

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

4:00 PM - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 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
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER
USFS - TIMBER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

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

ABESENT OR EXCUSED: Larry Dzekute

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chairman Kelley called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Roll call was taken and Supervisor Dzekute was excused.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

It was moved by Supervisor Theer seconded by Supervisor Brunette and unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

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

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Gary Weber from SECLA read a memo regarding concerns of the current draft plan of the North Lake boat landing. *A copy of this memo is attached to these Minutes.*

Charles Kellstrom had concerns about how the North Lake landing improvement projects are proceeding. Administrator Pat Smith and members of the committee tried to address some of his concerns.

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. USFS

USFS Timber Management Assistant Dan Reynolds said they will be advertising timber sales next week. The Newald Tower Road bridge has been replaced and is fully functional. All positions have been filled.

B. DNR – TYLER WOOD

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Tyler Wood reported there are no active sales. They sold five sales for roughly \$915,000. They had a prescribed burn on the Spread Eagle Barrens on June 4th.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Assistant Administrator Taylor Ziolkowski reported that the County has three active sales. They sold three of the 4 sales from the recent Spring Timber Sale. The planting crew planted 131,000 trees in two days. He was pleased with their work.

B. ROAD USE AGREEMENT EXCHANGE

Smith passed around and explained the Limited Access Permit with a private landowner. It was moved by Supervisor Theer seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to accept and sign the Limited Access Permit.

7. RECREATION

A. PARKS & BOAT LANDINGS

There was significant wind damage at the Vagabond Park with the recent storm. The department has been busy cleaning it up to get ready for the upcoming Skiter's Show.

The Keyes Lake bathroom was vandalized and it was caught on camera. The culprit was an employee for a company working nearby the launch. The company owner came in and apologized for the incident and gave a donation for the boat launch account.

Smith also reported that the Sheriff's Department cannot issue tickets at the boat launches because their computer system is not set up with the Clerk of Courts. The Sheriff's department is working on the issue and hopes to have it taken care of soon.

B. LAND / EASEMENT EXCHANGE

Smith passed around a map which detailed the possible land / easement exchange with the neighboring landowner at the North Lake boat landing. Smith said before that could happen the exact legal descriptions would need to be written up and the cost would be \$1,200. After much discussion it was moved by Supervisor Modschiedler seconded by Supervisor Brunette and unanimously carried proceed with the legal descriptions write up for \$1,200.

C. PROPERTY ACQUISITION DISCUSSION

Smith presented to the Committee possible grant funding sources for the purchase of the property next to the North Lake boat landing. It was moved by Supervisor Theer seconded by Modschiedler and unanimously carried to have Smith get an appraisal of this property – spending no more than \$1,000. It should be done before next month's meeting.

D. PATTEN LAKE BOAT LANDING CLOSURE

The town asked Smith to close the Patten Lake boat landing road due to roadwork being done on road. Smith put an ad in the paper to notify the public.

E. PROPERTY ACQUISITION SPREAD EAGLE BARRENS

Smith was contacted by a landowner asking if the County would be interested in purchasing forty acres of land in the middle of the Spread Eagle Barrens. Smith doesn't think it would be a good purchase for the County – but he believes it would be for the DNR. He forwarded the information to the Spread Eagle Barrens property manager.

8. LAND SALES

Smith passed around the results from the 2021 Land Sales. They sold three out of the seventeen parcels. It was moved by Supervisor Brunette seconded by Supervisor Theer and carried to approve the Land Sale bids and send to County Board.

9. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Smith is contracting with Green Timber Consulting Foresters, Inc to provide a preliminary assessment regarding a potential carbon credit project on the Florence County Forest. It will be presented at next months meeting for discussion. The assessment will cost roughly \$1,500 - \$2,000.

Smith submitted a bid with the WDNR for Forestry & Parks to be a Coordinator for a brushing project. We were awarded the bid. This should bring in roughly \$25,000 to the County. The Highway Department can bid on these projects as well and it could be another source of income for the County.

10. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Supervisor Brunette said he was contacted by a constituent who was pleased with the brushing and road work on the Lake Emily entrance.

11. BILLS / REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

It was moved by Supervisor Theer seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and carried to approve bills being paid for the month of May by Forestry and Parks and the Florence Natural Resource Center.

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Modschiedler seconded by Supervisor Theer and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:32 PM.

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