

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

4:00 PM - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2022

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 TIMBER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY
RICH WOLOSYN
SUSAN THEER
FRAN MODSCHIEDLER
MATT BRUNETTE
TYLER WOOD
DAN REYNOLDS - PHONE
PATRICK SMITH
MARY PODNAR

ABESENT OR EXCUSED: None

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chairman Kelley called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Roll call was taken – all were present.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

It was moved by Supervisor Theer seconded by Supervisor Brunette and unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

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

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. USFS

USFS Timber Management Assistant Dan Reynolds said the new NEPA Coordinator is Pao Vue and has begun work in the Florence office. They are moving forward with hiring a Botany Technician in the Florence office as well. The Seasonal Recreation crew are back for the summer. They are also moving forward with the NEPA environmental assessment across the district.

There are no active timber sales in the County. They are working on plot cruising for the Grub Hoe sale.

B. DNR – TYLER WOOD

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Tyler Wood reported no active sales in the County. Fire season has begun. They will advertise three timber sales the end of May.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Administrator Smith reported no active timber sales in the County.

B. CARBON CREDIT UPDATE

Smith spoke with two project developers. Finite Carbon is not interested in working with the County at this time. Smith is waiting for a Financial Manager to be hired before moving forward.

C. APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE SPRING TIMBER SALES

It was moved by Supervisor Wolosyn and seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to approve advertisement of the 2022 Spring Timber Sales.

D. FORESTRY TECH LTE POSITION UPDATE

The new Forestry Tech LTE position was approved at both the Personnel and Audit & Budget Committees. It has now been sent to County Board for final approval.

E. KEYES LAKE USFS PROPERTY

The USFS Ranger contacted Smith regarding purchasing 2 ½ acres of land on Keyes Lake. There is a bunkhouse and garage on the property. It was moved by Supervisor Brunette and seconded by Supervisor Wolosyn and unanimously carried to have Smith proceed with researching the costs and any restrictions to the County with this purchase.

7. RECREATION

A. SKI HILL

Smith passed around the 2021-2022 Ski Season report. The ski hill had a very good year.

B. COSGROVE LAKE PROPERTY DISCUSSION

Smith spoke with the County attorney regarding this property. The attorney said the land owners should bear the costs associated with the legal description and appraisals. It was moved by Supervisor Wolosyn and seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to have the property owners pay the costs.

8. LAND SALES

A. ACCEPT OR REJECT OFFERS

Smith passed around the Ongoing Land Sale Offers for Purchase list. It was moved by Supervisor Theer seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and carried to accept the bids for Parcel #3 and Parcel #4 and send to County Board for final approval.

9. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Smith would like to see Personnel Policy updated in order to hire summer workers. The County insurance carrier said employees must be 18 years old to drive County vehicles. Last year he was told they needed to be 17 years old. The workforce labor rules clearly state you need to be 17 years old to drive a vehicle.

The Truck Hill Climb at Keyes Peak was successful. Each volunteer group: Fire Department, Blue Ox Trail Riders & Ski Hill Committee will receive approximately \$12,000 each.

10. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Supervisor Wolosyn inquired about the landlocked Tipler Dream Lake property. Smith said they are still working on contacting the landowner to work something out.

He also asked if the landowner at North Lake has completed his own survey yet. Smith was not sure –Wolosyn

asked Smith to find out from the landowner. The County survey will be completed by Coleman once the snow melts.

11. BILLS / REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

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

12. ADJOURN TO CLOSE SESSION

It was moved by Supervisor Wolosyn seconded by Supervisor Theer and carried to move to close session pursuant to;

- WI State Stat. §§ 19.85(1)(c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. Considering promotion to Parks & Ski Hill Manager.

13. ADJOURN CLOSE SESSION AND RECONVENE

It was moved by Supervisor Brunette seconded by Supervisor Theer and unanimously carried to reconvene to open session to take actions on matters discussed in closed session.

It was moved by Supervisor Wolosyn seconded by Supervisor Brunette and unanimously carried for (1) Smith to go to Personnel and request this position be posted internally for 2 weeks and (2) to advertise this position with the understanding it is pending approval of the official letter of resignation.

14. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Wolosyn seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 PM.

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