

Land, Water and Forest Resources Committee Agenda

Sawyer County Courthouse
10610 Main Street, Suite 100; Hayward, Wisconsin 54843
email address – forestry@sawyercountygov.org
telephone numbers 715.634.4846



Wednesday, January 11th, 2017, 8:30 a.m.
Assembly Room, Sawyer County Courthouse

1/6/17

1. **Call to order**
2. **Certification of Compliance with open meetings law** (*see packet*)
3. **Approval of December 7th , 2016 LW&FR Committee Minutes**
4. **Public Comments**
5. **Event dates:** - Seeley Big Fat Race- January 22nd 2017, Borah Epic- June 3rd 2017, Birkie Tour- January 15th 2017
6. **Land Records and County Surveyor Department**
 - A. Presentation on GIS (*Information Only*)
 - B. County Report (*Information Only*)
7. **Sawyer County Forestry Department**
 - A. Work Plan/ DNR partnership meeting minutes (*Approval Needed*)
 - B. Recreational Trails Report (*Information Only*)
 - C. County and DNR forestry reports (*Information Only*)
8. **Zoning/Conservation Department**
 - A. County Report (*Information Only*)
 - B. NRCS report (*Information Only*)
 - C. LCO report (*Information Only*)
9. **Zoning/Conservation Department Presentation** (*Information Only*)
10. **Next Meeting Date and Future Topics**

Future agenda items: Birch Lake Dam, Forestry Permit Policy
11. **Other topics for Discussion**
 - A. Other Topics for discussion
12. **Adjournment**

Meeting Schedule (*all meeting are held at 8:30 Am at the Sawyer County Court house in the assembly room*)

Tentative Schedule for 2017

February 8th, March 8th, April 12th, May 10th, June 7th, July 12th, August 9th, September 13th,
October 11th, November 8th, December 7th.

Carol Williamson, Sawyer County Clerk
Sawyer County Courthouse
10610 Main Street, Suite 10; Hayward, Wisconsin 54843
email address – cwilliamson@sawyercountygov.org
telephone numbers 715.634.4866 and toll free 877.699.4110



January 9, 2017 (9:45 a.m.)

Note: The following committees, commissions, and boards may take action on any or all items listed on the agendas for the meetings included in this notice.

Sawyer County Record
pkilian@sawyercountyrecord.net

WRLS Radio
sklohn@cheqnet.net

WOJB Radio
frontdesk@wojb.org

Sawyer County Gazette
gazette@centurytel.net

WHSM Radio
radio@whsm.com

members – Sawyer County
Board of Supervisors

The **Public Safety Committee** of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors will meet on Tuesday; January 10, 2016; at 8:30 a.m.; in the Assembly Room of the Sawyer County Courthouse. The agenda will include: Meeting agenda; Minutes of December 6, 2016 meeting; Audience recognition; Sheriff's Department report, including Jail report, Employee Recognition, and Animal Control report; Committee meeting date and time; Coroner's report; Emergency Management Department report; Judge's and Clerk of Court's Office reports, including Resolution Authorizing the Sawyer County Clerk of Circuit Court to Enter into an Agreement with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue for Unpaid Debt Collection; Child Support Department report; District Attorney's Office report; Ambulance Service Department report; Other matters for discussion only.

The Sawyer County **Health and Human Services Board** will meet on Tuesday; January 10, 2016; at 6:30 p.m.; in the Assembly Room of the Sawyer County Courthouse. The agenda will include: Meeting agenda; Minutes of December 6, 2016 meeting; Audience recognition; Health and Human Services Department report, including LCO Liaison Committee report; Residential services (Transitions); Economic Support Consortium update; Oasis juvenile residential facility; Budget performance report; ADRC/Senior Resource Center Collaboration; Public Health Programs; HHS Committee Mission Statement; Intensive Supervision Program; Other matters for discussion only.

The Sawyer County **Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee** will meet on Wednesday; January 11, 2016; at 8:30 a.m.; in the Assembly Room of the Sawyer County Courthouse. The agenda will include: Meeting agenda; Minutes of December 7, 2016 meeting; Audience recognition; Event dates including Seeley Big Fat Race and Borah Epic; Land Records and County Surveyor Department report including presentation on GIS; Forestry Department report, including Work Plan/DNR partnership meeting minutes, recreational trails report, and County and DNR forestry reports; Zoning and Conservation Department report, including NRCS report, and LCO report; Zoning/Conservation Department Presentation; Other matters for discussion only.

The **Public Works Committee** of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors will meet on Wednesday; January 11, 2016; at 6:30 p.m.; in the Assembly Room of the Sawyer County Courthouse. The agenda will include: Meeting agenda; Minutes of December 7, 2016 meeting;

Audience recognition; Highway Department report, including Highway Commissioner's report and Ordinance Establishing a Speed Zone on County Road KK; Sawyer County Airport report, including L & L Aviation (contracted Airport management) report; Maintenance Department report, including project report; Other matters for discussion only.

