a proposed bill asking that snowmobile grant reimbursement goes from \$250/mile to \$300/mile. The bill is out for co-sponsorship and will receive a Senate Bill number assigned after.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

None.

10. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Theer, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:27 PM.

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