

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 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. The Committee introduced themselves to DNR Property Manager – Pine/Popple Wild Rivers Duane Hartwick.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

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

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute 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 District Manager Chad Kirschbaum reported that there is little stewardship activity. A future bridge project is possible. Kirschbaum passed around and discussed the most recent USFS Organizational chart. There will be four new positions located in the Florence office: Botany Technician, Firefighter, Forester and Recreation positions.

B. DNR – TYLER WOOD

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

He explained the herbicide use on State land in 2016 on the Spread Eagle Barron's. The State followed protocol in regards to notifying the public.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Smith reported that there are two active timber sales in the County. DNR Forester Andy Nault and Tyler Wood are working on timber sale preparation.

B. 15 YEAR PLAN – REVIEW PREVIOUS CHAPTERS

Smith asked if the Committee had any questions/suggestions from the chapters they have received. Supervisor Stratton asked for recreation trails clarification.

C. CHAPTER 600

Smith passed around chapter 600 for review.

7. RECREATION

A. SNOWMOBILE CLUB LEASE OF COUNTY LANDS

Smith contacted the Fair Board regarding the potential lease of County land at the Fairgrounds. They had no issues with this location being leased. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute seconded by Supervisor Stratton and unanimously carried to approve this property and send this recommendation to the County Board.

B. BOAT LANDINGS

Smith said this was left on from last month's meeting.

C. SNOWMOBILE PSA FUNDING

Smith passed around and discussed a request for funding for a snowmobile / logging truck public service announcement. He played the actual safety advertisement to the Committee. Smith said his budget could afford \$500 towards this ad. It was moved by Supervisor Stratton seconded by Supervisor Dzekute and carried to approve funding towards this public safety announcement. Supervisor Stratton opposed.

D. GRANT APPLICATIONS

Smith updated the Committee with potential grant applications for upcoming new projects and annual maintenance reimbursements.

8. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Smith received six applications for the Assistant Administrator position. He suggested re-offering the position to an applicant from the last time. After discussion it was moved by Supervisor Dzekute seconded by Supervisor Theer and unanimously carried to approve re-offering the position and sending to Personnel with the recommendation of holding a Special Personnel meeting.

The Keyes Peak Truck Hill climb will be held on Saturday, March 14, 2020.

Smith passed around the Keyes Peak Ski Season report. The hill had an excellent season.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

None

10. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

It was moved by Supervisor Theer seconded by Supervisor Stratton and carried to approve bills being paid for Forestry and Parks and the Florence Natural Resource Center for February.

11. ADJOURNMENT

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

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