The **Administration Committee** will meet on Thursday; January 12, 2016; at 8:30 a.m.; in the Assembly Room of the Sawyer County Courthouse. The agenda will include: Meeting agenda; Minutes of December 8, 2016 meeting; Audience recognition; Veterans Service Department report; County Treasurer's report; Information Technology Department report, including Update on new website; County Administrator's report, including year to date expense and revenue reports, Resolution to Carryover Funds from the 2016 Information Technology Department Budget to the 2017 Capital Improvements Department Budget – Courtroom Audio/Video System, Resolution to Carryover Funds from the 2016 Veterans Department Budget to the 2017 Veterans Department Budget for Veterans Relief Fund, Resolution to Carryover funds from the 2016 Budget to the 2017 Budget for the Law Enforcement Radio Upgrade, Resolution to Carryover Funds from the 2016 UW Extension Department Budget to the 2017 UW Extension Department Budget – 1st Impression Grant, Resolution to Carryover Funds from the 2016 Emergency Government Department Budget to the 2017 Emergency Government Department Budget - Donations; **Closed Session**, pursuant to section 19.85 (1)(c) Wisconsin Statutes, for Sawyer County Administrator performance evaluation. Other matters for discussion only.

The **Sawyer County Board of Supervisors** will meet on Thursday; January 19, 2016; at 6:30 p.m., in the Large Courtroom of the Sawyer County Courthouse. The agenda for the meeting will be provided on the Friday before the meeting.

The **Zoning Committee** of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors will meet on Friday; January 20, 2016; at 8:30 a.m.; in the Large Courtroom of the Sawyer County Courthouse. The Zoning Department provides notice of Zoning Committee meetings, including agenda items.

cw

Carol Williamson, Sawyer County Clerk

Any person wishing to attend who, because of a disability, requires accommodation, should call the Sawyer County Clerk's Office (715.634.4866) at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.

Copies (by email) to Sawyer County Record, Sawyer County Gazette, WRLS, WHSM, WOJB, and the Hayward Library and Village of Winter for posting

**Minutes of the meeting of the Sawyer County Land, Water and Forestry Resources
Committee Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Assembly Room; Sawyer County Courthouse**



Committee Members Present:

Bruce Paulsen, Brian Bisonette, Elaine Nyberg, Ron Buckholtz, James Bassett

County Personnel Present:

Tom Hoff, Greg Peterson, Dianne Ince, Carol Williamson, Dan Pleoger, Tim Seidl
Jessica Kujala, Paula Chisser

Also Present:

Dick Dewhurst, Linda Zillmer, Phil Nies, Terrell Boettcher, Don Mrotek, Roy Zubrod,
Ben Popp

Call to Order- Bruce Paulsen calls meeting to order at 8:30am

Approval of November 9th Meeting Minutes- Motion by Buckholtz, 2nd by Bassett to approve November minutes, motion carried

Events- Lions Pre-Birkie- February 11th, 2017. Chequamegon Fate Tire Festival- September 16th 2017 Motion by Bassett 2nd by Buckholtz to approve event contingent on receiving proper insurance, motion carried

Review Bids for InRem Abstracting- (See packet for information) Dianne Ince presented a summary of the two bids for abstracting the 2012 delinquent tax parcels. Ince, recommends that the County go with Knight Barry Title. Motion by Bassett, 2nd by Buckholtz to go with Ince's recommendation, Motion carried.

Land Records and County Surveyor Department

County Report – Nothing to report

Sawyer County Forestry Department

Birkie Agreement- the Committee reviews the agreement (see packet) Paulsen has a small suggestion to add an additional line, all parties agree with the small update. Nyberg makes a motion to approve the agreement with the talked about change and send to the County Board. 2nd by Buckholtz, motion carried.

2016 Budget adjustment for GNA- Peterson explains to the Committee that we had not adjusted this year's budget for the reimbursement of the GNA program. The reimbursement money has already been received however the budget needs to be adjusted so that the money can be put into the correct accounts. Motion by Bassett, 2nd by Bisonette to adjust the 2016 budget for the GNA program, motion carried

Recreational Trails Report- Don Mrotek reports that trails are looking good and everyone is looking forward to snowmobile season.

County report- (See information packet)

Zoning/Conservation Department

Set Crop Prices- Tim Seidl explains the wildlife damage program to the Committee, and presents a hand out with the average crop prices for 2016. Seidl recommends the committee that we use the overall averages that are represented on the hand out to set the crop prices. Motion by Bassett to approve recommended prices, 2nd by Buckholtz, motion carried.

County Report (See Packet for Report)

Zoning/Conservation Department presentation- Presentation moved to next month's agenda

Adjourned - Motion by Bisonette, 2nd by Buckholtz, to adjourn. Motion carried

Minutes prepared by Forestry Secretary Jessica Kujala

SAWYER COUNTY APPLICATION FOR USE OF COUNTY FOREST LANDS

Application must be submitted to the Sawyer County Forestry Office, Sawyer County Courthouse, 10610 Main Street, Suite 100, Hayward, WI 54843, **60 days prior to the event.**

Please include a **copy of the entry form and route map** with your application.

Date of Application Dec. 13, 2017 Date of Event Jan. 22, 2017

Name of Event Seeley Big Fat Race

Type of Event (please describe in detail)

Low-key, fat bike race on existing mountain bike trails and fat bike routes.

