

**FLORENCE COUNTY FORESTRY & PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**4:00 PM - WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2024**  
**LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM - LOWER LEVEL**  
**FLORENCE NATURAL RESOURCE CENTER, FLORENCE, WI 54121**

**PRESENT:**

CHAIRMAN / COMMITTEE MEMBER	JOE MILLS
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER	FRAN MODSCHIEDLER
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER	MATT BRUNETTE
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER	HENRY SULLIVAN
SUPERVISOR / COMMITTEE MEMBER	CHARLES KELSTROM
USFS TIMBER MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT	DAN REYNOLDS – PHONE
DNR – COUNTY FOREST LIAISON/STATE LAND FORESTER	TYLER WOOD
FORESTRY & PARKS ADMINISTRATOR	PAT SMITH
FORESTRY & PARKS BUSINESS MANAGER	MARY PODNAR

**ABESENT OR EXCUSED:** None

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

Chairman Joe Mills called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM. Roll call was taken – all were present.

**2. APPROVAL / AGENDA**

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

**3. APPROVAL / MINUTES**

It was moved by Supervisor Modschiedler seconded by Supervisor Brunette and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of June 12, 2024 Committee meeting.

**4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Jay Weber said there were two orange no overnight parking signs at the North Lake boat landing and now there is only one. He asked if the second sign will be replaced. Administrator Pat Smith said no – it will be used as a spare.

**5. AGENCY REPORTS**

**A. USFS**

USFS Timber Management Assistant Dan Reynolds reported they are under a hiring freeze. There are 5 active timber sales in the Morgan Lake area. There will be a bid opening on July 30<sup>th</sup> for two timber sales.

**B. DNR – TYLER WOOD**

DNR County Forester Tyler Wood said they have met their time standards for the County. There are no active sales. Two of the three timber sales sold at their bid opening. Supervisor Henry Sullivan asked of GNA work is still on hold for the State – and Wood said yes it is. The department will finish up the work they have on the books – but there is nothing planned so far for 2025.

## **6. COUNTY FOREST**

### **A. TIMBER SALE UPDATE**

Smith reported one active timber sale in the County. Been busy working on Fall Timber Sales.

### **B. JANITORIAL POSITION INTERVIEWS**

Smith said there was some confusion as to who was going to conduct interviews for this position. It sounds like Building & Grounds will be handling getting the position filled. Discussion was had about where the supervisor duties should be – consensus was it should be supervised in this building.

### **C. FORESTRY TECH POSITION INTERVIEWS**

Interviews for the Forestry Technician position will be held on July 25<sup>th</sup> beginning at 4:00 PM.

## **7. RECREATION**

### **A. SKI HILL – CARPET REPLACEMENT**

The carpet has been installed at the Keyes Peak Lodge and it looks good. They plan on buying extra boxes for future replacement.

### **B. NORTH LAKE BOAT LANDING**

Smith passed around the North Lake Boat Launch & parking lot drawings and pricing from Coleman Engineering. Smith answered questions. He will send a copy of the plans and pricing to SECOLA. It was moved by Supervisor Brunette and seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to approve applying for grants for the project.

### **C. LOON LAKE ACCESS PERMIT**

Smith passed around a Private Access Permit for the upper road at Loon Lake. It is the standard permit the County has used in the past. Supervisor Sullivan would like to see a “duration statement” included in the permit. For the lower road – Smith passed around a Temporary Access Agreement for the sole purpose of obtaining ingress and egress across the land owned by Florence County.

The property owners agreed with the upper road use agreement – but not with the lower. Much discussion was had with the property owner and Committee to try and reach resolution. The property owners would like the Supervisors to come to property to see why they feel they do not need an agreement.

It was moved by Supervisor Sullivan and seconded by Supervisor Brunette and unanimously carried to approve the upper road access permit which includes a “duration statement”.

It was moved by Supervisor Kellstrom and seconded by Supervisor Modschiedler and unanimously carried to table the Private Access Permit for the lower road. The Committee agreed to meet at the Loon Lake property at 3:30 before next months Committee meeting and will make a decision at that time.

Supervisor Sullivan wants the Committee to understand that it is not okay for one member of the public to have motorized access to public property while others do not. In trying to work with the property owner – he feels an access agreement should be given for both the property owner and the County so both can use the road.

### **D. APPROVE ACCESS PERMITS**

Smith passed around a Private Access Permit for another property in the County. The property owner has agreed to sign. Again, Supervisor Sullivan would like to a “duration statement” added. It was moved by

Supervisor Sullivan and seconded by Supervisor Brunette and unanimously carried approve the Private Access Permit with the duration statement added.

**E. LAKE EMILY PAVING BIDS**

Lake Emily paving bids will be opened and approved before the Forestry Technician interviews.

**8. ADMINISTRATORS REPORT**

Smith said the cement for the pavilion at the Keyes Peak Lodge has been poured.

The Sea Lion Lake and Patten Lake docks have been damaged and the department has been trying to get them fixed.

The Cosgrove Lake property encroachment issue is partially done. Deeds have been recorded. One more piece to complete.

In working with our DNR Grant Specialist – gravel has been pre-bought to use up the remaining balance on our Snowmobile & ATV maintenance grants. This should help us with our rehab grant applications.

Smith met with Supervisor Brandt and answered questions regarding carbon credits. Supervisor Brandt would like to see the County move forward with this. Smith is still working on it with assistance from Corp Counsel.

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

Supervisor Brunette said horse club is working on maps and will send to Forestry & Parks to make sure everything looks good. He also said there were a lot of rocks at the Bush Lake Flats and asked if there were grants available to get them removed. He also suggested the possibility of banning fireworks at the campgrounds. Smith will put on next months agenda.

Supervisor Sullivan asked when the next Recreation Plan meeting will be. Smith will plan before next months meeting. He also inquired about the Mountain Bike Trail. He would like to see it advertised and suggested the DTN & County websites. He would also like to see some "pre-advertisement" for the upcoming ski season at Keyes Peak. He believes skiing there is a unique and affordable opportunity for families.

Supervisor Modschiedler received a phone call about a road and the club needs to quit grooming because they tore up the fiber optics. Smith will look into with the DNR.

**10. BILLS / REVENUES – FORESTRY & RESOURCE CENTER**

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

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting was adjourned by Supervisor Mills at 6:06 PM.

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