

**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, Dianne Ince, Paula Chisser, Mike Keefe, Carol Williamson, Tom Hoff, Jessica Kujala

Also Present:

Phil Nies, Don Mrotek, Roy Zubrod, Linda Zillmer, Jedd Kohler, Tom Ricci, John Saunders, Ben Popp, Terrell Boettcher

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

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

Events- Salsa Ride Camp- September 6-10th. Motion by Buckholtz, 2nd by Bisonette to approve event. Motion carried

Birch Lake Dam Maintenance and Funding Options- (*Information Only*) Mike Keefe, introduces the topic of the Birch Lake Dam maintenance funding. Maintenance costs of this dam are shared between Sawyer County, and Washburn County. Jedd Kohler of Washburn County discussed the possibility of using a Special Assessment to fund the costs of dam repairs that are needed. Jedd described the process of Special Assessment, and presented the Committee with some preliminary numbers for the assessed values in Sawyer County and Washburn County. After much discussion the board is not ruling out a special assessment but is open to hearing the other options for funding the maintenance of the dam.

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

Sawyer County Forestry Department

Cooper Land Trade Proposal- Greg Peterson Forestry Administrator discusses a proposed land trade with the Committee. Peterson explains that Dennis Cooper a private property owner has a 35 acre plot of land that is located near a large recreational area of Sawyer County forest. Cooper proposed a land trade of his 35 acres for a 35 acre section of County land that butts up to a different section his property. Cooper would also need an easement from the County to access the property. Peterson tells the Committee that this would be a positive trade for the County as it would help to improve our trail system in the area and both properties were assessed at a similar value. Motion by Buckholtz, 2nd by Bassett to approve land trade proposal and send to county board. Motion carried.

Direct Timber Sale Approval- Peterson informs the Committee of a small patch of land where he would like to develop a tree planting site for the Hayward School. This section of land is right next to a current logging operation. By setting up a Direct Timber Sale for this small area to the contractor who is currently logging in the area, there would be quick turnaround allowing the planting site to be used this year. Motion by Bassett, 2nd by Bisonette to approve direct sale. Motion carried

Timber Sale Extension Policy modification- Peterson reviews the topic which was discussed at last month's meeting. He proposes to allow contractors an increase free renewal upon request, due to the horrible logging conditions this winter. Motion by Nyberg, 2nd by Bisonette to approve, motion carried.

Easement Request Harper Land Trust- Peterson tells the Committee about an easement request for a section of property in Winter that is land locked by County forest. Peterson tells the Committee typically the County does not give easements, instead they offer low use access permits. However in this case a permit is not adequate, as the land owner is trying to sell this property. Any party interested in purchasing this property needs guaranteed access in order to receive any financing and low use access permit does not guarantee access, it only grants it for 5 years at a time. Peterson also tells the Committee that this property at one time had a Town road going through it. Peterson feels that if a Town road had at one time allowed access to this property, access should not be pulled once the road is gone. Motion by Bassett 2nd by Buckholtz, that an easement by written up by attorney allowing permanent access to this property, and that property owner is

responsible for easement fee, attorney costs, and any and all maintenance of the access road. Motion Carried.

“OO” Stewardship Grant Application- Ben Popp of the ABSF discusses building renovations and various development projects that they would like to do at the “OO” trail head. The ABSF would like the County Forestry Department to apply for a Stewardship Grant with the State. This is a 50/50 grant in which the State would fund 50% and the ABSF would cover the other 50%. The ABSF would be responsible for grant compliance and all building codes and regulations. There would be no cost to the County, however because Sawyer County is the land owner the grant must be placed by the County. Motion by Bisonette 2nd by Buckholtz to approve application request, and update Sawyer County Recreational plan to reflect the project. Motion carried.

Spring Timber Sale Bid Approval- Peterson gives a brief overview of the timber sale bid results. Peterson is confident in the abilities of all winning bid contractors and suggests the committee approve the bid applications as presented. Motion by Buckholtz, 2nd by Bassett to approve high bids. Motion carried.

ATV/Snowmobile grant applications approval- Peterson gives Committee a hand out listing the trail maintenance grants the departments is applying for this year. Peterson also seeks approval of the yearly resolution to apply for the grants. Motion by Buckholtz 2nd by Bassett to approve and send to County Board. Motion carried

Recreational Trails Report- Don Morotek give a summary of current trail conditions.

County report- (*See information packet*)

DNR- None

Zoning/Conservation Department

Update on Hausman administrative appeal- Dale Olson Zoning Administrator give a brief overview of the Hausmand hearing. He tells the Committee it was a long 5 day hearing. He expects a decision to be made within the next 30 to 90 days.

County Report- (*see information packet*)

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