

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 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 DZEKUTE
LARRY NEUENS
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 members were present.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

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

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

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

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

A landowner stopped in to discuss a road issue with Administrator Smith. A road was left open after a timber sale and he wanted it closed.

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. USFS

USFS District Manager Chad Kirschbaum introduced Carolyn Stillman as the new NEPA Coordinator. The Committee introduced themselves and welcomed her.

Activity in the woods is starting to pick up due to the colder weather. The Grub Hoe Stewardship project is still a work in progress due to the wet fall. Work will continue in the spring. Smith received an email regarding another possible stewardship project between the County and USFS.

They want to hire two new positions in the Florence location – a professional forester position and botany/weeds lead crew position. Kirschbaum also reported that he will possibly be filling two other positions in Florence. One is a Forestry Technician and recreation position.

The Facilities Master Plan is on hold until the Regional Forester position is permanently filled.

B. DNR – TYLER WOOD

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Tyler Wood reported that there is one active timber sale in the County.

Administrator Smith and Economic Director Wendy Gehlhoff attended the Natural Resources Board meeting in Madison and testified on behalf of the County. The Wild Rivers Master Plan was not voted on. The Natural Resources Board asked that the DNR and County go back to negotiations before the plan gets brought back to them. Smith is waiting to hear from the DNR.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Smith reported that there are six active timber sales in the County.

B. APPROVAL TO BID FALL TIMBER SALES

Smith passed around the Fall 2019 Timber Sale packet. DNR Liaison Wood discussed each sale. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute and seconded by Supervisor Theer and approved to advertise 2019 Fall Timber Sales.

C. 15 YEAR PLAN – REVIEW PREVIOUS CHAPTERS

Smith asked if the Committee had any questions/suggestions from the chapters they have received. Supervisor Neuens said he found Chapter 300 very informative and interesting. No other questions/suggestions were given.

D. 15 YEAR PLAN – CHAPTR 400 & 500 DRAFTS

Smith passed out Chapters 400 and 500 for the Committee to review.

E. APPROVE TRUCK BIDS

Smith received a truck bid from Florence Motors on a 2019 and 2020 truck. After discussion it was moved by Supervisor Dzekute and seconded by Supervisor Stratton and carried to approve the 2020 truck bid and send to County Board for approval.

7. RECREATION

A. SKI HILL

Florence Utilities offered incentives to replace the lighting at the hill with LED lights.

There were two applicants for the LTE Ski Hill Laborer position.

The crews are set for making snow for the upcoming 2019/2020 ski season.

B. PROJECT UPDATE

Smith updated the Committee on projects going on in the County.

8. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Smith received four applications for the Assistant Administrator position. He would like to interview for both the LTE Ski Hill Laborer and Assistant Administrator positions on December 3rd or 4th. An agenda will be sent out.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Supervisor Neuens discussed the K-9 fundraiser shooting event that will be held at the rifle range. According to the

County Ordinance - Smith can make the decision to hold the event. The town chair was upset that she wasn't notified.

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 October.

11. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:48 PM.

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