

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

4:00 PM - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2021

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
MATT BRUNETTE
SUSAN THEER
FRAN MODSCHIEDLER
RICH WOLOSYN
TYLER WOOD
PATRICK SMITH
TAYLOR ZIOLKOWSKI
MARY PODNAR

ABSENT 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 were present.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

It was moved by Supervisor Brunette seconded by Supervisor Wolosyn and unanimously carried to approve the agenda.

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

It was moved by Supervisor Wolosyn seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to approve the minutes as read. (*Note: Susan Theer arrived at 4:02*)

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. USFS

USFS Timber Management Assistant Dan Reynolds was not in attendance. Administrator Pat Smith reported the County collected on the Letter of Credit from the contractor of our Stewardship sale. The sale is considered closed with plans to re-advertise in the near future. Once the sale is re-sold – the County can then proceed with damages from the defaulted contractor.

B. DNR – TYLER WOOD

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Tyler Wood reported one active sale in the County. The department is busy with timber sale establishment.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

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

B. APPROVE TO ADVERTISE TIMBER SALES

Ziolkowski passed around and explained the Fall 2021 Timber Sale Bid packet to the Committee. It was moved by Supervisor Wolosyn seconded by Supervisor Theer and unanimously carried to advertise the Fall 2021 Sales.

C. SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY GRANT APPLICATION APPROVAL

Smith passed around the Florence County Sustainable Forestry Grant application for the Buckskin Road project. It was moved by Supervisor Brunette seconded by Supervisor Wolosyn and unanimously carried to approve the grant application.

D. BUDGET

Forestry & Parks 2022 budget was passed out to the Committee. Smith explained and answered questions regarding our expense and revenue accounts. It was moved by Supervisor Modschiedler seconded by Supervisor Brunette and unanimously carried to approve the 2022 budget.

7. RECREATION

A. PARKS & BOAT LANDINGS

Smith did not have anything on parks & boat landings.

Members of SECOLA agreed that the North Lake boat landing needs to be updated – but expressed their opposition against the additional property acquisition next to the launch to do it. They passed around a letter stating their reasons for their opposition and wanted it part of the Minutes. *A copy of this letter is attached.*

B. PROPERTY ACQUISITION DISCUSSION

Discussion between SECOLA and the Committee on the pros and cons of the property acquisition were had. It was agreed that it is not fair to keep the property owner in limbo on whether the County is going to purchase the property or not. Therefore - it was moved by Supervisor Wolosyn seconded by Supervisor Brunette and unanimously carried to send to County Board the property acquisition as long as the County maintains the right to make the plans as cost effective, environmentally and user friendly as possible.

C. ATV & SNOWMOBILE GRANTS

Smith gave an update to the Committee on the ATV & Snowmobile grants that were recently passed by the council.

D. REVIEW/APPROVE BID FOR CBG PF GRANT ADMINISTRATION PROPOSALS

Economic Director Wendy Gehlhoff passed around the proposal for MSA to provide CDBG-CLOSE-PF grant administration services. The cost for proposal is \$8,700 but would be split with the Resource Center building, ski hill & highway departments. It was moved by Supervisor Modschiedler seconded by Supervisor Brunette and unanimously carried to accept this MSA proposal.

8. LAND SALES

Smith passed around the results from the 2021-2 Tax Delinquent Land Sales. Four out of fifteen parcels sold for a total of \$20,236. It was moved by Supervisor Wolosyn seconded by Supervisor Theer and carried to approve the Land Sale bids and send to County Board.

9. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

The WCFA Fall Meeting will be held in Hayward Wisconsin on September 22nd and 23rd.

10. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Supervisor Modschiedler asked how the DNR GPS system for the groomers is going to work. Smith explained what he knew about the program.

11. BILLS / REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Theer seconded by Supervisor Brunette and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:09 PM.

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

Florence County Forestry and Parks
5617 Forestry Drive
Florence, Wisconsin 54212

September 8, 2021

It is the mission of the Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes Association, Inc. (SECOLA) to maintain the integrity of the lakes and shorelines through strong zoning and water management. To that end, the members and board of SECOLA would like to submit for public record that we oppose any property expansion of the North Lake Boat Landing for the following reasons:

- Lake capacity exceeds its maximum based on a lake capacity formula presented at the Wisconsin Lakes Association. Additionally increasing would only serve to stress the lakes.
- Invasive Species: SECOLA, in conjunction with Clean Boat/Clean Water, Wisconsin DNR grants (acquired through SECOLA), and the generous membership donations from Spread Eagle Chain Lake property owners actively monitor and control invasive species brought in from boats. A proposed expansion could potentially aggravate our efforts to keep the lakes healthy.
- Loss of tax revenue from residential property taxes; based on current rates we estimate the loss of tax revenue could exceed \$60,000 over a ten year time frame.
- Increase boat traffic would increase shoreline erosion, decrease water clarity, and would detrimentally impact native aquatic plant species. Residents of the lake have been actively working on educating lake resident boaters on boat safety and best boating practices. Adding additional boats will have an impact on the safety of boaters.
- Devaluation of property surrounding expanded boat landing.
- Destruction of wetlands.

SECOLA recognizes the need for improvement of the existing boat landing and reconfiguration of the current parking status. We also recognize the need to be good stewards of the land and of the taxpayers' monies. Before any conceptual site plan is prepared, a needs study should be completed to determine how much parking is needed and get feedback from neighboring property owners, as this would have a real impact on the value of their properties.

To this end SECOLA, again, offers to partner with the county in developing an acceptable plan for the improvement of the North Lake Launch.

Respectfully,



Scott Reynolds

Spread Eagle Chain of Lakes Association, President