

**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 Paulson, Brian Bisonette, Elaine Nyberg, Ron Buckholtz, Jim Bassett

County Personnel Present:

Greg Peterson, Dan Pleoger, Dale Olson, Eric Wellauer, Tom Hoff, Kate Clark

Also Present:

Phil Nies, Jan Holmes, Don Mrotek, Roy Zubrod, Joan Cervenka, Frank Zufoldt

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

Approval of February 8th Meeting Minutes- Motion by Buckholtz 2nd by Nyberg to approve February minutes, motion carried

Events- None

Land Records and County Surveyor Department- Dan Pleoger reviews his department's current projects. (information only)

Sawyer County Forestry Department

15 Year Plan Update- Forestry Permit Policy & 2016 Accomplishment Report- (see handout for materials) Greg Peterson, Forestry administrator discusses a few concerns with the 15 year plan, and modifications to address them. The biggest change being permits for organized recreational activities. The Committee discusses this as well as including the permit dollar amount in the county fee schedule. Motion by Nyberg to approve revisions, including the addition that permits are required for organized recreational events involving 25 or more participants. And recommending the approval of the 15 year plan by the County Board as well as updating of fee schedule. 2nd Bassett, motion carried.

Accomplishment Report- (see handout for report) Report needs to be added into the 15 year plan needs approval. Motion by Buckholts, 2nd Bassett to approve the 15 year plan and send to County Board for approval. Motion Carried

Timber Sale Contract Extension/Increase Policy Discussion(Discussion only)- Peterson explains to the Committee that several contractors have reached out to him requesting exemption of price increase on contract extensions due to the poor winter. Some contractors have made attempts to cut and finish jobs however, due to weather conditions were unable to log. Peterson is asking the Committee what procedure they would like him to follow regarding these requests. After discussion the Committee feels that a written statement from Peterson, listing Contractors, and reasons supporting waving extension increases should be brought to next month's meeting. At which time the Committee will approve the requests. Nyberg requests corporate council to review this procedure.

Recreational Trails Report- Don Mrotek gives short reports on rec trails. He reports that it was a short snowmobile season, due to weather. Many ATVs and Fat bikes are already out on the trails.

County report- (See information packet)

DNR- None

Zoning/Conservation Department

POWTS- Eric Wellauer and Katie Clark gave POWTS update for Sawyer County compared to other Counties in the State. (See handout materials) The department has a lake septic survey coming up, and is looking for interns to help with the study. Eric reports on several other topics including, the 2016 audit is now complete and went very well. Also he reports that a portion of their state funding (WI Fund) has been drastically reduced. However they are looking for alternative sources of revenue.

Eric also discussed septic system maintenance and inventory using the Carmody system has not being used to its fullest ability due to being shorthanded. The department does feel that the Carmody system is a good tool however at this time they do not have the man power to use its full potential. To address this issue, a job description has been submitted and hiring process will soon begin, in order to better manage this system.

Request for Town of Lenroot to maintain Nelson Lake Park- Olson explains to the Committee that Lenroot has requested that the County sell then a portion of the property at the Nelson Lake wayside. Lenroot would like to add a pavilion area and make several improvements. Olson is not opposed to selling the property

but is asking the Committee to consider a memorandum of understanding with Lenroot in which they would be able to maintain, and improve the park. Nyberg expresses some concerns with liability. Olson plans to look into the issue and run it by our legal counsel. Motion by Nyberg, 2nd by Bassett to work on creating an MOU with the Town of Lenroot regarding the maintenance of the Nelson Lake Park. Motion Carried

County Report- Dale gave short review of February activities within the department. Dam season is coming up and decisions will need to be made soon regarding how much water needs to be released, and water levels for the coming summer.

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