

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 P.M. - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2017
LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - LOWER LEVEL
FLORENCE NATURAL RESOURCE CENTER
FLORENCE, WI 54121

PRESENT:

SUPERVISOR / CHAIRMAN
SUPERVISOR / VICE CHAIRMAN
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER
ACTING USFS DISTRICT RANGER
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY
ED WENGER
LARRY DZEKUTE
SUSAN THEER
CHAD KIRSCHBAUM
HENRY SULLIVAN
PATRICK SMITH
MARY PODNAR

ABESENT OR EXCUSED: SUPERVISER STRATTON WAS EXCUSED

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chairman Kelley called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Roll call was taken. Supervisors Stratton was excused.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute seconded by Supervisor Theer, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as posted.

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

It was moved by Supervisor Theer, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of July 12, 2017.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. CHAD KIRSCHBAUM - USFS DISTRICT RANGER

Acting USFS District Ranger Chad Kirschbaum told the Committee that the USFS is hosting kids from the Youth Conservation Corp. They are doing a lot of good work in the district.

A second Stewardship Agreement has been signed between the County and USFS. Two timber sale contracts have also been signed. There is road work to be done and timber to be cut adjacent to it. Smith will work with the Town of Florence and Highway to get the roads built.

There are currently four active timber sales in the district. The USFS is sending fire crews out West. The fire level is at a level 4 and Kirschbaum believes it may hit a level 5 within the next couple of weeks. This means anyone who can go out West to fight the fires will need to go.

In terms of wildlife – the USFS has been working on stream restoration, hunter walking trail maintenance, and weed treatments.

B. HUBER & ASSOCIATES

Tony Derleth reported that there are two crews working in Florence County. With the roads drying up – they will begin opening gates. Huber property located in Florence was up for sale – but as far as Derleth knows – no offers were accepted.

Doe tags will be offered again this year but on a much smaller scale.

C. DNR – HENRY SULLIVAN

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan informed the Committee that the State budget has not been finalized.

There are four active timber sales. Two are located in the Spread Eagle Barrens and two are on the Pine Popple Wild Rivers.

They are still working on sale establishment on the south side of the Pine River near Bull Falls.

There are no Good Neighbor Authority projects in Florence County.

Sullivan also said there will be a Wildlife Biologist hired to oversee three Counties: Langlade, Crandon, and Florence. The biologist that is hired will have the choice as to which County they will reside.

The Property Manager for the Pine Popple Wild Rivers will be Carly Lapin and she is located out of the Rhinelander office. It has not yet been determined who will be the Property Manager for the Spread Eagle Barrens.

The DNR will also be hiring Tax Law Specialists for Florence, Forest and Marinette Counties.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Administrator Pat Smith reported that there are three active timber sales in the County.

B. GUNNELSON LAND PURCHASE UPDATE

Smith re-submitted the Stewardship Grant application to the State. He found 33 new acres that were not entered into County Forest.

C. UPDATE ON DNR LAND SALE

Smith said the DNR real estate contact seemed okay with the County's request to hold off on the purchase of land until 2019.

D. 2018 BUDGET

Smith passed around and discussed a draft copy of the 2018 Forestry and Parks budget. After reviewing the budget in detail it was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve the budget as presented and send on to Audit and Budget.

E. SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY GRANT APPLICATION

Smith passed around the grant application for a Sustainable Forestry Project. Florence County is applying for a grant

to help offset the cost of site prep and reforestation of some of the County's rotational aged Red Pine. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Theer, and unanimously carried to approve applying for the 2017 Sustainable Forestry Grant.

7. RECREATION

A. ATV TRAILS

The Sunrise Trail ATV grant work has been completed. Smith said Highway will be crushing gravel for the Nicolet Trail project. There is still on-going issues with the trail along Highway N. Smith would like to keep this trail on public property so the trail is permanent and secure. Smith has been in contact with the DNR about a possible reroute but this option is not in the best interest of the trail system at this point. Smith is continuing to pursue possible options for reroute but it will take some time.

B. SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

Smith updated the committee that the department is still working on a solution to the trail closure near Miller road.

C. PARKS

Smith said the boat landing at Keyes Lake Boat Landing will be similar to that of the one at the Menominee River. He discussed in detail the plans with the Committee.

The pot holes on Lake Emily Road have been filled and the road is graded.

E. SKI LODGE

Business Manager Mary Podnar recommended updating cancellation policy of the Keyes Peak Lodge contract. The current contract reads that "Cancellations received before 6 months of scheduled use shall facilitate full return of both the rental payment and security deposit." Podnar would like it to read 1 year. The Committee would like to find out the cancellation policies of other similar facilities.

8. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Smith passed around the updated version of the Personnel Policy regarding Holiday Policy Uniformity. Smith explained how this change affects the Forestry & Parks department and their ability to serve the public. He is disappointed in not being involved with the change since it directly involves our employees. Most of the work is done out in the field and not in an office so there is a reason for the 10 hour days. The 10 hour day is more productive for field work taking into consideration for travel time to work areas.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

None

10. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

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

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