

**FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**8:00 AM - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 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 DISTRICT SILVICULTURIST  
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER  
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR  
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY  
LARRY NEUENS  
LARRY DZEKUTE  
SUSAN THEER  
HOLLY STRATTON  
KATIE THEISEN  
HENRY SULLIVAN  
PATRICK SMITH  
MARY PODNAR

**ABESENT OR EXCUSED:** NONE

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Chairman Kelley called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM. 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 Theer, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of October 10, 2018 as read.

**4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Larry Yark from the Frog Lake Association and property owner Shelly VanPembrook presented concerns regarding alleged abuse of the public access point to Frog Lake. They are asking that posts be put in at the landing so vehicles cannot back their trailers into Frog Lake as this landing is designated as a carry-in only landing. VanPembrook said the Frog Lake Association is willing to buy the posts and place them at the landing. Administrator Smith shared pictures he took of the public access landing and does not believe vehicles are backing trailers here. Access to the landing is very narrow (only 6 feet wide) and winding - vehicles would not fit. Smith is opposed to putting posts in at the landing as he feels it would prevent people from legally carrying in their boats. After much discussion it was moved by Supervisor Neuens seconded by Supervisor Stratton, and carried to approve Forestry & Parks putting a sign that says "No vehicle or ATV's beyond this point – violators will be prosecuted". Smith will also ask the sheriff's office to put in a camera at the landing. Supervisor Theer opposed. VanPembrook requested that a copy of the approved minutes be emailed so she can share with the Frog Lake Association.

**5. AGENCY REPORTS**

**A. USFS**

USFS District Manager Chad Kirschbaum was not in attendance. District Silviculturist Katie Theisen said there was not

much to report regarding stewardship projects. The USFS is in the process of selling a large timber sale in the Phelps area. Once this is sold – they will begin on the Morgan Lake timber sale.

Theisen said things are going great on Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) projects. Prescriptions written by the DNR have been written in record time this year. In addition to GNA work – the USFS started a new program called “Program Income” in which the DNR are working on additional timber sale prescriptions. They couldn’t be happier with the work and progress that is being made.

Theisen will be hiring a Reforestation Technician that will be located in the Florence office. There is a Forester position that is being advertised where the candidate can choose the duty station of Florence, Eagle River, Lakewood, or Laona. The USFS will let us know when the location is finalized. Three positions were just hired in the Eagle River location.

**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 are two active timber sales. The department opened the 2018 Fall Timber Sale bids last week. Bid prices were down 40% across the board.

Team Leader Craig Williams has accepted the position of Area Forester Leader. His Team Leader position is now vacant and should be filled before July of next year. Otherwise all the field staff is 100% filled.

**6. COUNTY FOREST**

**A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE**

Administrator Smith reported there are six active sales in the County.

**B. SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY GRANT APPLICATION**

Smith does not have a grant application in place. They had planned on applying for a grant to survey the County Forest for invasive species. However, the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition (WRISC) is willing to do this at no cost to the County. Once the results come in – Smith plans on applying for a grant for treatment of the invasives that are found.

**C. LABRECQUE LAND PURCHASE**

The County has written the check and it is at the Title and Abstract Company. They will disperse it to the owners of the Trust. Once final signatures are gathered – it will be owned by the County.

**7. RECREATION**

**A. APPROVAL TO BID KEYES LAKE BOAT LANDING PROJECT**

It was moved by Supervisor Stratton, seconded by Supervisor Theer, and unanimously carried to approve advertising work to be done on the Keyes Lake Boat Landing project.

**8. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

Smith informed the Committee that the Forestry & Parks budget has been passed.

Smith passed around a copy of the hand written letter he received from David Gunnulson. This letter detailed his desire to have the County purchase the property. Mr. Gunnulson intends on using \$100,000 from this sale to set up a scholarship fund for Florence High School.

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

Supervisor Neuens inquired about the recent Timber Trespass issue. Smith got in contact with the person responsible and said he agreed to set up a payment plan with the forester.

Neuens understands that Smith probably did not have time to look at the cost of a possible Lake Emily expansion. He wants to be sure that it is something Smith follows up on.

Supervisor Neuens also inquired about the Recreation Plan from Bay Lakes. Smith said he was waiting for updates from the townships. All comments have been sent to Bay Lakes.

Supervisor Stratton asked if there has been any action regarding the Marinette snowmobile trail. Smith contacted Marinette County and they said there has been no change.

**10. BILLS/REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER**

It was moved by Supervisor Theer, seconded by Supervisor Stratton, and carried to approve bills being paid for Forestry and Parks and the Florence Natural Resource Center for September.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Supervisor Stratton, seconded by Supervisor Theer, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 AM.

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