

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020
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
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY
LARRY DZEKUTE
SUSAN THEER
FRAN MODSCHIEDLER
MATT BRUNETTE
TYLER WOOD
PATRICK SMITH
TAYLOR ZIOLKOWSKI
MARY PODNAR

ABESENT OR EXCUSED: None

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chairman Kelley called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Roll call was taken – all were present.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute seconded by Supervisor Theer and unanimously carried to approve the agenda without changes.

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

Supervisor Brunette was contacted by Homestead Chairwomen Elinor Trosin regarding the signage on the new ATV route in Homestead. Signs are ordered and will be put as soon as possible.

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. USFS

USFS District Manager Chad Kirschbaum was not in attendance but provided an email update. They have set-up phases that will allow them to transition back into business. They are evaluating opening some campgrounds. All timber sales have been sold for the year. They hired new Forester Sarah Lockhart in the Florence office.

B. DNR – TYLER WOOD

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Tyler Wood reported that the department is in Phase 1 of 3 of the Badger Bounce Back plan. There are no active sales in the County. All burning permits and prescribed burn plans have been shut down for the state. Fire season for the County has ended with 4 reported fires covering .74 acres of land.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Assistant Administrator Taylor Ziolkowski reported that the County has one active timber sale.

B. 15 YEAR PLAN – REVIEW PREVIOUS CHAPTERS

Administrator Smith is working on the last two chapters of the 15 Year Plan and will try to have it ready for next month's meeting. He will send the chapters out prior to the meeting for the Supervisors to review so it can be put out for public review.

C. REVIEW COOP/COG PLAN

There were no questions or comments on the Forestry & Parks COOP/COG plan. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and carried to approve the plan as written. Smith will send the approved plan to the County Nurse and County Clerk.

D. APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE SPRING TIMBER SALES

The Spring Timber Sale packet was passed out. Ziolkowski and Wood reviewed each sale with the Committee. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute seconded by Supervisor Brunette and carried to approve the Spring Timber Sales for advertising.

Smith told the Committee that Verso Mill will be shutting down 2 mills – one in Wisconsin Rapids and the other in Duluth. This could affect the wood supply chain.

E. TELECOMMUTING POLICY FOR FORESTRY & PARKS

There were no questions or comments on the Forestry and Parks Telecommuting policy. It was moved by Supervisor Brunette seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and carried to approve the policy as written.

7. RECREATION

A. MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

Business Manager Mary Podnar updated the Committee that she was a member of the Healthy and Safe Living Task Force of Florence County. One of the things the task force is interested in for the community - is providing mountain bike opportunities in Florence County. A group will be meeting with the Dickinson Trail Network (DTN) to discuss preliminary ideas on how to move forward. It was the consensus of the Committee that a mountain bike network would be good for the County.

B. CAMPGROUNDS

The campground bathrooms and boat landings are open to the public.

Use of extra grant money for a lighting project at Keyes Lake boat landing was approved at the Audit & Budget meeting.

8. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Smith was served to give a deposition regarding the snowmobile accident in 2016.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

None

10. BILLS / REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

It was moved by Supervisor Theer seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and carried to approve bills being paid for

Forestry and Parks and the Florence Natural Resource Center for May.

11. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Modschiedler, seconded by Supervisor Brunette and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:21 PM.

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