Responsible Person

Ron Bergin

Phone Number

715/798-3599

Address

P.O. Box 141

Cable

WI

54821

Street/Box/Fire Number

City

State

Zip

Fee Schedule: \$1.00 per entrant

Number of Entrants 75-100

Entry Fee \$40.00

Payment is due 10 days after the event. Checks should be made payable to the Sawyer County Treasurer and forward to the Sawyer County Forestry Department, Sawyer County Courthouse, 10610 Main Street, Suite 100, Hayward, WI 54843.

Proof of Insurance must be provided at least 15 days prior to the event. Please note that you will be required to name Sawyer County as co-insured.

SAWYER COUNTY APPLICATION FOR USE OF COUNTY FOREST LANDS

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Please include a copy of the entry form and route map with your application.

Date of Application 12/20/16 Date of Event 06/03/17

Name of Event Borah Epic

Type of Event (please describe in detail)

Mountain bike race/event from Cable to Hayward

Responsible Person	Phone Number
<u>Jack Zabrowski</u>	<u>608-381-1033</u>

Address			
<u>308 24th St. N.</u>	<u>La Crosse</u>	<u>WI</u>	<u>54601</u>
Street/Box/Fire Number	City	State	Zip

Fee Schedule: \$1.00 per entrant

Number of Entrants 600 Entry Fee \$65-80

Payment is due 10 days after the event. Checks should be made payable to the Sawyer County Treasurer and forward to the Sawyer County Forestry Department, Sawyer County Courthouse, 10610 Main Street, Suite 100, Hayward, WI 54843.

Proof of Insurance must be provided at least 15 days prior to the event. Please note that you will be required to name Sawyer County as co-insured.



Sawyer County Forestry Department

Sawyer County Courthouse

10610 Main Street, Suite 100

Hayward, WI 54843

Phone: (715) 634-4846

Fax: (715) 638-3234

SAWYER COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT ANNUAL WORK PLAN FOR 2017

Following is the proposed Sawyer County Forest work plan for the year 2017. The plan gives direction and meaning to the proposed County Forest budget. The plan further defines and supplements the Sawyer County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan and emphasizes the current needs of the County Forest and Recreational System.

- **FORESTS**

The Sawyer County Forest (SCF) is 115,197 acres in size.

The following list shows the acreage of productive forested land by various timber types on the SCF:

- **Forest Cover:**

Aspen	39,348
Northern Hardwood	24,904
Oak	9,818
White Pine	4,596
Swamp Hardwood	2,737
Black Spruce	2,465
Red Pine	2,237
Tamarack	1,443
Red Maple	995
White Spruce	764
Cedar	334
Jack Pine	141
Swamp Conifer	72
Hemlock	60
Balsam Fir	46
White Birch	34

Total Productive Forested Acres 89,994

**Non-productive/ Non-forested acreage accounts for 25,203 acres*

I. TIMBER HARVEST

Timber harvests are not only important for the economic well being of Sawyer County, but also for the health and vigor of the forest. This includes all aspects of the forest including wildlife, watershed protection, air quality, recreation, and many other noncommercial values. Professional implementation of proper forest management and harvest techniques is essential. The timber management goal is to produce sustained yields of forest products by scheduling timber sales to achieve the average annual allowable cut. The long term goal is to develop a regulated harvest in which the same number of acres or same volume of wood could be harvested each year for perpetuity. A regulated harvest can occur when there is a proper balance in age class distribution and uniform growth rates for each forest type. Compartment reconnaissance information from the Wisconsin Forest Inventory & Reporting System (WisFIRS) will be used to determine where timber harvesting is needed. Sawyer County Forest plans to assess approximately 7500 for harvest. From that acreage, SCF plans to offer for sale approximately 3600 acres of timber in accordance with the 2017 Annual Allowable Cut (excluding salvage operations due to unknown occurrences) in the following timber types in 2017:

	<u>Un-Even Aged Harvest/Thinning</u>	<u>Even-Aged Harvest Harvest/Thinning</u>
Northern Hardwoods	1325	65
Aspen	0	875
Oak	60	525
White Pine	0	295
Red Pine	0	215
Swamp Hardwood	15	50
Tamarack	0	20
Red Maple	30	15
White Spruce	0	50
Black Spruce	0	50
	1430	2160

II. TIMBER SALE ESTABLISHMENT

- A. Set up and offer for sale approximately forty (40) sales totaling approximately 35,000 cords and 1,400 MBF. Two timber sale bid openings will be conducted in 2017. Each bid opening will offer approximately ½ of the annual allowable cut acres.

III. TIMBER SALE INSPECTIONS

- A. Maintain a continual program of inspections on all of the timber sale contracts for the purpose of checking completion status, contract compliance, and to prevent timber theft. Active timber sales will be visited a minimum of once per week. SCF staff with assistance from the DNR Liaison Forester will be responsible for this work.

IV. FOREST REVENUE

- A. Projected 2017 timber sale revenue \$1,750,000

V. FOREST RECONNAISSANCE

- A. Continue to update and maintain SCF recon data. SCF staff will be responsible for updating recon records on their assigned compartments. The Liaison Forester is responsible for updating recon records on DNR assigned compartments. The target for recon updates for 2017 is 6000 acres to be updated in the SCF recon system.

VI. REFORESTATION

- A. Conduct pre-sale scarification on timber sales for oak, white pine and northern hardwood regeneration where conditions are advantageous.
- B. Conduct eighth year planting on site established for Winter School District. Ten acres has been prepared to plant over the coming years. Herbicide will need to be applied to the site this year to release the planted seedlings from competition from on site vegetation.
- C. Evaluate possible sites for future regeneration projects such as pre- and post-sale scarification, possible planting sites.

