

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
4:00 PM - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025
LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - LOWER LEVEL
FLORENCE NATURAL RESOURCE CENTER, FLORENCE, WI 54121

PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN / COMMITTEE MEMBER
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER
USFS TIMBER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

JOE MILLS
FRAN MODSCHIEDLER
MATT BRUNETTE
HENRY SULLIVAN
DAN REYNOLDS – PHONE
ANDY NAULT
MARY PODNAR
PAT SMITH
TAYLOR ZIOLKOWSKI

ABESENT OR EXCUSED: Charles Kellstrom

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Chairman Joe Mills called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Roll call was taken – Charles Kellstrom was absent.

2. APPROVAL / AGENDA

It was moved by Supervisor Modschiedler seconded by Supervisor Brunette and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as posted.

3. APPROVAL / MINUTES

It was moved by Supervisor Sullivan seconded by Supervisor Brunette and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of March 12, 2025 Committee meeting.

4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

5. AGENCY REPORTS

A. USFS

USFS Timber Management Assistant Dan Reynolds gave position updates. The department is still under a hiring freeze. Remote workers will be returning back to the office. The USFS is being directed to increase output of timber production by 25%. There has been recon in Fence due to the ice storm damage. The staff has been busy prepping and cleaning up campgrounds to open.

B. DNR – ANDY NAULT

DNR State Land Forester Andy Nault said there are no active State Land timber sales in the County. Will be advertising four sales in June. The department has met 90% of time standard hours for the County.

6. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Assistant Administrator Taylor Ziolkowski reported one active timber sale in the County.

B. STORM DAMAGE

Ziolkowski said they will be looking at forest roads to clear next week. The crew helped highway clear trees on Highway C. It appears that most of our forest held up during the ice storm.

C. FOREST ROADS

Smith followed-up with the forest road location situation from last month. The DOT confirmed that their map had been updated and the location of Washburn Falls road was not correct.

D. ACCESS PERMITS

Now that the forest road location has been confirmed – there will be landowners seeking road use permits in the near future. Upon reviewing this – there are address points that could lead to emergency services going to the wrong location. Smith made Zoning aware of the issue.

7. RECREATION

A. SKI HILL DONATION

Noah Williams was skiing at Keyes Peak with his family and saw our old snow blower. He works for Boss and figured out a way to get a new snow blower and walk behind salter donated to the hill. The Committee agreed to send a Family Season Pass as a thank you.

The hill closed and now the attention will be on getting the parks and campgrounds ready for the season.

8. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Smith said we have an employee who has been off – he is coming back Monday on light duty.

We are waiting to see what happens next for our Parks & Ski Hill Assistant.

WCFA Summer tour is June 18th – 20th in Washburn County. Please let us know if you would like to attend.

Smith applied for a \$775,000 grant to purchase a magic carpet & upgrade the water system at Keyes Peak Ski Hill.

9. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Supervisor Brunette received a phone call from the town of Homestead Chairperson asking if the townships will be receiving carbon credit revenues. Smith said no. Also, he has not received the town severance payment yet – Smith and Podnar will follow-up as the voucher was sent to Finance in January.

Supervisor Sullivan asked if the County is interested in GNA work. Smith said they do not have a signed contract with the state. If the department is going to take on extra work – it will need to be set up as an added duty.

Pat answered Henrys question from the previous meeting about brushing under Red Pine.

10. BILLS / REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

It was moved by Supervisor Modschiedler and seconded by Supervisor Sullivan and unanimously carried to

approve bills being paid for the month of March by Forestry and Parks and the Florence Natural Resource Center.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned by Supervisor Mills at 5:12 PM.

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