

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 P.M. - WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2015
LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - LOWER LEVEL
FLORENCE NATURAL RESOURCE CENTER
FLORENCE, WI 54121

PRESENT:

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| SUPERVISOR / CHAIRMAN | ED KELLEY |
| SUPERVISOR / VICE CHAIRMAN | ED WENGER |
| SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER | LARRY DZEKUTE |
| SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER | HOLLY STRATTON |
| SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER | SUSAN THEER |
| USFS DISTRICT SILVICULTURIST | KATIE THEISEN |
| DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER | HENRY SULLIVAN |
| FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR | PATRICK SMITH |
| FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER | MARY PODNAR |

Absent or excused: none

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Patrick Smith, Forestry & Parks Administrator, called the meeting to order at 3:30 P.M.

2. FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR – CONDUCT ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Smith called for nominations for Chairman of the Forestry & Parks Committee three times. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Stratton that the nomination for Forestry & Parks Chairman be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast for Supervisor Ed Kelley. It was unanimously carried to have Ed Kelley be Chairman of the Forestry and Parks Committee.

3. ELECTED CHAIRMAN – CONDUCT ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Chairman Kelley called for nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Forestry and Parks Committee three times. It was moved by Supervisor Theer, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute that the nomination for Forestry & Parks Vice-Chairman be closed and a unanimous ballot be cast for Supervisor Ed Wenger as Vice-Chairman. It was unanimously carried to have Ed Wenger be Vice-Chairman of the Forestry and Parks Committee.

4. APPROVAL / MINUTES

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of April 13, 2016 as read.

5. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

6. AGENCY REPORTS

A. HARV SKJERVEN - USFS DISTRICT RANGER

USFS District Ranger Harv Skjerven was not able to make the meeting. However District Silviculturist, Katie Theisen reported that vacant Front Desk and Forestry Technician positions are being filled in the Eagle River office.

The Morgan Lake Timber Sale project is still in analysis stage. Currently, there are no new stewardships.

Supervisor Wenger expressed concern about USFS positions not being filled in the Florence office.

B. HUBER & ASSOCIATES

Tony Derleth was not in attendance, however, DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan informed the committee that there was a meeting with Derleth and DNR Wildlife Biologist Jason Cotter. They discussed gates going up on Huber land. These gates are only temporary due to the mud season.

C. DNR – HENRY SULLIVAN

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan reported that the States fire season has been slow. The County has had three fires to date. They are planning a prescribed burn on the Spread Eagle Barron's near Roach's Fire Lane.

There is one active timber sale going on in the County. The State is busy setting up summer sales.

Currently there are no GNA projects being worked in Florence County.

Administrator Smith passed around a Request for Information (RFI) regarding the County's interest in having the DNR Forestry Headquarters being relocated to our County. The idea is to have the Department located where the forests are. After discussion it was moved by Supervisor Stratton, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously carried to send the RFI letter to County Board for approval.

7. COUNTY FOREST

A. OVERVIEW OF FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY PROGRAM

Sullivan and Smith presented a slide presentation of the County's Forestry program for the new committee members.

B. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

There are no active timber sales going on in the County right now.

C. 2016 SPRING TIMBER SALES – APPROVAL OF BIDS

Smith passed around the bid summary and discussed the results of the Spring 2016 Timber Sales. There were four sales which totaled \$382,347. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve the 2016 Spring Timber Sale bids.

D. RESOURCE CENTER JANITOR PART TIME POSITION

The janitor for the Resource Center is currently a contracted position. Gribble Janitorial currently holds this contract. According to the contract – they need to carry both Workers Compensation and Liability Insurance. Gribble Janitorial only has Liability Insurance. Also, Gribble Janitorial does not have other customers besides the County – and the County supplies all the materials needed to perform the work. In essence we are treating her as a County employee and not as an independent contractor. The IRS has strict rules on this. Therefore, Smith would like the position to be a County position rather than a contracted position. There are more risks to the County with this work being contracted out. The contract is up at the end of the month. Smith said he would provide a job description for this position. It was moved by Supervisor Stratton, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously carried to make the janitor position a County one and send to Personnel for approval.

E. SUMMER OCCASIONAL WORKERS UPDATE

All applications have been turned in for the Summer Occasional Worker positions. Interviews have been scheduled for Tuesday, May 17, 2016. Smith asked for volunteers from the committee who would be interested in

interviewing. Supervisors Dzekute and Theer both volunteered.

F. DEER BROWSE STUDY PRESENTATION

Forestry & Parks LTE Robert Richard gave a slide presentation on the findings from a deer browsing study done on the County. The focus was primarily on oak and northern hardwood stands. Richard found that 70% of our hardwood and oak regeneration is being browsed. Forestry staff will talk with DNR Silviculturist to determine if this will be an issue for long term forest sustainability.

8. RECREATION

A. PARKS

The crews have been busy getting the parks ready for the upcoming season. The water has been turned on at Lake Emily and the docks are almost all in.

B. ATV TRAILS

Smith made the committee aware of an ATV trail issue on Highway N. The 150 feet portion of the trail originally went through private property. It was re-routed along the highway. Highway Commissioner Jeff DeMuri has safety concerns about this location. However, Smith said this was our only access into Florence from the south that crosses the Pine River. The next crossing is a 60 miles away. Smith is working on alternatives for this trail.

9. LAND SALES

Smith updated the committee on the Koller Land issue. There was an error on the deed for a piece of property that was sold in the 2015 Summer Land Sale. There is a potential lawsuit against the County. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Stratton, and unanimously carried that this issue be sent to Audit & Budget to work with Corporate Counsel for resolution.

10. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

The Ski Hill Committee and Financial Manager Joe Bestor contacted Smith regarding the Ski Hill Committee's use of bank accounts using the County's tax ID number. This was found during an audit.

11. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

None.

12. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

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

13. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Stratton, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:47.

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