VII. TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

There are no non-commercial TSI projects planned.

VIII. COUNTY FOREST ROADS

The SCF does not have any officially designated county forest roads and does not receive any county forest road aid.

IX. ROADS AND TRAILS

- A. Road and Access Plan.
 - 1. Make maps available to the public for all recreational activities on the county forest.
 - 2. Inform public of changes made to access.
 - 3. Continue to maintain signs on roads and trails in accordance with Road and Access Plan.
 - 4. Review road and access plan with Forestry Committee for possible changes in road/trail designation.
- B. Continue to plan all roads and access.
- C. Continue to berm or gate roads and trails as need arises for erosion control to assure BMP issues are addressed or to protect sensitive areas.
- D. Enforce seasonal closure period for forest roads and trails during spring break up.
 - 1. Inform public of road closure.
- E.. Improve trails for timber sale access and roads open to public motor vehicle access with a priority on those areas where damage is occurring due to high public use, or problem areas identified as part of the GPS classification. Permanent secondary trails should also be given a priority.

X. LAND ACQUISITION

- A. Follow direction of 15-Year Plan and as approved by Forestry Committee:
 - 1. Evaluate land purchases as presented to Forestry Committee for possible County Board approval.
 - 2. Evaluate land trades as presented to Forestry Committee for possible County Board approval.
 - 3. Pursue grant funding sources for any approved acquisition project.

XI. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)/COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

- A. Continue to operate and maintain currency of GIS system including roads and trails, historical timber sales, and other layers for public information.

XII. SURVEYING

- A. Utilize Trimble GPS unit to locate interior property corners where section corners are available and to establish approximate county forest property boundaries where necessary for tract establishment.
- B. Present to committee problem areas for certified survey or re-monumentation efforts. Surveys generally are needed to prevent timber trespass or to clarify boundaries in order to continue management.

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS FOREST ACTIVITIES

- A. Monitor camping policy on County Forest for possible problems and/or changes to policy that will improve camping opportunities on forest.
- B. Issue and administer firewood, Christmas tree, camping, and bough harvesting permits.
- C. Continue to detect and treat confirmed positive oak wilt sites on County Forest to prevent further spread. Continue to monitor previously detected and treated sites.
- D. Continue to monitor and plan for positive confirmation of Emerald Ash Borer.

XIV. RECREATION TRAILS

- A. Snowmobile Trails
 - 1. Provide 68.6 miles of state funded snowmobile trails on County Forest. Sawyer County will continue to maintain 385.3 miles of state funded snowmobile trails including 50.5 miles of Tuscobia State Trail contracted with the Sawyer County Snowmobile/ATV Alliance. Grant funded, \$96,325
 - 2. Apply for grant funding where needed for any trail improvements or bridge repairs/replacement.

- B. ATV/UTV Trails
 - 1. Provide 50 miles of summer ATV/UTV trails on County Forest. Sawyer County will continue to maintain 144.9 miles of state funded summer ATV/UTV trails including 50.5 miles of Tuscobia State Trail contracted with the Sawyer County Snowmobile/ATV Alliance. Grant funded, \$101,430.
 - 2. Provide 50 miles of winter ATV trails on County Forest. Sawyer County will continue to maintain 149.8 miles of winter state funded ATV trails including 50.5 miles of Tuscobia State Trail contracted with the Sawyer County Snowmobile/ATV Alliance. Grant funded \$14,980.
 - 3. Complete trail 8 ATV development project connector between Jolly Fisherman Rd. and Seeley Fire Lane. Grant amount \$124,733.
 - 5. Apply for grant funding where needed for any trail improvements or enhancements.

- C. Ski Trails
 - 1. American Birkebeiner Trail
The American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation (ABSF) maintains and grooms the Birkebeiner Trails including the Birkie, Birkie Classic, and "OO" Loop Trails as a skiing and hiking trail for Sawyer County. Maintenance and grooming costs are largely paid by the Foundation itself.

2. Hatchery Creek Park Trails
ABSF maintains and grooms the Fish Hatchery Park ski trail. Continue cooperation with the ABSF and Sawyer County Land and Water Conservation Department.
3. Seeley Trails
The Seeley Trails are maintained and groomed primarily by the Seeley Lions Club.

D. Bike Trails

1. Continue to work with Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) to maintain mountain bike trails both the singletrack trail system and two track trails located on forest roads within the SCF.
2. Continue working with bike groups to provide snow/fat bike opportunities within County Forest.

E. Hunter Walking Trails

1. Maintain established trails.
2. Mow approximately twenty percent of existing trails; work in conjunction with DNR Wildlife and local conservation groups.
3. Identify new possible trail locations based on need and habitat considerations

F. Hiking Trails

1. Continue working with Southwest Sawyer County Non-motorized trail group to maintain Green Lake trail, and assist with any further developments of hiking trails.

G. NoRTAC (Northern Region Trail Advisory Committee)

1. Continue participation in regional trail committee to address trail needs and issues within the region.

XV. FISH and WILDLIFE

A. Nickel an Acre

County receives \$5,760/year for Wildlife Management related activities on County Forest. A maximum of three years of funding can be accrued.

