

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2015
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
ASSISTANT FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER
FORESTOR/RECREATION COORDINATOR

ED KELLEY
ED WENGER
LARRY NEUENS
LARRY DZEKUTE
JOHN HALADA
HENRY SULLIVAN
ANREW NAULT
MARY PODNAR
ERIC BROLIN

Absent or excused: Pat Smith

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Ed Kelley, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

It was moved by Supervisor Neuens seconded by Supervisor Halada, and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as posted.

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously carried to approve the Forestry & Parks minutes of September 9, 2015.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Forestry & Parks Administrator, Patrick Smith received a letter regarding a woods trail road which has recently been opened for public access. Neighboring landowners had been using this road for years even though it wasn't open to the public. The person was not happy with the decision to open it.

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. HARV SKJERVEN - USFS DISTRICT RANGER

USFS District Ranger Harv Skjerven was not in attendance.

B. HUBER RESOURCES

Tony Derleth from Huber Resources was not in attendance. However, DNR-County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Henry Sullivan told the committee that Huber Resources is interested in selling the old Goodman Timber Land. Sullivan stated that this land is divided into two ownerships with one being the Florence Forest and the other being the Goodman Forest. Huber still has a contract to manage the Goodman Forest portion. Sullivan pointed out that no matter who purchases this property – public access rights are secured under the State's Conservation Easement Agreement. The committee asked Sullivan to follow-up with Huber on this potential sale.

C. DNR-HENRY SULLIVAN

Sullivan reported that there are no active sales going on in the County, however two should be starting soon. The

department is working on timber sale establishment right now.

Three weeks ago – the state mailed out their marking contracts. Bid opening is scheduled for October 21, 2015.

The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) is happening in Forest County. The Florence/Forest team has been assigned roughly 400 acres to begin establishment on. Lines have begun to be put in – and next week there will be a marking camp.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Assistant Administrator Andrew Nault reported that there are seven active timber sales in the County. Three are scale sales and four are lump sum. Nault said he has been very busy scaling wood. There are potentially two more sales which could begin within the next couple of weeks.

B. APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE FALL SALES

Nault passed around the Fall 2015 Timber Sale Location Map and Timber Sale Maps. Nault reviewed each of the three potential sales with the committee. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to approve advertising the Fall 2015 Timber Sales.

C. APPROVAL TO HIRE 1 TO 3 LTE'S FOR STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

Nault passed around an updated Occasional Laborer job description. Nault said most of the work performed by this position will be reimbursable through the Stewardship Project with the USFS. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to approve the position description and send on to the Personnel Committee.

D. GNA RESOLUTION

The GNA resolution was passed around. Nault said this needs to be passed by the County Board so we can be reimbursed by the Wisconsin DNR. Work will not begin until there is a signed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). This resolution gives Administrator Smith the authority to sign the MOA with the State so there are no delays in getting the first GNA sales setup and sold. We will not be hiring any new personnel until we have some solid commitments from the State on how much time we can spend doing this work. . It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Halada, and unanimously carried to approve this GNA Resolution and send on to County Board for approval.

E. APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE STEWARDSHIP PROJECT TIMBER SALE

The Wallace Timber Sale Prospectus was passed around and discussed. Bids for this sale will be due the same day as our County timber sales. It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Halada, and unanimously carried to approve advertising for this sale.

F. APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE MARKING CONTRACT

The Grub Hoe Timber Marking Prospectus was passed around and discussed. Marking is one of the items in the stewardship agreement that we need to complete. It was moved by Supervisor Wegner, seconded by Supervisor Halada, and unanimously carried to approve advertising for this contract.

G. ACCESS AGREEMENT APPROVAL

A map of the Florence County Forest Access Permit was passed around and discussed. The DeeAnn Rose Trust property located off of Burma Road is asking for a road use agreement to access their properties. They have been using the County road believing they already had an existing easement - however, there are no records showing

there ever was one. Nault told the committee that these agreements are non-transferable and are only assigned to the owner and not the property. Nault recommended the easement be granted under three stipulations: (1) Existing gate must be moved to property line, (2) permanent deer blind must be removed from County land, and (3) stop mowing trails/food plots on County Forest land. Deadline for this work to be done is June 1, 2016. It was moved by Supervisor Wegner, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to approve the DeeAnn Rose Trust easement according to the stipulations recommended by Nault.

7. RECREATION

A. GRANT UPDATE

Forester/Recreation Coordinator Eric Brolin passed around a list of open grants and projects that are being worked on in the County. Supervisor Neuens would like to see some type of narrative to describe each project.

Brolin also reported that the Majewski Memorial has been completed.

B. MOA WITH MDNR FOR MENOMINEE RIVER BRIDGE

Nault passed around the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Florence County Forestry and Parks Department regarding the Menominee River Bridge. This MOA is ready to be signed by both parties. It has been reviewed and approved by corporate counsel. Once this MOA is in place, we can move forward with repairing the bridge and opening it for ATV travel in the near future. It was moved by Supervisor Wegner, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to approve and send this MOA on to County Board.

8. LAND SALES

A. PARCEL #7

The Town of Commonwealth would like to acquire parcel #7 as it is located next to their current garage. The town has been maintaining the property for years and it could cause some issues if someone were to build on the lot. Nault suggests the County turn the property over to the town and reject any bids that might come in for the property. The committee recommended waiting to see if we get any bids.

9. AMINISTRATOR REPORT

Nault reminded the committee that November's meeting date has been moved to November 4th due to Veteran's Day falling on the 11th.

The stewardship project with the USFS is signed and work will begin immediately.

The department will be purchasing a brush hog attachment for our skid steer and splitting the cost with Highway. It will be used on the stewardship project and time on the brush hog and skid steer will be reimbursable. Highway will use this piece of equipment for mowing the steep banks on highway right-of-ways.

Nault passed around the Milt Reinke Award spreadsheet. Florence County came in second.

There is going to be a partnership meeting next week between the State and the County. Time Standard hours will be discussed at this meeting. An updated time standard spreadsheet was passed around and explained by Sullivan.

Everyone is invited to attend the Dave Majewski Memorial dedication on October 31, 2015 at 11:00 AM.

10. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Supervisor Neuens found an interesting article in County Magazine regarding selling tax delinquent properties. He

would like Smith to read it.

Supervisor Neuens would like the DNR to open the Pine River highland. Sullivan will talk with Wildlife Biologist Jason Cotter on this issue.

Supervisor Neuens shared what he learned about Florence County while attending the WCFA conference.

11. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

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

12. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:47 PM.

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