



Sawyer County

Agenda

Land, Water, & Forest Resources Committee Meeting

Wednesday, September 13, 2023 @ 8:30 AM

Sawyer County Board Room

Revised: Thursday, September 7, 2023 1:31 PM

Page

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. To view or participate in the **virtual meeting** from a computer, iPad, or Android device please go to <https://zoom.us/j/99719807086> You can also use the dial in at **1-312-626- 6799** with the Webinar ID: 997 1980 7086. Use *9 to Raise/lower hand and *6 to Unmute/mute. If additional assistance is needed please contact the Sawyer County Forestry Office at 715-634-4846 prior to the meeting. This meeting will be recorded and will be available on our website at: <https://sawyercountygov.org>. If you are on a computer, click the "Raise Hand" button and wait to be recognized. If you are on a telephone, dial *9 and wait to be recognized.

2. ROLL CALL

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. At this time, members of the public will be given the opportunity to address the Committee. Please adhere to the following when addressing the Committee:
 - Comments will be limited to 3 minutes or less per individual.
 - Comments should be directed to the Committee as a whole and not directed to individual Committee members.
 - The Committee cannot respond to your comments during this time.
 - Please sign in and fill out a public comment sheet if you wish to speak on an item.

6. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. [8.9.23 LWFRC Minutes DRAFT](#)

4 - 5

7. REGISTER OF DEEDS UPDATE

6

- a. [ROD Monthly Report](#)

8. EVENTS (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

9. LAND RECORDS AND COUNTY SURVEYOR DEPARTMENT REPORT

7

- a. [1\) Surveyor September 2023](#)

10. SAWYER COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

8 - 11

- a. Recreational Trails Report
Motorized-
Non-motorized-

- b. County Forestry Report
[Aug 23 forestry report](#)

12

- c. DNR Forestry Report
[September 13th 2023](#)

11. ZONING/ CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

13 - 15

- a. County Report
[Conservation Department Update Sept 2023](#)
[2024 AIS Grant Summary](#)

16

- b. USDA report
[Farm Service Agency Report](#)
- c. LCO report

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

13. CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

14. ADJOURNMENT

DISCLAIMER:

A quorum of the County Board of Supervisors or of any of its committees may be present at this meeting to listen and observe. Neither the Board nor any of the committees have established attendance at this meeting as an official function of the Board or committee(s) or otherwise made a determination that attendance at the meeting is necessary to carry out the Board or committee's function. The only purpose

for other supervisors attending the meeting is to listen to the information presented. Neither the Board nor any committee (other than the committee providing this notice and agenda) will take any official action with respect to this noticed meeting.

Copy sent via email to: County Clerk and News Media. Note: Any person wishing to attend whom, 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.

Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee Mission Statement: *"Develop, guide and implement policies that protect and ensure the sustainability of our bio-diverse community."*

**Minutes of the August 9th meeting of the Sawyer County
Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Board Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members (X) Present:

- Chair: **Ed Peters**
- Vice Chair – Marc Helwig
- Kay Wilson
- Brian Bisonette – virtual
- Jason Weaver
- Kevin Sheptick

Others Present:

Lynn Fitch
Jay Kozlowski @ 8:45 am
Cathy LaReau
Brody Fischer
Greg Peterson
Brian DeVries
Andy Albarado

Call to Order – Chair Ed Peters called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Certification of Compliance with the open meeting law was met. Roll Call was taken; a quorum was met.

Meeting Agenda –

Public Comments –

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: July 12, 2023

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Helwig Second by: Mr. Sheptick
Motion carried without negative vote.

Register of Deeds Update -

A written report was provided. Activity on real estate transfers is down due to high interest rates.

Events – County Fair

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report -

Written reports were provided; the department had approximately 177 transfers and a record 17 Certified Survey Maps to process in July. The survey crew worked on replacing corners in Highway 70 in the Towns of Draper and Winter. Updates were made to our Corner Monument Record website.

Sawyer County Forestry Department -

Recreational Trails Report – Ms. LaReau advised that the Alliance crews have been repairing trails. They are attempting to get grant funds to help repair LCO trails. Rerouting has become harder to do as property ownership changes. The quarterly NorTac meeting was held in July, and the motorized user survey should be ready to launch this winter and will run an entire snowmobile and ATV season.

County Forestry – A written report was provided; YTD revenue is \$1.5M. Mr. Peterson reviewed other report highlights. Our Sawyer County Forestry Certification Audit passed with flying colors this year. Damage from the summer storm resulted in a forestry sale of some timber.