Approved Funding Activities

1. Building of berms/ installation of gates on closed access roads. (In accordance with the Access Management Plan).
2. Purchase of land for public access into the Seeley Block off of Lugner Road.
3. Scarification work for red oak regeneration.
4. Purchase of grass seed for seeding and stabilizing forest roads after harvest.
5. Construction of access roads to facilitate logging operations in isolated areas.
6. Mowing of hunter walking trails.
7. Wildlife opening maintenance and construction, specifically within the expanded elk range.
8. Purchase of prescribed fire equipment for county staff.

Information about timber sale activities or any other Forestry Department program may be obtained by contacting the Sawyer County Forestry Department, Sawyer County Courthouse, 10610 Main Street, Suite 100, Hayward, WI 54843. Phone: 715-634-4846 FAX: 715-638-3234.

- **REFERENCES:**

1. Annual Integrated Planning Meeting held on October 28, 2016.
2. Sawyer County Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2006-2020.

2017 Sawyer County Forest and Wisconsin DNR Annual Partnership Meeting Minutes

Date: October 28th, 2016
Time: 9:00 P.M.
Location: Hayward DNR Service Center, 10220 State Highway 27, Hayward, WI 54843

Personnel Present:

Gary Vander Wyst, DNR Upper Chippewa Forestry Area Staff Specialist
Laine Stowell, DNR Wildlife Biologist
James Kujala, DNR Forester
Randy Sobraliski, DNR Forestry Technician
Roy Zubrod, DNR Sawyer County Liaison Forester
Patrick Zimmer, DNR Rusk/Sawyer Team Leader
Larry Glodoski, DNR Upper Chippewa Area Forestry Leader
Greg Peterson, Sawyer County Forest Administrator
David Todus, Forester, Sawyer County
Jeff Steidl, Forester, Sawyer County
Kyle Cummings, Recreational Coordinator/Forester, Sawyer County

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. Review Last Year's Minutes

Discussion by Roy Zubrod. Talking points focused on Elk herd status, Totagatic Flowage, wildlife habitat grant, and forest management on the Sawyer County Forest related to budgets, harvest goals, DNR time standards, recon information, recreation and review of SFI and FSC certification information from prior audits.

2. DNR 3 Year Internal Audit

Discussion by Gary Vander Wyst. Points of interest from the audit focused on 4 areas of discussion:

- a) Distribute payments to townships consistently from one year to the next, prior to January 31st (**Reoccurring from May 2007, July 2010 and April 2014 Audits**). *Forest Administrator will notify County Treasurer of payment deadline. Deadline was met in 2016, 2015 but not 2014.*
- b) Use the exact percentages received from the Department carried out to four places for payments to Towns for 10% severance. (**Refer to Sawyer County Corrected Town Payment Table**). *Forest Administrator will follow through with County Treasurer by providing DOR Document **Acreage by Towns Report 51-A** showing four decimal places. Townships underpaid during the 3 year*

audit period will be paid the difference with January 2017 checks by January 31, 2017.

- c) The amount of Recon Backlog acreage over 20 years old increased by 2,800 acres from the last audit (**Reoccurring from April 2014 audit**) and needs to be eliminated. *A plan to address the backlog was written by Roy Zubrod and sent to Gary Vander Wyst via e-mail on 8/4/2016. Larry Glodoski mentioned the recon backlog process for stands under even-aged management such as aspen is being reviewed for elimination by FOT in the future.*
- d) Assure no more than a three-year allotment total remains in the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Grant fund per statutory requirements (s.23.09(17m)(h), Wis. Stats). (**Reoccurring from April 2014 audit**) *Money from this account (\$5,000.00) was unable to be spent due to an elk project that never happened. The Forest Administrator and DNR Wildlife Biologist will develop an agreed upon project list by December 31st, 2016 for use of the wildlife funds. A copy of this plan will be sent to the County & Public Lands Specialist in Tomahawk, WI.*

3. 2016 Forest Certification Audit

Discussion by Roy Zubrod.

A) SFI – 2016

Minor Non-conformances (CARs) - 1 issued

SFI Minor CAR 2016-1: Use of SFI Logos does not fully conform to Section 5 - Rules for Use of SFI On-Product Labels and Off-Product Marks.

SFI Program Participants with fiber sourcing programs (acquisition of roundwood and field-manufactured or primary-mill residual chips, pulp and veneer to support a forest products facility), must also conform to the SFI 2015-2019 Fiber Sourcing Standard. Use of the SFI on-product labels and claims shall follow Section 5 - Rules for Use of SFI On-Product Labels and Off-Product Marks as well as ISO 14020:2000.

This CAR was issued based on a number of inconsistencies in the way that the SFI logo and references to SFI were depicted, including:

Burnett County, Sawyer County, and Washburn County have a promotional use of the SFI trademark/logo on their load tickets. Logo usage does not conform to the Rules for Use of SFI On-Product Labels and Off-Product Marks. SFI License Code is noted as "SFI-00059", WI-DNR's License Code, rather than the WI County Land's correct License Code of "SFI-01617" or the License Code does not appear at all.

