

**FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**3:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 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  
USFS DISTRICT RANGER  
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER  
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR  
FORESTRY & PARKS ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR  
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY  
ED WENGER  
LARRY NEUENS  
LARRY DZEKUTE  
JOHN HALADA  
HARV SKJERVEN  
HENRY SULLIVAN  
PATRICK SMITH  
ANDREW NAULT  
MARY PODNAR

Absent or excused: None

**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 November 4, 2015.

**4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None.

**5. AGENCY REPORTS**

**A. HARV SKJERVEN - USFS DISTRICT RANGER**

USFS District Ranger Harv Skjerven reported that there wasn't any news on the budget – however Skjerven expects the budget to remain the same. He has not heard if the bill with the fire funding rider has passed.

There are nine sales going on – however production is day-to-day due to the mud in the woods.

Recon work is being done on the Good Neighbor Authority north of Phelps. The goal is to have all of these sales sold by the fall.

Cutting is being done on the Wallace Stewardship project. Crews are being careful due to the soft ground. There are ten to fifteen miles of hunter walking trails cleared as well.

The department has been busy prepping for 2016 timber sales.

Skjerven also reported that advertising has begun to fill Donald Vassar's Forestry Technician position.

**B. HUBER RESOURCES**

Tony Derleth from Huber Resources was not in attendance.

**C. DNR-HENRY SULLIVAN**

Florence County Forest Liaison/DNR Public Lands Forester Henry Sullivan reported that the department has begun marking on the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) project last month. The State hired a GNA LTE and he will be located out of the Crandon office. The positions primary responsibility is to work on GNA work.

Next Thursday will be the State's bid opening. There are two sales in Florence County and one in Forest County. Sullivan was hoping to have three sales in Florence – but ran into some road use agreement issues.

The State has one active timber sale going on in Florence.

The Florence office has a vacancy – the recently hired Forester Technician is no longer with the department. Replacing the position could take anywhere from one month to a year. Most of it depends on how fast the position clears the lateral hiring process.

Sullivan wanted the committee to be aware there is a legislative bill that will affect Managed Forest Land (MFL) properties.

**6. COUNTY FOREST**

**A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE**

Assistant Administrator Andy Nault reported that the County has gone from twelve active sales down to two sales. Some of these sales are in the process of being closed out – while others had contractors pull out due to the recent warm weather. The department has been working on the upcoming Spring 2016 timber sales.

**B. ANNUAL WORKPLAN APPROVAL**

Smith passed around and discussed the 2016 Annual Florence County Forest Work Plan. Smith noted that he needed to update the committee members section. He added language regarding the USFS Stewardship Agreement and the boat landing ordinance. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve the 2016 Annual Work Plan and pass along to the County Board.

**C. SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY GRANT APPLICATION/APPROVAL**

Smith passed around the application for a sustainable forestry grant for a salmon blade. This blade could be used on the DNR or County dozer for scarification for the natural regeneration of northern red oak and hardwood stands. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Neuens, and unanimously carried to approve applying for this grant.

**D. ADVERTISE FOR TRUCK BIDS/APPROVAL**

Bid details and specifications for the purchase of a new dump truck and a new pick-up truck were passed around and discussed. These trucks were approved in the 2016 budget. Smith said he might be interested in advertising with the Highway Department at the same time. It was moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve the advertisement for a new dump truck. It was also moved by Supervisor Wenger, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to approve the advertisement for a new pick-up truck as well.

**7. RECREATION**

**A. SKI HILL**

Smith wanted the committee to know that the ski hill will not be open for Christmas break due to the warm weather. He also pointed out that this year the ski hill has added an ice skating rink.

**8. AMINISTRATOR REPORT**

**A. BID OPENING/APPROVAL**

Smith informed the committee that he attended hearings in the Senate and at the Assembly and testified to support the funding of the Interpretive Center.

The landowner in Homestead has moved his gate and permanent deer stand off of County property. He is now asking the County to issue a road access agreement. Smith will begin working on this agreement within the next couple of days.

Smith said he received an email about interest regarding putting on a Log-A-Load in Florence County. The Great Lakes Timber Producers (GLTP) puts these on to raise money and awareness for the Children’s Miracle Network. It’s done in conjunction with a kid’s school field day to educate them about the woods. It would require very small direct sale on County land. Smith will research the details and bring it back to the Committee.

Smith met with the representative for the Wage Study yesterday.

The Assistant Parks & Ski Hill position will be vacant soon. Smith will advertise for the position as soon as he receives the resignation.

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

Supervisor Wenger said he received a letter from the American Legion Post regarding putting up a Memorial Flag in front of the Resource Center. Smith will put it on next month’s agenda for further discussion.

Supervisor Neuens inquired about the possibility of adding another run at the ski hill.

He would like to see the garage on Highway 101 by the ski hill cleaned up.

**10. 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 November.

**11. ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO:**

It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Dzekute, and unanimously carried to adjourn to Closed Session pursuant to the following:

- WI State Stat. §§ 19.85(1)(f) Considering employee personnel issue over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss personnel issues –

A roll call vote was taken and all members voted Aye. Motion carried.

**12. RECONVENE TO OPEN SESSION AND TAKE ACTION, IF APPROPRIATE, ON MATTERS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION**

It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously carried to reconvene to Open Session.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Wenger, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:31 PM.

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