

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
3:30 PM - WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 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
DNR – WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST
USFS – SILVICULTURALIST
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR

ED KELLEY
LARRY DZEKUTE
LARRY NEUENS
SUSAN THEER
HOLLY STRATTON
TYLER WOOD
TOM CARLSON
KATIE THEISEN
PATRICK SMITH

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

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

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

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. USFS

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

B. DNR – TYLER WOOD

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

There will be another meeting for the Master Plan on December 17th in Florence.

B. DNR – TOM CARLSON

There was lengthy discussion regarding wildlife topics affecting Florence County. Topics included the 2019 Deer harvest, the new Bear Management Plan for 2019-2029, and the forest damage permits.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

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

B. APPROVAL TO AWARD FALL TIMBER SALES

Smith passed around the Fall 2019 Timber Sale bid summary. There was only one bid on one timber sale. The bid was below minimum. Discussion was had on when to advertise these sales again. It was moved by Supervisor Neuens and seconded by Supervisor Theer and approved to advertise these sales with the Spring 2020 sales in May. Supervisor Stratton opposed.

C. 15 YEAR PLAN – REVIEW PREVIOUS CHAPTERS

Smith asked if the Committee had any questions/suggestions from the chapters they have received.

D. APPROVE ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Smith passed out the annual work plan. It was moved by Supervisor Dzekute and seconded by Supervisor Neuens and approved to send the plan to the County Board for approval.

E. APPROVE SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY GRANT APPLICATION

Smith passed out the grant application. It was moved by Supervisor Stratton and seconded by Supervisor Dzekute and approved to be sent to the WDNR.

7. RECREATION

A. SKI HILL

The crews are set for making snow for the upcoming 2019/2020 ski season. We are set to open on December 20th.

8. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Smith attended the Aurora/homestead Conservation club meeting regarding questions around the fund raising event at the Rifle Range.

Smith updated the committee on the Knowles-Nelson grants for the Gunnulson Acquisition and the Labrecque property as well.

Smith updated the committee on the condition of the snowmobile trails and that the club, DNR, USFS, and the Forestry and Parks Department have all been working hard to get the trails in shape to open as soon as possible.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

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 December.

11. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Neuens, seconded by Supervisor Theer and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Smith, Administrator
Florence County Forestry and Parks