Sawyer County has additional uses of the SFI promotional logo on their "Forest Wood Residue, Forest Twig/Pole Harvesting, Permit to Cut Boughs", Bill to Purchaser, and Timber Sale Contract. Promotional logo is either missing the License Code or has the incorrect License Code as noted above. It is unclear if any of these logo approvals has been applied for and approved. WDNR has a link for the WI County Forest

lands: <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/TimberSales/countyForests.html> This link includes SFI

promotional logo that displays the incorrect license code of “SFI-00059”, WI-DNR's License Code, rather than the correct WI County Land's License Code of "SFI-01617".

This Minor CAR aligns with Major CAR 2016.1 in FSC (see below). The process will be vetted through the WCFA Certification / Legislative Committee at their next meeting on September 29th however it will almost certainly require an initial assessment of the current uses / references to SFI certification by each County. The actions to correct this finding will have a relatively short timeline and will require an assessment of current use, decisions on how best to meet the standard, official approval of proposed uses by SFI, and then implementation by the individual counties.

Sawyer County is currently waiting for direction from the certification committee of WCFA and DNR County Forest & Public Lands Specialist for guidance.

Opportunities for Improvement (OFI) – 1 issued

OFI 2016-1 There is an Opportunity for Improvement in the criteria and implementation of stand level retention within larger Aspen clear-cut blocks.

Leaving standing Aspen trees within aspen clearcut units is occasionally done, generally in association with the protection of other features such as vernal pools or small wetlands or seeps. More often when Aspen are left uncut they are located on the edges of clear-cut units as part of riparian or visual buffers. Identified, isolated live den trees are also left when noticed. Foresters are able to describe many good reasons for not retaining individual or groups of live, standing Aspen trees in Aspen clear-cuts. There is less familiarity with reasons for leaving some.

Sawyer County documents tree retention strategies on 2460 cutting notice when applicable. Adjacent cover types are also incorporated in retention guidelines.

B) FSC-2016

MAJOR Non-conformances (CARs) – 1 issued

FSC Major CAR 2016.1: Promotional use of trademarks, logos and references to FSC certification are out-of-compliance with the current Requirements for use of the FSC trademarks by Certificate Holders FSC-STD-50-001 (V1-2) EN

We were found to have a system-wide (aka widespread, systemic, ...) problem with use of FSC logos and trademarking. This is similar to the Minor CAR issued under SFI but more widespread. We have an accelerated timeline to fix this. Again, this will require an assessment of current use, decisions on how best to meet the standard, official approval of proposed uses by FSC, and then implementation by the individual counties.

Sawyer County is currently waiting for direction from the certification committee of WCFA and DNR County Forest & Public Lands Specialist for guidance.

Observations (Obs) – 3 issued

2016.1 – Observation

Green trees retained in even-aged harvests often do not include the dominant species on the site (e.g. aspen trees in an aspen regeneration harvest).

This is the same finding as in SFI. Leaving standing Aspen trees within aspen clearcut units is occasionally done, generally in association with the protection of other features such as vernal pools or small wetlands or seeps. More often when Aspen are left uncut they are located on the edges of clear-cut units as part of riparian or visual buffers. Identified, isolated live den trees are also left when noticed. Foresters are able to describe many good reasons for not retaining individual or groups of live, standing Aspen trees in Aspen clear-cuts. There is less familiarity with reasons for leaving some.

Sawyer County documents tree retention strategies on 2460 cutting notice when applicable. Adjacent cover types are also incorporated in retention guidelines.

2016.2 – Observation

Timber sale maps in some cases were inaccurate and not detailed enough.

This observation stemmed primarily from a sale containing many small wetlands which were not depicted on the map. The auditors felt that the contractor could not effectively plan for efficient harvest of the sale area without knowing where the small wetlands were. Wetland areas were at risk.

Sawyer County will continue to use hand drawn maps with appropriate symbology identified in the legend. Topics of concern are covered during pre-sale meetings with the contractor and pointed out on the maps.

2016.3 – Observation

Contractors on some sales were not wearing the appropriate safety equipment.

This observation was the result of contractors on active jobs not wearing hard hats when they left the safety of the cab on their forwarder / processor. This seems to happen all too regularly on audits. It is in the Counties' interest to have the OSHA standards enforced to promote safety within our industry; however, they are not required to enforce OSHA standards by the terms of the contract. This was communicated in response to an FSC CAR back in 2012. Doing so would subject the counties to potential liability. It is appropriate to notify the contractor however, when there may be an issue with an unsafe work practice.

Sawyer County foresters are not OSHA certified but will identify safety concerns with contractors. Safety concerns are discussed during pre-sale meetings.

C) CARS & OFI/Observations (both SFI & FSC) from prior audits that may require attention and other potential issues

The following items were mentioned but not discussed as compliance has been achieved from prior audits.

- **Consultation with Indigenous Peoples**

- **FSC - High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) and SFI - Forests with Exceptional Conservation Values (FECV)**
- **Natural Regeneration Monitoring**
- **Pesticide Application Safety & Documentation (FSC criterion 6.6)**
- **Soil Productivity & BMPs**
- **Monitoring Results**
- **Desired Future Conditions**
- **System to Document Road and Trail Conditions (address maintenance, including planning, needs)**
- **Legacy tree & Old Growth definitions & requirements (FSC)**

4. Wildlife Management

Discussion by Laine Stowell.

