

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

4:00 PM - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 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

ED KELLEY
LARRY DZEKUTE
SUSAN THEER
FRAN MODSCHIEDLER
MATT BRUNETTE
TYLER WOOD (PHONE)
DAN REYNOLDS (PHONE)
PATRICK SMITH
TAYLOR ZIOLKOWSKI

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 Dzekute seconded by Supervisor Brunette and unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

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

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Charles Kellstrom asked a question about agenda item 5.C regarding grants.

5. RECREATION

A. E BIKE PROPOSAL

Annette Siebold and Ann Price from the County Health Department were present along with McKensie Asplund from Trek Bikes to give a presentation about E Bike proposal for the committee/department. The Health Department is looking for a good place to have an E Bike Kiosk for people to be able to rent the bikes for use around the community. The Health Department is looking at all options and want to see about availability for the kiosk to be located at the Natural Resource Center and if the Forestry & Parks Department can assist with the program.

B. PARKS UPDATE

Smith commented that the early spring thaw has the department busy getting the parks ready. Ice is off most lakes and most docks have been installed for the year. Campgrounds will be next on the list to get ready.

C. GRANT APPLICATIONS

Smith handed out a list of grants that Mat Gummin had applied for the department. The grant deadline is coming soon.

6. AGENCY REPORTS

A. USFS

USFS Timber Management Assistant Dan Reynolds gave an update on timber sales in Florence County. Dan also gave an update on hiring of staff for the Florence office.

B. DNR – TYLER WOOD

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Tyler Wood reported the state has been busy with dry weather for fire season. Tto date there has been one fire in Florence County.

7. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Assistant Administrator Taylor Ziolkowski handed out the maps for the upcoming Spring Timber sale. It was moved by Supervisor Brunette seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to approve advertising for the Spring Timber sales.

Ziolkowski also handed out a letter that was sent to a contractor. The letter is in reference to contract violations that occurred.

B. CARBON CREDIT

Smith told the committee that this had been a topic of conversation at the Spring WCFA meeting. Several counties are looking into the Carbon Credit market. Smith will be looking into this further and bring more information back to the committee later.

c. SALE EXTENSIONS/CANCELLATIONS

Smith talked briefly about the USFA Stewardship timber sale. Working with the USFS, it was determined that the county will extend the sale for one more year and if there is no activity on the sale it will be revisited next year at this time.

8. LAND SALES

A. TRANSFE PARCEL TO TOWN OF COMMONWEALTH

Smith explained the situation with a small sliver of land between County Highway NN and the Town of Commonwealth land in which used to be the Commonwealth Sportsmans Club land. He explained that the highway department may need some of the land for an upcoming project on County Highway NN. Once that is known it will be sent on to County Board for action to give the land to the Town of Commonwealth. . It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to approve transferring this property to the town once the Highway Department has determined their needs.

9. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Smith explained to the committee their lack of receiving applications for Occasional Laborers. In speaking with Highway Department and the County Insurance company - the Department could hirer 16+ year old employees. There would be restrictions on the type of work they could do. There would also be restrictions on driving vehicles of anyone under 17. . It was moved by Supervisor Theer seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to approve advertising for occasional laborers with age requirement being reduced to 16+.

Smith discussed the Fairgrounds Softball field and improvements that volunteers would like to do this spring. There is a need for a new concession stand at the Fisher Lake Field as well. The committee was in full support of working with both fields for improvements as the budget will allow. It was moved by Supervisor Brunette seconded by Supervisor Theer and unanimously carried to approve to allow Administrator Smith use his judgement with assisting in the improvements at the ball fields.

Smith updated the committee that the Federal Sport Fish Restoration Grant application was not chosen for funding at this time. The county can reapply next year.

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 Modschiedler seconded by Supervisor Dzekute and carried to approve bills being paid for the month of March by Forestry and Parks and the Florence Natural Resource Center.

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Brunette seconded by Supervisor Theer and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Smith, Administrator
Florence County Forestry and Parks