Closed Session – Trail Right-of-Way Parcel – Eris H Miles Family Trust Parcel – Tax ID 17199 – At 8:50 am a motion was made by Ms. Wilson; second by Mr. Sheptick to enter closed session per Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public lands or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive bargaining reasons require a closed session. A roll call vote was taken and passed 5 – 0 with “yes” votes from Peters, Helwig, Sheptick, Wilson and Bisonette; also in attendance were

Jay Kozlowski, Greg Peterson, and Kathy LaReau. At 9:04 am, a motion was made by Ms. Wilson; second by Mr. Helwig to enter Open Session. Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Albarado provided the parcel data and a Resolution to Authorize the Purchase of Land for Trail Right-of-Way for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Sheptick to accept this resolution with the edits for the 2023 dates and forward to County Board. A voice vote was taken and passed without negative vote.

DNR Forestry – A written report was provided. Mr. Fischer advised that the DNR upgraded the Parks Farm access road in partnership with Sawyer County, and they received high praise from the auditors on this project. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation assisted by funding this project.

Zoning/Conservation Department -

County Report – A written report was provided and reviewed by Mr. Kozlowski. The Zoning Department continues to see above average workflow and permits are up approximately 30% each year over the last three years. These numbers are impacting other services in zoning and conservation.

USDA Report – Mr. Sheptick advised that Governor Evers requested drought assistance for Douglas and Bayfield and other northern counties to provide low-interest loan rates.

LCO Report – Mr. Bisonette reported that they are meeting with the Trails Alliance to discuss trail signage and maintenance support.

Future Agenda Items -

Other Topics for Discussion Only – Mr. Albarado reported on a tour of the DNR nursery that is being repurposed as a seed production facility.

Adjournment – 9:20 am

Next Meeting: September 13, 2023 **Time:** 8:30 am **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

ROD Monthly Report

August, 2023

Activity	Number of Copies	Total Revenue including amounts to State
Emailed Copies		379.00
Counter Copies		265.75
Birth	71	1,047.00
Death	54	1,044.00
Marriage	34	476.00
Divorce	1	20.00
Recorded Documents	506	8,808.98
Transfer Fees		87,722.90
Laredo		3883.50

General:

Revenue for transfer fees surpassed the budgeted amount this month. Currently at 110%



Sawyer County Surveyor's Department
10610 Main Street, Suite 54
Hayward, Wisconsin 54843-0248
Telephone 715-634-3564 Fax 715-634-3546
<https://sawyercountygov.org/>

County Surveyor's Report 9/13/23

In August the survey crew worked on replacing corners in roads in the Towns of Hayward, Round Lake, and in the City of Hayward.

I reviewed eleven Certified Survey Maps and two County Plats in August.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Gregory
Sawyer County Surveyor

Forestry Report August 2023

Active Sales

Thirteen sales listed as active in month of August

Sale Date	# of Sales	Acres	Bid Value	Received	Est. Remaining
11/2/18	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5/3/19	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
11/1/19	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5/5/20	1	27	\$16,825.00	\$5,552.25	\$11,272.75
11/3/20	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5/7/21	4	231	\$292,307.60	\$107,329.85	\$184,977.75
10/22/21	1	68	\$75,660.00	\$11,349.00	\$64,311.00
5/11/22	4	217	\$281,408.00	\$117,198.01	\$164,209.99
11/1/22	1	122	\$155,007.50	\$23,251.05	\$131,756.45
5/10/23	2	110	\$180,982.34	\$55,532.47	\$125,449.87
Totals	13	775	\$1,002,190.44	\$320,212.63	\$681,977.81

Inactive Sales

Sale Date	# of Sales	Acres	Bid Value	Received	Est. Remaining
11/2/18	3	158	\$80,491.75	\$8,175.80	\$72,315.95
5/3/19	2	106	\$46,520.00	\$0	\$46,520.00
11/1/19	1	83	\$83,319.14	\$56,223.74	\$27,095.40
5/5/20	3	247	\$233,488.50	\$270,027.96	\$42,147.04*
11/3/20	4	268	\$275,786.50	\$142,256.28	\$133,530.22
5/7/21	10	921	\$558,176.00	\$23,647.06	\$534,528.94
10/22/21	9	725	\$712,924.20	\$67,361.03	\$645,563.17
5/11/22	14	944	\$884,964.22	\$108,490.77	\$776,473.45
11/1/22	12	1006	\$513,616.70	\$9,840.15	\$503,776.55
5/10/23	15	950	\$1,451,051.14	\$125,559.38	\$1,325,491.76
Totals	73	5408	\$4,840,338.15	\$811,582.17	\$4,107,442.48

* Sales having overruns

** Sales having underruns

One sale closed out in August.

