

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
4:00 PM - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2020
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 DZEKUTE
SUSAN THEER
FRAN MODSCHIEDLER
MATT BRUNETTE
TYLER WOOD (phone)
PATRICK SMITH
MARY PODNAR

ABESENT 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 Theer seconded by Supervisor Brunette and unanimously carried to approve the agenda without changes.

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

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

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Modschiedler asked Administrator Pat Smith about snowplowing at the Tipler Trailhead. Smith said if anyone was interested in plowing it – they should contact him.

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. USFS

USFS District Manager Chad Kirschbaum was not in attendance due to the Veterans Day holiday. Supervisor Modschiedler informed the Committee that when the USFS replaced the Silver Dollar Lake gate – they threw away the Blue Ox Riders lock and now they cannot get through. Smith will follow-up.

B. DNR – TYLER WOOD

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Tyler Wood reported there is one active timber sale in the County. Wood said he was asked to be on a study with the USFS/DNR/Ontario Canada – working on an assisted migration project. They will be moving trees farther north to study climate trends and deer browse.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. PRIVATE LANDOWNER ACCESS REQUEST FOR TWO PROPERTIES

Administrator Smith passed around an updated Florence County Forest Temporary Access Agreement. He received

feedback from other County Administrators and had it reviewed by our Corporate Council. This will be used for these private landowners.

B. TEMPORARY ACCESS PERMIT – APPROVAL FOR USE

The Committee agreed that this updated Temporary Access Permit was a good thing.

C. 15 YEAR PLAN – UPDATE/CHANGES

Smith explained the updates that were made to the 15-Year Plan regarding County Forest Temporary Access permit. DNR is still reviewing the draft of the plan. It was moved by Supervisor Theer seconded by Supervisor Brunette and unanimously carried to approve both the Temporary Access Permit and 15 Year Plan updates.

D. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Smith reported that there is one active timber sale in the County.

E. APPROVE TIMBER SALE BIDS

Smith passed around and discussed the Fall 2020 Timber Sale Bid Summary. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to approve the 2020 Fall bids.

F. DISC TRENCHING CONTRACT

Smith does not have a contract for disc trenching at this time.

7. RECREATION

A. COSGROVE LAKE PROPERTY

Smith is still waiting for deed review from the survey of this property.

B. SNOWMOBILE CLUB TIPLER BUILDING UPDATE

The State Property Manager is looking into allowing a building to be built for groomer storage on State property. The County may be able to apply for grant funding. Smith is waiting for more details.

C. SKI HILL SEASON

Smith said the department is planning to be open for the 2020-2021 ski season. The ski hill committee plans on making snow at the end of November/early December if weather permits.

D. SNOWMOBILE CLUB CONTRACT

Smith submitted a draft contract between Florence County and the snow club to our Corporate Council. It was reviewed and approved. Smith then sent the draft contract to the snow clubs attorney and they would like to see some changes. Smith will send these proposed changes back to our Corporate Council to make sure it is approved again.

8. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

A. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Chairman Kelley and Supervisor Brunette volunteered to conduct Smith's performance evaluation. They agreed to come in one hour earlier before next month's meeting.

Smith has received requests from two disabled hunters who would like to hunt behind locked gates. Smith has always opened gates for these types of requests. He passed around and discussed Florence County's "Behind the Gate Access" permit that are being used. Our County insurance company was contacted to review the situation and the permit to make sure the County is following ADA laws.

The department has been busy working on a grant to expand the North Lake Boat Landing.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

None

10. BILLS / REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

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

11. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Theer seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:09 PM.

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