

**FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**2:00 P.M. - MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2018**  
**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  
USFS DISTRICT SILVICULTURIST  
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER  
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR  
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

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

**ABESENT OR EXCUSED:** None

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Chairman Kelley called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM. Roll call was taken. All members are present.

**2. APPROVAL / AGENDA**

It was moved by Supervisor Stratton seconded by Supervisor Theer, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as posted.

**3. APPROVAL / MINUTES**

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of February 14, 2018 as read.

**4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

**5. AGENCY REPORTS**

**A. USFS**

USFS District Silviculturist Katie Theisen reported there are two active sales in Florence.

A letter is being drafted detailing the Facilities Master Planning process. This letter will be sent on April 2<sup>nd</sup> to the Regional Forester Kathleen Atkinson from Milwaukee to review and make her decision on what districts that facilities should be combined or if there should be further investigation on the possibilities.

Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) lists showing stands of work has been given to the State. There will be two sales in the Morgan Lake area covering 500-600 acres. The State is working on assignments which will include the State, the County, and Contractors.

**B. HUBER & ASSOCIATES**

Tony Derleth was not in attendance.

**C. DNR – HENRY SULLIVAN**

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

**6. COUNTY FOREST**

**A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE**

Forestry & Parks Administrator Pat Smith reported there are two active sales in the County. Spring timber sale bids will be advertised next month and opened in May. The department is working on a recon project. They are looking at roughly 3,500 acres – the purpose of this project is to provide a more accurate long term harvest schedule.

**B. GUNNELSON LAND PURCHASE UPDATE**

Smith reported that the appraisals for this potential land purchase are being reviewed. He sent a letter to Mr. Gunnelson and have verbally agreed on the appraisal price.

**C. APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE FOR SUMMER LTE'S**

Smith would like to hire help for the summer. Our current LTE has found another summer job with better pay. It was recommended to be sure to post the position at the rate of pay that is competitive with similar jobs in the County. It was moved by Supervisor Theer, seconded by Supervisor Stratton, and unanimously carried to approve advertising for this position and forwarding this recommendation to the Personnel Committee.

**D. HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIP APPROVAL**

Smith said there are two high school students interested in interning at the Resource Center. We can only afford one student. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Stratton, and unanimously carried to approve hiring one intern and forwarding this recommendation to the Personnel Committee.

**7. RECREATION**

**A. SKI HILL CONCESSIONAIRE**

Smith passed around and discussed the 2017-2018 Ski Season report and Ski Hill Kitchen Revenue & Expenses reports. The hill will probably be open a couple more weekends.

**B. HORSE TRAILS**

Smith updated the Committee to let them know that last fall during hunting season – the Northern Saddle Club was doing maintenance on the trails when a hunter reported them. They were covering the horse trail signs for the cross country ski season.

**C. LAND FOR SALE ADJACENT TO FAIRGROUNDS**

Smith has been exchanging emails with the owner of this property. They are trying to agree on a price for the land. Forestry & Parks does not need the property. Smith spoke with Jessica Klump and said asked that the Fair Board or UWEX Committee find out what the County is willing to pay for the property. Smith stated he is willing to help with the purchase but needs more information to work with. After discussion it was decided that the Fair Board move forward with finding out more details for this purchase.

**8. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Smith passed around and discussed the details of a brushing attachment purchase. Instead of asking for extra funds, Smith is suggesting using budgeted money from forestry supplies and money from the wildlife carry-over account. Smith may also be able to apply for a grant to help cover \$5,000 of the cost. After discussion it was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve the purchase of this attachment.

Recreation Manager/Equipment Operator Mat Gummin is interested in taking an Equipment Operator's class in Rhinelander. The cost is \$1,200. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Stratton, and unanimously carried to allow Gummin to attend this class.

Personnel approved Smith and Nault working on GNA projects and getting paid overtime. There was a cap on how many hours they can work and Personnel wanted Smith to report back to them in six months.

**9. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS**

Supervisor Stratton proposed having a Committee person at large on the Forestry & Parks Committee. She asked Smith to write a position description for this 6120 position.

**10. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER**

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, 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 Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Stratton, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 2:53 PM.

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