

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING

4:00 PM - WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022

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
USFS TIMBER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER

ED KELLEY
JOE MILLS
SUSAN THEER
FRAN MODSCHIEDLER
MATT BRUNETTE
TYLER WOOD
DAN REYNOLDS - PHONE
PATRICK SMITH
TAYLOR ZIOLKOWSKI
MARY PODNAR

ABSENT OR EXCUSED: None

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Forestry and Parks Administrator Patrick Smith called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Roll call was taken - all members were present.

2. FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR – CONDUCT ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Nominations were called for Chairman of the Committee three times. Ed Kelley was nominated by Supervisor Theer and seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler. Being no other nominations a unanimous vote was taken to elect Ed Kelley as Chair of the Committee.

3. ELECTED CHAIRMAN – CONDUCT ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Nominations were called for Election of Vice-Chair of the Committee three times. Fran Modschiedler was nominated by Supervisor Theer and Supervisor Mills. Being no other nominations a unanimous vote was taken to elect Supervisor Modschiedler as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

4. APPROVAL / AGENDA

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

5. APPROVAL / MINUTES

It was moved by Supervisor Brunette seconded by Supervisor Theer, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of April 13, 2022 as read.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Supervisor Brunette asked a few questions on behalf of the horse club regarding maintenance, mowing and new signage. Smith will inquire about a fire # for Busch Lake Flats. He also said Forestry & Parks does water tests at Halls Creek & Bush Lake trailheads.

Supervisor Modschiedler said the fire # at the Tipler Trailhead is wrong. He is also concerned about the rocks that have been moved.

7. AGENCY REPORTS

A. USFS

USFS Timber Management Assistant Dan Reynolds said the campgrounds are open and operational. They are working on marking the remaining acreage on the Grub Hoe Timber Sale.

Supervisor Modschiedler asked if the USFS still planned on repairing Halsey Lake Road. Reynolds was not sure if they secured funding for the project – but would find out.

B. DNR – TYLER WOOD

DNR County Forest Liaison/State Land Forester Tyler Wood reported one active sales in the County. Fire season has been busy. They will advertise three timber sales on June 15, 2022.

8. COUNTY FOREST

A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

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

B. CARBON CREDIT UPDATE

Smith is waiting for a Financial Manager to be hired before moving forward.

C. APPROVE SPRING TIMBER SALE BIDS

Ziolkowski passed around and discussed the Spring 2022 Timber Sale Bid Summary report. The County sold six sales totaling \$425,263.34 It was moved by Supervisor Modschiedler and seconded by Supervisor Theer and unanimously carried to approve the 2022 Spring Timber Sale bids.

D. FORESTRY TECH LTE POSITION UPDATE

The said the new Forestry Tech LTE position was approved and he still needs to advertise for it.

E. KEYES LAKE USFS PROPERTY UPDATE

Smith sent a message to District Manager Chad Kirshbaum regarding costs and possible restrictions regarding the purchase of this property but has not heard back from yet.

F. WDNR FORESTRY WORK AGREEMENT

Smith passed around the Termination of Agreement for the Shared position letter from WDNR Team Leader Henry Sullivan. This position is no longer needed due to the Division's 2022 Strategic Direction changes. Podnar will be providing support for GNA sales.

G. SETUP INTERVIEWS FOR OCCASIONAL LABORER POSITIONS

Smith received two applications for the Occasional Laborer Position. Smith would like to set up interviews next week. Supervisor Mills and Brunette said they might be available.

9. RECREATION

A. WEST BASS BATHHOUSE – APPROVE CONTRACT FOR DESIGNS

Smith passed around an estimate from Coleman Engineering for engineering services for the West Bass Lake Campground Improvement grant. It was moved by Supervisor Brunette and seconded by Supervisor Mills and unanimously carried to sign and pay the contract with Coleman Engineering.

B. COSGROVE LAKE PROPERTY DISCUSSION

No updates at this time.

C. UPCOMING RETIREMENT

Our Ski Hill and Parks Manager will be retiring. He is turning in his letter of resignation tomorrow. Smith can advertise for his position once he officially receives it.

D. KEYES LAKE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The Town of Florence approached Smith about improving the parking at the Keyes Lake Park for the Truck Hill Climbs. There are different options available. Smith will talk about at next month's meeting.

E. APPROVE PURCHASE OF MOWER

It was moved by Supervisor Modschiedler seconded by Supervisor Brunette and carried to approve the purchase/order of a new Husqvarna mower.

10. ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

The County was awarded a Sustainable Forestry Grant for \$31,900 to improve 1.5 mile of County Forest access roads.

The survey work appears to be complete at the North Lake boat landing. He is waiting for the actual survey maps.

Smith passed around the Florence County Acreage Share Payments letter that was sent to the townships.

The department has been busy cleaning up at Lake Emily campground. The department cut down many potentially hazardous trees in the park and campground.

The WCFA conference will be held June 20th – 22nd. If you are interested in attending – please let Business Manager Mary Podnar know.

Smith is asking for a budget amendment for the Natural Resource Center. There are repairs that need to be done that were not in the original budget.

Smith explained a potential Land Sale issue with a bidder who possibly forfeited their down payment. Smith will bring back to next month's meeting.

11. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

None

12. BILLS / REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

It was moved by Supervisor Theer seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and carried to approve bills being paid for the month of April by Forestry and Parks and the Florence Natural Resource Center.

13. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Supervisor Modschiedler seconded by Supervisor Mills and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 5:07 PM.

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