Elk Status: Talking points focused on releasing 20 elk from Kentucky into the FRSF to supplement existing herd. Elk will arrive in March with a targeted release in July. To improve habitat, a 30 acre site on the FRSF was constructed to support high quality forage.

Trail/Wildlife Opening Maintenance: Due to wet weather, mowing in wildlife openings and hunter walking trails was cut back. The money does not lapse and can be spent in 2017.

Deer Herd: The 2016 Gun and Bow Deer seasons will continue with harvests limited to bucks only. The deer herd is increasing. Observations of Does with one or two fawns are up along with a mild winter are contributing factors.

Other Projects: Peterson will come up with a list of potential projects for approval.

5. Forest Management

Discussion by Roy Zubrod

- County Forest Department budget and accounts.* No change from 2016. Anticipated revenue is projected at 1.5 million dollars
- Timber Sale Establishment Goals.* No change from 2016, The harvest goal will be between 3,500 – 3,600 acres.
- DNR Time Standards.* Currently at 2471 hours. In 2016, hours worked totaled 2705, a difference of +235 hours.
- Dozer Hours on County Forest.* No scarification currently scheduled due to poor acorn crop. 40 hours budgeted for 2017 plus any training hours available.

- e) *Reforestation Projects*. Discussion focused on prescribed burning for oak regeneration. Forest Administrator will seek approval from county board before pursuing.
- f) *Recon % - Acreage Update*. Previously discussed in DNR 3 Year Audit Section.
- g) *Update on Invasive Species*. Sawyer County will monitor and address as needed.
- h) *Updates on Oak Wilt, EAB, etc.* Members of the Forestry Department and DNR attended a meeting in Rusk County on 10/24/2016 facilitated by Paul Cigan, DNR Forest Health Specialist. A preliminary guide for managing ash sites impacted by EAB was covered. Further refinement of the guide will take place and published for future use. Conversation moved towards providing training for industry to facilitate movement of wood for commerce. Paul will put together topics and speakers to get this training available sometime before next spring. The last stop was at a site treated for Oak Wilt. Discussion touched on treatment options and the importance of monitoring.
- i) *Discussion on any of the Forestry Grants*. Sawyer County will be receiving payment for an Administrator's grant that was short.
- j) *Good Neighbor Authority*. First year grant closed out and completed. All work was successfully completed. Established 450 acres and billed \$13,467.83 for services rendered. Completed new work plan and grant application for 2017. Field work is currently in progress. Assigned timber sale administration for Bison North and County Line South. Timber sale establishment assignments include 130 acres of intermediate thinning in oak and hardwood, 423 acres of intermediate thinning in red pine. The county will write the prescriptions and do sale administration for both treatments.
- k) *Recreation*. Sawyer County needs signed copy of MOU for the Tuscobia Trail from DNR. Pat Zimmer will follow through.

6. Any Other Items Requiring Attention/Discussion

None Mentioned.

Forestry Report December 2016

Active Sales

15 sales listed as active in month of December

Sale Date	# of Sales	Acres	Bid Value	Received	Est. Remaining
5/8/12	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
12/12/12	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5/7/13	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
11/5/13	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5/7/14	1	34	\$36,447.50	\$24,645.05	\$11,802.45
11/5/14	2	277	\$177,554.20	\$25,733.23	\$145,820.97
5/13/15	5	458	\$286,225.00	\$220,808.34	\$84,274.80*
4/13/16	6	615	\$631,177.95	\$321,475.30	\$309,702.65
11/4/16	1	81	\$69,980.00	\$10,500.00	\$59,480.00
Totals	15	1465	\$1,195,384.65	\$603,161.92	\$611,080.87

Inactive Sales

Sale Date	# of Sales	Acres	Bid Value	Received	Est. Remaining
5/8/12	2	271	\$86,200.00	\$72,841.99	\$15,001.06*
12/12/12	2	183	\$49,690.00	\$0	\$49,690.00
5/7/13	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
11/5/13	3	347	\$136,876.25	\$59,653.42	\$77,222.85
5/7/14	8	626	\$245,422.50	\$114,572.10	\$144,019.00*
11/5/14	7	598	\$347,466.45	\$54,234.30	\$293,232.15
5/13/15	5	702	\$505,267.45	\$0	\$505,267.45
4/13/16	11	783	\$772,539.50	\$268,357.68	\$509,335.52*
11/4/16	12	1211	\$799,109.35	\$0	\$799,109.35
Totals	50	4721	\$2,942,571.50	\$569,659.49	\$2,392,877.38

* Sales having overruns

** Sales having underruns

Four sales closed out in December

Timber Sale Value (sold contracts-uncut) on file = \$3,003,958

<u>Timber Sale Revenue</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	\$266,889.39	\$1,893,335.65
<u>Other Revenue (Firewood/ Christmas Trees/Boughs/Low Use Access)</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	\$320	\$1,070
Camping Permits	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	\$0	\$1,823
Performance Bond Cashed	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	\$0	\$1,803.00
		<u>Budget</u>
	TOTAL Revenue YTD	\$1,898,032
		\$1,750,000

Timber Sale Inspections	<u># month</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	23	25	239

Comments: Goal for timber sale inspections is generally one inspection per week while sale is actively being harvested or wood is being hauled.

