

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
4:00 PM - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 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

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

ABESENT OR EXCUSED: None

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chairman Kelley called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Roll call was taken and all committee members were present.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

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

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

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

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. USFS

USFS District Manager Chad Kirschbaum was not in attendance but he did provide an email update that was passed out to committee members.

B. DNR – TYLER WOOD

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Tyler Wood reported that there are no active sales in the County.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Assistant Administrator Taylor Ziolkowski reported that the County has no active timber sales. Ziolkowski has been busy setting up timber sales and is working closely with Tyler Wood from WDNR. The County and WDNR also held their annual partnership meeting to layout work for the upcoming year.

B. 15 YEAR PLAN – REVIEW PREVIOUS CHAPTERS

Administrator Smith handed out the last 4 chapters of the plan. It was moved by Supervisor Brunette and Seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler to approve the plan and follow the outline in Chapter 4000 for public input process. A public meeting for comments will be held on September 21, 2020 from 5pm-6 pm.

C. 2021 BUDGET AND CIP PLAN

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute and seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and carried to approve the 2021 draft budget as presented as well as the Capital Improvement Plan and send to the Audit & Budget Committee for consideration.

D. RESOURCE CENTER TIMBER SALE

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute and Seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and carried to allow the WDNR and Forestry Department to establish a timber sale on the Natural Resource Center Grounds for a forestry demonstration project.

E. EMERALD ASH BORER

Administrator Smith and Assistant Administrator Ziolkowski informed the Committee about a pocket of emerald ash borer in the southwestern area of the County Forest. The department will be evaluating the area and making a determination of how to proceed with adjacent stands.

7. RECREATION

A. CAMPGROUND/BOAT LAUNCH REVENUES

Two handouts were passed out regarding the year to date revenues. So far 2020 has been a good year for the campgrounds. Usage seems to be up and weather has been cooperative.

B. CAMPGROUND UPGRADES

This agenda item was on to discuss possible funding opportunities through county bonding. It was something brought up at an Administrators Meeting and asked for possible projects to fund through bonding. However, more information has been shared that the bonding will not be available for this type of upgrades.

C. SKI HILL PARKING LOT

Smith gave a brief discussion about plans to build a new parking lot near the ski lodge. This lot would be overflow parking for large weddings and ski hill events. Over the years parking has been an issue with many people parking along highway 101. This creates a safety issue that hopefully this new lot will help to solve.

8. LAND SALES

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute and Seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and carried to allow the Administrator to advertise and take bids for 7 parcels of land once the prospectus has been approved by legal counsel. Smith handed out the draft prospectus.

9. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Smith updated the committee on three items:

1. There will be an aerial spray project taking place next week on the county Forest.
2. There will be approximately 150 acres of site prep work accomplished in 2020 with planting in 2021.
3. There was a water ponding issue near the intersection of Tower Road and Nichols Lane. The highway department is helping correct the problem with ditching and culvert installation.

10. COMMITTEE MEMBER’S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Supervisor Modschiedler asked about dead and dying spruce and balsam along the Nicolet Trail. He is wondering if there is anything that can be done to help with this issue along the trail.

11. BILLS / REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

It was moved by Supervisor Brunette seconded by Supervisor Dzekute and carried to approve bills being paid for Forestry and Parks and the Florence Natural Resource Center.

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Theer, seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Smith, Administrator
Florence County Forestry and Parks