

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

4:00 PM - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 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 - TIMBER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY
LARRY DZEKUTE
SUSAN THEER
FRAN MODSCHIEDLER
MATT BRUNETTE
TYLER WOOD (PHONE)
DAN REYNOLDS (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. Roll call was taken and all were present.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

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

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

Charles Kellstrom addressed the committee to say that his name could be used in the minutes. He commented on the minutes from previous meetings on their accuracy.

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. USFS

USFS Timber Management Assistant Dan Reynolds gave an update on timber sales in Florence County. They are working on hiring two Recreation Technician positions out of the Florence office.

The USFS plans on replacing the flooring in their wing and are looking to solidify a funding source for the project. Forestry & Parks Administrator Patrick Smith passed around the proposal the USFS has accepted for this work. The USFS asked for this work to be done under the current building agreement. Smith is proposing the County pay for the bill and re-submit to the USFS for reimbursement. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to approve payment of this bill once the work is completed.

B. DNR – TYLER WOOD

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Tyler Wood reported that the department is gearing up for fire season. Most timber sales have been wrapped up due to weather and road restrictions.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Assistant Administrator Taylor Ziolkowski reported that the County has one active timber sale. He also updated the Committee about a contractor who was set-up on a “pre-pay” mill ticket schedule. He hauled four loads without pre-paying.

Ziolkowski and Wood have been busy working on recon and looking for aspen stands.

B. APPROVAL OF THE 15 YEAR PLAN

Smith passed around a letter from the DNR approving the Florence County Comprehensive 15 Year Land Us Plan.

7. RECREATION

A. SKI HILL

Smith told the Committee that the ski will be closed for the season due to the weather. The hill had a good year.

B. NORTH LAKE BOAT LANDING UPDATE

Smith updated the Committee about a meeting he had with an adjacent landowner at the North Lake boat landing regarding a possible donation of property. This could provide an additional five to seven parking spots.

C. UPHILL TRUCK CLIMBS

The department has been busy getting ready for the uphill truck climbs being held at the ski hill on March 13th.

8. LAND SALES

A. APPROVE MINIMUM BIDS TO ADVERTISE

Smith passed around and discussed the minimum advertised price parcel list for the upcoming Spring 2021 Land Sale. It was moved by Supervisor Brunette seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to approve advertising with the minimum bids.

9. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Smith passed around a letter from WCFA Executive Director Rebekah Luedtke regarding an investment opportunity in the Consolidated Cooperative. The Timber Producers Cooperative (TPC) would like to know if the County would be interested in being a financial contributor to the cooperative. They are interested in purchasing the Park Falls Pulp and Paper mill and the idled Verso paper mill in Wisconsin Rapids. After much discussion – it was agreed the Committee would need more detailed information before proceeding.

Smith was approached by Steigerwaldt Land Services asking if the County would be interested in a forestland carbon market project. Smith passed around a brief introduction and background letter. As he finds out more information – he will bring it back to the Committee.

10. COMMITTEE MEMBER’S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Supervisor Brunette asked Ziolkowski if someone from the horse club could work with him on adding equestrian trails at Bush Lake.

11. 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 February by Forestry and Parks and the Florence Natural Resource Center.

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Theer seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:14 PM.

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