

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8, 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 NEPA COORDINATOR
USFS DISTRICT SILVICULTURIST
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY
LARRY NEUENS
LARRY DZEKUTE
SUSAN THEER
HOLLY STRATTON
ADAM FELTS
KATIE THEISEN
HENRY SULLIVAN
PATRICK SMITH
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.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

Chairman Kelley requested agenda "7. A" be moved to "4. Comments from the Public". It was moved by Supervisor Theer seconded by Supervisor Stratton and unanimously carried to approve the agenda with changes.

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of July 11, 2018 as read.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

A. BEACH KIOSK INFORMATION

Health Officer Annette Seibold discussed with the Committee a proposal for Kids Don't Float/Beach Safety Kiosks. Forestry & Parks would be responsible for installing and maintaining the Kiosks. Administrator Smith would like to see Lake Emily added to the list of locations. The Committee asked Seibold to follow-up with County Clerk Donna Trudell to see if there would be any County insurance issues and let Smith know her findings. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Theer and unanimously carried to approve Kids Don't Float Kiosks and put money in the 2019 budget for maintenance costs.

Smith read a note that was left on a boat landing stub praising the horse trails and kayaking in the County.

Smith received an email from a camper at Lake Emily campground. They were complaining about the 14-day rule violation, sites being taken but not paid for, and noise. Smith responded with an email to the campers concerns.

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. USFS

USFS District Manager Chad Kirschbaum was not in attendance. USFS District Silviculturist Katie Theisen and NEPA Coordinator Adam Felts were in attendance. Theisen reported that Felts was leaving his duties in Florence. He took a different job in Rhinelander. The Committee wished him well.

The USFS completed their last timber sale for the fiscal year. Next year they will begin sales on the Morgan Lake property in Florence County.

The Facilities Master Plan (FMP) committee will be meeting again. The USFS is trying to reduce its footprint.

Administrator Smith reported that one of the Stewardship road project is finished off of Hwy 55. There are four more road packages to complete.

Theisen read an email she received from Kirschbaum explaining the new USFS positions that are being advertised and which office location (Florence or Eagle River) they would be filled. She also passed around the Eagle River-Florence Ranger District organizational chart. Timber marking positions will be filled in Eagle River. When Don Pete retires – his position will be hired in Eagle River. A new Silviculture Reforestation position will be added in Florence – and possibly another one if they chose the Florence location. Kirschbaum has not decided if he will advertise the NEPA coordinator position in Florence or Eagle River. DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan pointed out that out of the 26 positions on the organizational chart – only 8 were in Florence. Smith sent an email to Paul Strong questioning why positions that have historically been in Florence are now being moved to Eagle River. He is waiting for a response.

B. HUBER & ASSOCIATES

Tony Derleth was not in attendance. However - he did send an email to Smith telling him that they plan on pursuing more doe permits this fall.

C. DNR – HENRY SULLIVAN

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan reported that there are no active timber sales in the County. They are busy setting up sales for the Fall with a bid opening in October. The department has also been busy working on GNA sales.

Ryan Severson has taken the position of District Forester – replacing retired Curt Wilson.

Sullivan reported that the Wildlife Biologist has been hired and will be stationed in the Crandon office.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Smith reported there are four active sales in the County. Sales are ready for Fall advertising in September.

B. GUNNELSON LAND PURCHASE UPDATE

There haven't been any updates to this purchase. Supervisor Theer said she has sent a letter to all members of the Joint Finance Committee. She requested a response.

C. TIMBER TRESPASS

While setting up a Fall sale – it was discovered that there was a timber trespass. The County paid for a survey to be done and it was found that a property line was crossed into the County Forest. Roughly 2 ½ - 3 acres were cut.

Smith believes that it was an honest mistake – but the County cannot give property away. He recommends charging single stumpage and half of the \$2,600 survey cost. After much discussion it was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Neuens and unanimously carried to have Smith determine the exact amount of stumpage and proposal at the next Committee meeting.

D. POTENTIAL PROPERTY PURCHASE

Smith discussed the advantages to the County owning the LaBrecque property. After discussion it was recommended by the Committee to move forward with this purchase and send to Audit & Budget for approval.

7. RECREATION

B. PARK ORDINANCE

Smith passed around and explained the County of Florence Code of Ordinances, Chapter 19 County Forests and Park System. Supervisor Stratton wants signs put up regarding swimming guidelines. Supervisor Theer suggested the guideline signs be put up with the beach kiosk. Smith will speak with Seibold to review the kiosks before they are put up. It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Stratton and unanimously carried to defer this discussion until the next meeting.

8. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

The Fall WCFA meeting will be September 27th & 28th in Hayward. Please let Business Manager, Mary Podnar know if you plan on attending.

County now has a contract in place for GNA projects and work will begin soon.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Supervisor Stratton would like to see some sort of charge for parking at the Oxbowl. Sullivan explained this is the property of the DNR. Concerns regarding the Oxbowl should be brought to Property Manager Jeff Pennucci.

10. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Stratton, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:06 PM.

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