

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
4:00 PM - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024
LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - LOWER LEVEL
FLORENCE NATURAL RESOURCE CENTER, FLORENCE, WI 54121

PRESENT:

SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER
USFS TIMBER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

FRAN MODSCHIEDLER
MATT BRUNETTE
JOE MILLS
CHARLES KELSTROM
DAN REYNOLDS – PHONE
TYLER WOOD
PAT SMITH
TAYLOR ZIOLKOWSKI
MARY PODNAR

ABESENT OR EXCUSED: Henry Sullivan excused

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chairman Joe Mills called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Roll call was taken – Supervisor Henry Sullivan was excused.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

It was moved by Supervisor Brunette seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as posted.

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

It was moved by Supervisor Modschiedler seconded by Supervisor Brunette and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of May 8, 2024 Committee meeting.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. USFS

USFS Timber Management Assistant Dan Reynolds reported they are under a hiring freeze. There are 4 active timber sales in the Florence area. There will be a bid opening on July 23rd.

B. DNR – TYLER WOOD

DNR County Forester Tyler Wood said they have met their time standards for the County. There are no active sales. Two of the three timber sales sold at their bid opening. The department has been busy doing recon.

C. DNR – TOM CARLSON

Wildlife Biologist Tom Carlson informed Assistant Administrator Taylor Ziolkowski that it appears the seed that was casted in the Wild Rice areas has taken.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Assistant Administrator Taylor Ziolkowski reported two active timber sales in the County.

B. NEW POSITION – INTERVIEW COMMITTEE

Administrator Smith said he received three applications for the Forestry Tech position – but would like to re-advertise for more applicants.

C. NEW TRUCK PURCHASE UPDATE

Smith was able to get a hold of and speak with the State contractor. He is now waiting for a new price list.

D. WCFA SUMMER TOUR

The WCFA Summer Tour is next week. Supervisor Henry Sullivan plans on attending with Smith.

E. POTENTIAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Smith passed around a map showing a potential property that is for sale. The landowner would like to sell the property so that it will be open to the public. Grant options were discussed. It was moved by Supervisor Brunette and seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to pursue the details of the property purchase.

7. RECREATION

A. SNOWMOBILE/ATV TRAIL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Smith passed around the Florence County Yearly Trail Maintenance Service Contract with the Blue Ox Trail Riders. It was moved by Supervisor Brunette and seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to approve and send the contract to County Board.

B. PARK RESERVATION UPDATE

Smith said the new reservation system is doing good. During the last couple of weeks – there have been a few issues with customers trying to enter credit card information.

C. LAKE EMILY PAVING BIDS

It was moved by Supervisor Brunette and seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to approve putting out paving bids for Lake Emily using capital improvement money.

D. LOON LAKE PROPERTY ACCESS ISSUE

Smith said the dock was fixed. Signs were put out on the lower road for no driving and they were pulled out. Camera's were put out and the Sheriffs department followed up after the cameras caught people removing the signs. Smith sent an email to the property owners and asked them not to drive on the lower road and to stop doing any more maintenance on the County property until they get a road use agreement.

The property owner was concerned about the sign and camera put up on the lower road. Smith said the camera was put up to see who was taking down the signs. The signs were put up because the road is not open to the general public to drive. After much discussion it was decided that Smith would bring a Road Use Agreement for the upper road and Temporary Access Agreement for the lower road to the next month's meeting.

E. PURCHASE OF NEW LAWNMOWER

Smith asked for permission to purchase a new lawnmower. It was not in the 2024 budget – but he feels he will be able to afford it. It was moved by Supervisor Brunette and seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to purchase the lawnmower as long as it can be purchased within current year budget.

8. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Smith wanted the Committee to be aware of another upcoming access issue – he will bring to next month’s meeting.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER’S COMENTS & CONCERNS

Supervisor Kelstrom asked Smith when he plans on working on the “next steps” at the North Lake Boat Landing as the boat launch is looking pretty rough. He understands that Smith has a lot going on – but doesn’t want this pushed out for another year.

Supervisor Modschiedler inquired about the 40 acres the County owns on Lake of Dreams. Smith said they cannot do much until they can access the property.

Supervisor Brunette asked if the Parks department planned on mowing Bush Lake Flats and Halls trailheads. Smith said he would get it on the schedule.

10. BILLS / REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned by Supervisor Mills at 5:39 PM.

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