Tract Establishment	<u># sales month/ YTD</u>	<u>acres month/YTD</u>	<u>Goal</u>
	0/23	0/2013	3800

Comments:

<u>Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)</u>
Foresters put in 74 hours of overtime on GNA.

Recon Acres Updated:

<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Annual Goal</u>
369	6664	6,000 acres

<u>Mountain Bike Trails:</u>
Nothing new to report.

<u>Birkie Trail:</u>
Nothing new to report.

<u>ATV/UTV/Snowmobile Trails:</u>
Trail 8 development project continues, scheduled for completion mid- January.

**Permits Issued as of
December 2016**

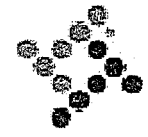
<u>Item</u>	<u>Month Total</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Last YTD</u>
Soil Test	12	238	238
Sanitary	11	322	328
Land Use	16	439	414



Receipts by Payment Code Report

Payment Date Range 12/01/16 - 12/31/16
Summary Listing

Payment Code	Default Bank Account	Number of Transactions	Total Amount Collected
Payment Category Zoning - Zoning Department			
ZN 911 Ap 100-30 - Zoning Fees 911 Application	Peoples checking 153592	4	500.00
ZN Cert Soil Test - Zoning Fees Certified Soil Test	Peoples checking 153592	12	570.00
ZN Co Shr Mining - Co Share/Mining Reclamations	Peoples checking 153592	31	6,565.00
ZN CSM Review - Zoning Fees CSM Review	Peoples checking 153592	1	50.00
ZN City Survey CS - Surveyor Cert Map Review Fees	Peoples checking 153592	1	150.00
ZN Land Use Perm - Zoning Fees Land Use Permit	Peoples checking 153592	16	6,530.00
ZN Miscellaneous - Zoning Fees Misc	Peoples checking 153592	6	245.75
ZN Public Hrg CU - Zoning Fees Public Hearing C U	Peoples checking 153592	1	250.00
ZN Sanitary Prmt - Zoning Fees Sanitary Permit	Peoples checking 153592	10	2,500.00
ZN Sign Permit - Zoning Fees Sign Permit	Peoples checking 153592	2	150.00
ZN St Share Sani - Zoning Fees State Share San Perm	Peoples checking 153592	13	1,350.00
ZN St Shr Mining - State Share Mining Reclamations	Peoples checking 153592	21	1,175.00
ZN Variance - Zoning Fees Variance	Peoples checking 153592	2	800.00
Payment Category Zoning - Zoning Department Totals		120	\$20,835.75
Grand Totals		120	\$20,835.75



Receipts by Payment Code Report

Payment Date Range 01/01/16 - 12/31/16
Summary Listing

Payment Code	Default Bank Account	Number of Transactions	Total Amount Collected
Payment Category Land & Water - Land & Water Conservation			
LW-48600 - Misc General Revenue	Peoples checking 153592	6	346.00
Totals			
		6	\$346.00
Payment Category Land & Water - Land & Water Conservation			
ZN 911 Ap 100-30 - Zoning Fees 911 Application	Peoples checking 153592	116	14,425.00
ZN 911 System - Zoning Fees 911 System/Signing	Peoples checking 153592	4	400.00
ZN Cert Soil Tst - Zoning Fees Certified Soil Test	Peoples checking 153592	236	10,950.00
ZN Co Shr Mining - Co Share/Mining Reclamations	Peoples checking 153592	45	7,590.00
ZN Cond Use Prmt - Zoning Fees Conditional Use Prmt	Peoples checking 153592	2	500.00
ZN CSM Review - Zoning Fees CSM Review	Peoples checking 153592	59	3,087.50
ZN Cty Survey CS - Surveyor Cert Map Review Fees	Peoples checking 153592	71	10,612.50
ZN Land Use Perm - Zoning Fees Land Use Permit	Peoples checking 153592	452	108,259.15
ZN Misc Exp - Zoning Misc Expense	Peoples checking 153592	1	310.58
ZN Miscellaneous - Zoning Fees Misc	Peoples checking 153592	45	2,265.66
ZN Non-Metallic - Non Metallic Mining Deposits	Peoples checking 153592	19	7,100.00
ZN Public Hrg CU - Zoning Fees Public Hearing C U	Peoples checking 153592	23	3,550.00
ZN Rezone - Zoning Fees Rezone	Peoples checking 153592	12	3,000.00
ZN Sanitary Prmt - Zoning Fees Sanitary Permit	Peoples checking 153592	317	73,100.00
ZN SepticSysAid - Septic Tank System Aid-WI Fund	Peoples checking 153592	1	1,422.97
ZN Sign Permit - Zoning Fees Sign Permit	Peoples checking 153592	5	550.00
ZN St San Rebate - Zoning Fees St Sanitary Rebate	Peoples checking 153592	3	300.00
ZN St Share Sani - Zoning Fees State Share San Perm	Peoples checking 153592	277	27,620.00
ZN St Shr Mining - State Share Mining Reclamations	Peoples checking 153592	50	2,760.00
ZN Variance - Zoning Fees Variance	Peoples checking 153592	13	4,900.00
ZN WI Fund Insp - Zoning Fees Wis Fund Inspection	Peoples checking 153592	1	125.00
Payment Category Zoning - Zoning Department Totals			1,752
Grand Totals			\$282,828.36
Grand Totals			\$283,174.36