

**FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**3:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 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 TIMBER PROGRAM MANAGER  
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER  
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR  
FORESTRY & PARKS ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR  
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY  
LARRY NEUENS  
LARRY DZEKUTE  
SUSAN THEER  
HOLLY STRATTON  
DAN REYNOLDS  
HENRY SULLIVAN  
PATRICK SMITH  
ANDY NAULT  
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**

It was moved by Supervisor Neuens 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 August 8, 2018 as read.

**4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None

**5. AGENCY REPORTS**

**A. USFS**

USFS District Manager Chad Kirschbaum was not in attendance. USFS Timber Program Manager Dan Reynolds represented the USFS. Reynolds thanked the Forestry Department for completing and doing a great job on the Stewardship road work. These sales are now available to be implemented for GNA work – the DNR is working on prescriptions for these two sales.

The USFS is looking at spending ½ million dollars in program income. All GNA program income stays on the forest.

They are waiting to get authority to hire the vacant NEPA Coordinator position – with the preference of this position to be filled in Florence. Supervisor Stratton expressed concern with why positions that have historically been in Florence are now being moved to Eagle River. Reynolds stated that the following two positions will be hired in Florence: Reforestation Technician and Assistant Engine Captain. The Silviculturist position will be open to

Florence/Lakewood/Eagle River/Laona. When Forestry Technician Don Pete retires – his position will be moved from the Florence location to Eagle River.

Fiscal year 2018 timber sale activity has come to a close. The Florence/Eagle River District sold 15 ½ million board feet in house and another 4 million in GNA. The target number for fiscal year 2019 is 17 million board feet in house with an additional 4 million in GNA.

**B. HUBER & ASSOCIATES**

Tony Derleth was not in attendance.

**C. DNR – HENRY SULLIVAN**

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan reported that there is one active timber sale. They are busy setting up sales for the Fall. The Pine Popple Wild Rivers meeting will be held in Florence on Friday, September 14, 2018. He will be heading to Laona on Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> for an internal meeting for Master Planning on the Pine Popple Wild Rivers. As more information comes out regarding Master Planning – Sullivan said he would share that information with Administrator Smith and Chairperson Kelley.

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**

Assistant Administrator Andy Nault reported there are four active sales in the County. Sales are slow for this time of year.

**B. GUNNELSON LAND PURCHASE UPDATE**

Smith said he met with Dave Gunnelson today and feels like he is willing to wait for a few more months for details of the purchase to happen. Smith does not think he will wait much longer than January or February for the sale to take place. He will open it up for a private sale at that time. Supervisor Theer said the letter she sent to the Joint Finance Committee had to be revised (*name taken out*) before it would be distributed. She is hoping the revised letter will be passed out so she can receive her request of a response from each member.

**C. LABRECQUE LAND PURCHASE**

The County attorney is reviewing the offer to purchase this property. Once Smith gets his approval – he will send the offer to the landowner.

**D. APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE TIMBER SALES**

Nault passed around and discussed the Fall 2018 Timber Sale packet. The three advertised sales consist of 276 acres. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Theer and unanimously carried to advertise the Fall 2018 timber sales.

**E. TIMBER TRESPASS UPDATE**

Smith and Nault counted stumps and determined the stumpage for this timber trespass should be \$976.06. Smith passed around the State Statute on timber theft and Sullivan explained what the County was owed. After lengthy discussion it was agreed to follow through with Smith's recommendation of only charging single stumpage of \$976.06 plus half the survey cost of \$1,300.00. It was moved by Supervisor Stratton, seconded by Supervisor Theer and approved by a three to one vote with Supervisor Neuens abstaining and Supervisor Dzekute objecting to charge

the \$2,276.06 for this trespass.

After the vote it was agreed that if the dollar amount was not accepted by the consulting forester – this issue will be brought back to the next Committee meeting for a citation to be issued and further action would be discussed.

## **7. RECREATION**

### **A. RECREATION PLAN UPDATE**

Angela Kowalzek-Adrians from Bay Lakes Regional Planning passed around the “draft” Florence County Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for 2019-2023. The plan has been developed to serve as a guide in the maintenance and development of outdoor recreation, facilities, and eligibility for funding assistance. Kowalzek-Adrians answered questions and took recommendations from the Committee. Members were encouraged to review the plan and let Smith know of any changes and/or additions they might have.

### **B. SIDEWALKS AT SKI HILL**

The Keyes Peak step project is underway. Smith has obtained quotes for pouring a concrete walkway. He sent an email to the Supervisors approving pouring the walkway before the meeting. It was moved by Supervisor Stratton, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and carried to move forward and accept the best quote for this concrete walkway.

### **C. SCORE BOARD FOR BASEBALL FIELD**

Smith explained to the Committee that money is being raised for a score board for the baseball and softball fields. Smith said he has \$1,000 in the parks budget to donate. It was moved by Supervisor Theer, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and carried to fund up to \$1,000 for the purchase of a score board.

### **D. ATV/SNOW PROJECT UPDATES**

Smith updated the Committee on recent grant projects that have been awarded to the County. The County ATV program received \$97,000 in grants – with \$35,000 for rehab (*Oxbowl area*). The snowmobile area received \$100,000 in grants – with \$45,000 for maintenance and the balance for trail rehab and bridge work.

### **E. KIOSK INFORMATION**

Smith is still waiting to hear from Health Officer Annette Seibold. She was going to follow-up with County Clerk Donna Trudell to see if there would be any County insurance issues and let Smith know her findings

## **8. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Smith passed around and discussed the 2019 Forestry & Parks budget. It was moved by Supervisor Theer, seconded by Supervisor Stratton and approve the 2019 budget and send to Audit & Budget.

The revision to the Personnel Policy stating that overtime and compensation must be approved by both the Department Head and Home Committee was passed around. Smith explained how this negatively impacts the Forestry & Parks department. Smith is asking that the Committee allow him to continue to run the department as he has been. It was stated that a similar motion was passed at the recent Highway Committee meeting. After discussion, it was moved by Supervisor Theer, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, to allow Smith to run the Forestry & Parks department as he has been. An amendment to the motion was then made which also included having Smith and Highway Commissioner Jeff DeMuri go to the next Personnel meeting and explain why this policy change will not work for their departments. It was moved by Supervisor Theer, seconded by Supervisor Stratton and approved to amend the original motion. It was unanimously carried to approve the amended motion.

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

Supervisor Neuens reminded Smith that he would like to see something regarding the 14 day camping rule at the campgrounds.

The Town of Homestead cleanup of Burma roads looks great.

Also – he watched a video of what the new brush hog can do. It was very interesting.

Supervisor Neuens asked how the health of the balsam fir are on the County forest. Nault said he has not noticed any damaged one.

**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 August.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Theer, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 PM.

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