

FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING
4:00 PM - WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024
LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - LOWER LEVEL
FLORENCE NATURAL RESOURCE CENTER, FLORENCE, WI 54121

PRESENT:

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

FRAN MODSCHIEDLER
MATT BRUNETTE
JOE MILLS
HENRY SULLIVAN
CHARLES KELSTROM
DAN REYNOLDS – PHONE
TYLER WOOD
PAT SMITH
TAYLOR ZIOLKOWSKI
MARY PODNAR

ABESENT 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. Joe Mills was nominated by Supervisor Brunette and seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler. Being no other nominations a unanimous vote was taken to elect Joe Mills 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. Matt Brunette was nominated by Supervisor Modschiedler. Being no other nominations a unanimous vote was taken to elect Supervisor Brunette as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

4. APPROVAL / AGENDA

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

5. APPROVAL / MINUTES

It was moved by Supervisor Brunette seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of April 10, 2024 as read.

6. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Meg Dallapiazza thanked the Department for allowing use of the Lodge for the Dollars for Scholars banquet.

Also, Mary Brunette thanked Forestry & Parks for the amazing job on the horse trails.

7. AGENCY REPORTS

A. USFS

USFS Timber Management Assistant Dan Reynolds reported they are under a hiring freeze. They sold a timber sale last week and are now working on a sale package out of Morgan Lake. They have noticed that sale activities are picking up.

B. DNR – TYLER WOOD

DNR County Forester Tyler Wood said they had roughly 30 hours of time standards left. The State has one active sale. Getting ready to advertise Summer Timber Sales in June. Prescribed burns will be starting soon.

8. COUNTY FOREST

A. PRESENTATION

Administrator Smith presented a slide show on what Forestry & Parks does.

B. WCFA REPRESENTATIVE

It was moved by Supervisor Modschiedler and seconded by Supervisor Brunette and unanimously carried to appoint Supervisor Henry Sullivan as Florence Counties WCFA Representative.

C. TIMBER SALE UPDATE

Assistant Administrator Taylor Ziolkowski reported two active timber sales in the County.

D. APPROVE SPRING TIMBER SALE BIDS

Ziolkowski passed around the Spring 2024 Timber Sale Bid Summary. It was moved by Supervisor Brunette and seconded by Supervisor Sullivan and carried to approve the bids from the 2024 Spring Sales.

E. FIA/LYME LAND & EASEMENT EXCHANGE

Smith explained an access issue that has come up from an adjacent landowner off of Rock Creek Road in the Town of Fence. In looking into the issue - Smith discovered that the county access to the "Camp 1" block of land is clouded. Smith is working with Huber and Lyme Timber to resolve the issue which should help to provide public access to the "Camp 1" block for the public and clear up access in the area. The first part of the solution was done by the county and now we are working on the next part where the Goodman Forest would deed the old Goodman Grade road to the county. It was moved by Supervisor Brunette and seconded by Supervisor Sullivan and unanimously carried to accept the deed for the railroad grade from Goodman Timber.

F. APPROVE TRUCK BIDS

Smith said he received one bid from Stateline Chevrolet but the bid came in higher than he had budgeted. This item was tabled until next month for Smith to negotiate with Stateline and to try and contact a State representative to find a cheaper price. Tyler Wood said he could provide a contact to Smith.

G. ADVERTISE FORESTRY TECH POSITION

Smith passed around the final job description for the Forestry and Parks Technician position. Smith did add a requirement for a CDL. It was recommended that Forestry and Parks follow Highways hiring practices for obtaining a CDL. After discussion - it was moved by Supervisor Brunette and seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to approve hiring Forestry & Parks Tech position with the stipulation that if candidate does not have CDL – County will pay for class if they sign contract to stay with County for 3

years.

9. RECREATION

A. WEST BASS BATH HOUSE

Smith said the West Bass bath house and landscaping are complete. They will be adding a water softener, turning on the water, and final walk-through next week.

B. LOON LAKE CARRY-IN ACCESS

Smith said Loon Lake "Park" – should be listed as Loon Lake "Carry-In Access." It was listed differently in areas – so all references have been changed to Loon Lake Carry-In Access. He also said the ramp was fixed and no driving signs put up. This item will remain on next month's agenda.

10. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT

Smith updated the Committee with issues he has been having with the agreement/contract the USFS wants the County to sign in order to pay their portion of the building bills. The Committee agreed that Smith had permission to contact the County's attorney for guidance if needed.

11. COMMITTEE MEMBER'S COMMENTS & CONCERNS

Supervisor Brunette again thanked the department for the work done on the horse trails – they look great.

12. BILLS / REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER

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

13. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned by Supervisor Mills at 5:36 PM.

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