

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 P.M. - WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 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
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER
USFS DISTRICT SILVICULTURIST
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY
ED WENGER
LARRY DZEKUTE
SUSAN THEER
HOLLY STRATTON
KATIE THEISEN
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. All supervisors were present.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

It was moved by Supervisor Theer seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, 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 August 9, 2017.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. CHAD KIRSCHBAUM - USFS DISTRICT RANGER

USFS District Silviculturist Katie Theisen reported that Chad Kirschbaum was hired as the new District Ranger. His office will be in Eagle River. The County has been busy doing road work so GNA timber sale work can begin in the Morgan Lake area.

B. HUBER & ASSOCIATES

Tony Derleth was not in attendance.

C. DNR – HENRY SULLIVAN

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan informed the Committee that there is one active

timber sale going on in the County. There are two other jobs where contractors are still hauling forest products. Field work is almost complete on 400 acres that the State intends on advertising in the Fall.

There are no Good Neighbor Authority projects in Florence County at this time.

The DNR held first round interviews for the Tax Law Specialist position last week. This position will oversee tax law for Florence, Forest and Marinette Counties.

The Pine Popple Wild Rivers Advisory Committee meeting will be held Friday, September 8, 2017.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Assistant Administrator Andy Nault reported that there are six active timber sales in the County. He has been extremely busy scaling wood.

The department has also been busy working on getting ready for the Fall Timber Sales. They plan on selling 355 acres.

B. TIMBER SALE EXTENSIONS

Smith passed around a letter he received from a contractor disputing a penalty extension for a timber sale. Both Smith and Nault explained why they felt this sale warranted a penalty. After discussion it was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to support assessing the penalty on this sale.

The County had sent out a penalty extension to another Contractor. They have not heard back from them. Nault has tried calling this Contractor numerous times. A certified letter was sent out last Thursday. The letter stated that the Contractor needed to respond by September 22, 2017 – otherwise the County would consider this a “no” on the extension, deposit their cash bond with the County Treasurer and close the sale. After discussion it was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Stratton, and unanimously carried to support keeping the cash bond and closing the sale if the County did not hear back from the Contractor.

C. GUNNELSON LAND PURCHASE UPDATE

Smith said that he is still waiting to hear back from the DNR regarding this purchase.

7. RECREATION

A. ATV TRAILS

The department has been working on re-decking the bridges on the Nicolet Trail.

Three grants were approved for the Menominee River Bridge rehabilitation. The grant funding came from the Snowmobile program, ATV program and Federal Recreational Trail aids. The grant paperwork should be coming once the State’s Budget is approved.

B. SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

Still issues with the Aurora connection. The department has been looking into reroutes with no apparent solutions as of yet.

C. SKI HILL

The water at the Keyes Peak Lodge is still not working. Smith is working on the issue.

Smith passed around and discussed the Boat Launch Revenue and Campground Revenue reports.

8. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Smith updated the Committee on the two road work projects being done as part of the second Stewardship project. The next WCFA Conference meeting will be held September 29, 2017 in Weston, Wisconsin.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Supervisor Wenger attended the Federal Sustainable Forestry meeting and met with Senator Johnson and Representative Duffy and discussed the good things happening with the GNA partnership.

10. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Stratton, 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 Stratton, seconded by Supervisor Theer, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:01 PM.

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