

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 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 MANAGER
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

ED KELLEY
LARRY NEUENS
LARRY DZEKUTE
SUSAN THEER
HOLLY STRATTON
CHAD KIRSCHBAUM
HENRY SULLIVAN
PATRICK SMITH
ANDY NAULT

ABESENT OR EXCUSED: None

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Forestry and Parks Administrator Patrick Smith called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Roll call was taken. All members are present.

2. FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR – CONDUCT ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Nominations were called for Chairman of the Committee. Ed Kelley was nominated. Being no other nominations a unanimous vote was taken to elect Ed Kelley as Chair of the committee.

3. ELECTED CHAIRMAN – CONDUCT ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Nominations were called for Election of Vice-Chair of the Committee. Larry Dzekute was nominated. Being no other nominations a unanimous vote was taken to elect Larry Dzekute as Vice-Chair of the Committee

4. APPROVAL / AGENDA

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

5. APPROVAL / MINUTES

It was moved by Supervisor Stratton, seconded by Supervisor Theer, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of April 11, 2018 as read.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

7. AGENCY REPORTS

A. USFS

USFS District Manager Chad Kirschbaum reported that the Grub Hoe Stewardship Sale has been sold by the county. There was discussion about the Federal Budget corrections to solve the Fire Borrowing issue. This resolution should

be in place starting in 2020.

There was no update on the Facility Master Planning process at this time.

B. HUBER & ASSOCIATES

Tony Derleth was not in attendance.

C. DNR – HENRY SULLIVAN

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan reported that they had 5 fires to date in Florence County.

Sullivan also reported that there are no active timber sales in the County.

Sullivan also reported that there will be prescribed burns this Spring on the Spread Eagle Barrens. The department follows the public notification process to let neighboring people know when they burn. He thanked the USFS and Florence County Forestry for their help with prescribed burns.

Sullivan reported that Hillary Grabner will be giving out assignments for GNA work in the near future.

8. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Forestry & Parks Assistant Administrator Andy Nault reported there is 1 active sale in the County.

B. GUNNELSON LAND PURCHASE UPDATE

Smith reported that there are still details being worked through.

C. 2018 SPRING TIMBER SALES – APPROVAL OF BIDS

Smith passed around and discussed the Spring 2018 Timber Sale Bid Summary. This sale is for 436 acres. It was moved by Supervisor Stratton, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve selling the sales to the highest bidder for each timber sale.

D. SUMMER LTE 7 HIGH SCHOOL INTERN – APPROVAL TO HIRE

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Stratton, and unanimously carried to higher two candidates for the summer LTE positions and one candidate for High School intern position.

E. SUMMER TOUR UUPDATE

Smith informed the Committee about updated plans for the tour.

F. POTENTIAL LAND PURCHASE

Smith informed the committee about a potential land purchase that would be a great benefit to the County Forest and the County Trail systems. It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Stratton, and unanimously carried to explore this purchase further and find out the purchase price and bring to next committee meeting.

G. TIMBER SALE EXTENSION

The Forestry office received a question regarding a timber sale extension and the 5% penalty associated with that extension. After discussing the situation, the It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Theer, and unanimously carried to charge the 5% penalty according to the contract.

9. RECREATION

A. PARKS

Smith informed the committee that the parks are in the process of being opened for the season.

B. TROUT STOCKING OF LITTLE POPPLE RIVER

The DNR Fisheries biologist asked for a possible donation to help with stocking of Trout in the Little Popple River. This was a unique situation and he was asking for \$500 to help. It was moved by Supervisor Theer, seconded by Supervisor Stratton, and unanimously carried to take \$500 from the wildlife account to assist with the Trout Stocking. If budgets allow we will continue in future years as well.

10. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Smith brought up an idea that has been kicked around the office a few times. DNR Liaison Henry Sullivan has thought of potentially building some small cabins to put out for rent. Some areas to consider are Lake Emily, Fisher Lake, West Bass Lake. Other counties have similar buildings on their forest and they seem to be a revenue maker and another way to bring people to the area. The Committee agreed to have Smith look into this further and come back with some pricing and check on insurance for this type of recreational amenity.

11. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

None

10. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Theer, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 PM.

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