

**FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**3:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2019**  
**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 BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY  
LARRY NEUENS  
LARRY DZEKUTE  
SUSAN THEER  
HOLLY STRATTON  
TYLER WOOD  
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 – all were present.

**2. APPROVAL / AGENDA**

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

**3. APPROVAL / MINUTES**

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

**4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Chairman Kelley wanted to thank Andy Nault for his excellent work on the County Forest.

**5. AGENCY REPORTS**

**A. USFS**

USFS District Manager Chad Kirschbaum was not in attendance.

Administrator Smith reported that the NEPA Coordinator position has been filled here in Florence.

**B. DNR – TYLER WOOD**

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Tyler Wood reported that there are no active sales going on in the County. The state will not be setting any timber sales in Florence County for the year. All state land establishment will be in Langlade County.

There will be a Master Planning meeting in Florence on Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at 4:30 PM. There will be representatives from DNR and select County Board and Town Board members.

## **6. COUNTY FOREST**

### **A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE**

Smith reported that there are three active timber sales in the County. Smith asked if they wanted him to pursue a potential Fall Timber Sale. The sales would not be ready until next Committee meeting. The Committee would like to have Smith move forward with the Fall Timber Sale.

### **B. PRIVATE PROPERTY ACCESS ISSUE**

Smith spoke with the landowners via a conference call. He provided them with information regarding obtaining a road use permit from the County. In order for this to happen – they would need to deed the easement back to Florence County. Smith is waiting to hear back from the landowners.

### **C. 15 YEAR PLAN – CHAPTER 200 DRAFT**

Smith passed around the draft of Chapter 200 of the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the Committee to review. Smith asked the Committee to let him know of comments or questions. Smith will bring Chapter 300 to next month's meeting.

### **D. APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR POSITION**

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute and seconded by Supervisor Stratton and carried to move forward with advertising for the Assistant Administrator position to the Personnel Committee.

### **E. FORESTRY & PARKS COMP CARROVER FOR SKI HILL WORKERS**

Smith is looking for resolution for an issue with our ski hill workers from last year. In the past, Smith was told his ski hill workers could run a "negative comp balance" when a mechanical or weather related issue arises at the hill. These positions work a weekend Friday – Sunday shift. Last year – the hill was shut down due to mechanical issues and Smith was questioned why there was a negative comp balance. Smith is requesting that these two positions be allowed to carry 40 hours of comp time during the ski season – December through April. After the season is over – comp hours would go back to 15 hours and any other hours would be paid out. It was moved by Supervisor Theer and seconded by Supervisor Stratton and carried to move forward with allowing these positions to earn up to 40 hours comp time during the ski hill season and sending this decision to the Personnel Committee. After this time period – they would drop back to a 15 hours comp time balance. Smith will write up a proposal and present it to the Personnel Committee.

## **7. RECREATION**

### **A. APPROVAL TO HIRE LTE COOK**

It was moved by Supervisor Stratton and seconded by Supervisor Theer and carried to move forward with advertising for the LTE Ski Hill Cook position to the Personnel Committee.

## **8. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

### **A. VERTICAL BRIDGE LETTER ON KEYES PEAK TOWER**

Vertical Bridge is leasing the tower on top of Keyes Peak ski hill. They sent a letter to County Clerk Donna Trudell requesting to buy out their lease for a lump sum price of approximately \$40,000. Smith does not believe this would be in the best interest of the County. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute and seconded by Supervisor Neuens and carried to not accept the Vertical Bridge buy out of the lease.

The DNR will be conducting their 3 year financial audit of the County Forest on November 12, 2019.

The DNR/County partnership meeting will be held on September 24, 2019.

The Wisconsin Counties Association sent a resolution regarding the “definition” of a Forester as it relates to the County Forest Administrator’s Grant. There will be a WCA meeting on September 22, 2019 and WCFA Executive Director Jane Severt would like County Chairperson Jeannette Bomberg to attend the County Board session of the meeting. He asked Supervisor Neuens to speak with Bomberg on this issue. Severt would like to Bomberg to support this resolution and have it sent back for reconsideration.

**9. COMMITTEE MEMBER’S COMMENTS & CONCERNS**

Supervisor Neuens asked for follow-up regarding the bids for the Little Popple Bridge. Smith reported that the bid was approved by County Board contingent on additional funding. We were approved the funding and the bid has been signed.

Supervisor Neuens also asked about the status of the Conservation Pond. Smith said it is very close to being finished and explained the plan to complete it.

Supervisor Neuens also shared with the Committee that Highway Safety Committee discussed possibly slowing the speed zone near the Oxbow parking lot to 45 mph. They also discussed putting up additional signage in the area.

Supervisor Stratton said there are no signs at the kiosk’s that state there is “No lifeguard on Duty” or what the hours of operation are at the parks. Smith said he would order signs to be put up.

**10. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER**

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

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Supervisor Stratton, seconded by Supervisor Theer and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 PM.

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