Timber Sale Value (sold contracts-uncut) on file = \$4,789,420.29

<u>Timber Revenue</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Timber Sales	\$104,092.15	\$1,666,917.26
<u>Christmas Trees/Boughs</u>	\$0	\$0
<u>Performance Bond Cashed</u>	\$0	\$16,947.94
<u>Other Revenue</u>		
<u>Camping/Firewood/Access/Hay</u>	\$362	\$502
<u>Park Reservations</u>	\$50	\$610
		<u>Budget</u>
Gross Timber Sale Revenue	\$1,666,917.26	\$1,850,000
10% Payment to Towns	\$ 166,691.73	
Net Timber Sale Revenue	\$1,500,225.53	
Performance Bonds Drawn	\$ 16,947.94	
Total Other Revenue	\$ 1,112.00	
Timber Sale Revenue Billed Out	\$ 92,441.53	

Timber Sale Inspections	<u># month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	27	224

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>
	8/25	604/1886	3600

Comments: Working on timber tract review and preparing for fall timber sale prospectus bid packet.

Recon Acres Updated	<u>August</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Annual Goal</u>
	670	4309	6,000 acres

Comments: Recon is the assessment of geographic, structure and compositional attributes of forest stands. Field information is stored in the Wisconsin Forest Inventory & Reporting System (WisFIRS). Basic resource information is collected, stored and updated systematically and continuously. Database is used to analyze existing resources, evaluate management alternatives and assist in the development and implementation of management plans.

<u>Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Hours</u>	
<u>August</u>	<u>FY24 Contract</u>
0	110
<u>Current Contract:</u>	
Pending Contract FY24 Stands	
Approximately 600 hours timber sale establishment/admin. \$43,775.10.	

Comments: Under the federal Good Neighbor Authority, the USDA Forest Service is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with states to perform forest management activities on national forest lands. WDNR has entered into a GNA agreement with the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF). WDNR is authorized to contract with counties to assist with forest management activities on national forest lands. The focus of the GNA program is to assist in the implementation of the CNNF Forest Plan, which will provide:

- Forest products to the local economy
- Collaboration between federal, state and county forest managers
- Improved health and resiliency of forestlands and watersheds within Wisconsin

Oak Wilt:
DNR conducted aerial survey for oak wilt, several possible sites identified and mapped. Staff currently verifying sites to confirm for oak wilt or two lined chestnut borer.

Mountain Bike Trails:
Nothing new to report.

Birkie Trail:
Nothing new to report.

ATV/UTV/Snowmobile Trails:
Tuscobia Trail rehab project Hwy 27 to Hwy 40 completed, 4.6 miles \$49,250.
Tuscobia Trail rehab project Wooddale Rd. to Wooddale Rd, 2.miles \$43,405.
Projects 100% grant funded.

Parks:
Hatchery Park: Nothing new to report.

Nelson Lake Park: Nothing new to report.

Carbon Credit Project:

Provided additional stand information and GIS data layers.
Anew has awarded the contract for establishing inventory plots to Steigerwaldt Land Services. Have been working Steigerwaldt in the process of establishing 331 inventory plots.

**Sawyer County Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 13th, 2023
DNR Forestry Report for June 2023**

August held the certification audit that came with and “unofficial OFI” for Washburn County. This finding had to do with a timber sale boundary not in compliance with the mandatory BMP’s for water quality. Also, progress has been steady setting up timber sales and preparing them for the bid opening this fall.

On August 21st, I got the chance to go up in the DNR plane with Forest Health Specialist Paul Cigan to look for Oak Wilt symptoms in the Seeley block of the Sawyer County Forest. Approximately 20 locations were taken to then ground truth this fall to find the final verdict.

Report Submitted by Brody Fischer, DNR Forester, on September 1st ,2023



Zoning & Conservation Department Update August 2023 – Sept. 2023

Prepared by Jay Kozlowski, Zoning & Conservation Administrator

- The Assistant Conservationist attended the regional Nutrient Management Update Meeting in Eau Claire.
- Conservation Staff have completed annual shoreline mitigation checks for specialized project. Several letters will be sent to those that are not in compliance with specified mitigation.
- Conservation Staff gave a rain garden presentation for Spider Chain of Lakes Association. Rain gardens are part of mitigation practices for specialized projects and to increase impervious surface amounts.
- Conservation Department is starting to submit orders on tree species for the upcoming spring Tree Sale
- AIS Grant Update

2024 AIS Grant Summary

For next year's funding we went for the "Lake Monitoring & Protection Network (LMPN) Grant". This grant is exclusively for counties and Sawyer County is only 1 of 4 counties that hasn't joined this statewide network yet. We were still locked into another grant program last year and are now applying for the LMPN grant for 2024. These grants are non-competitive and don't need to go through a ranking process like all the other DNR Surface Water Grants. For 2024, they have set aside \$22,681.91 just for Sawyer County. There's also a 90% advance payment with the last 10% of funds saved for final payment. Again, most other DNR grants only give a 25% advance payment and only 67% or 75% of costs are covered depending on the specific grant (see table). The remaining costs are up to the applicant through in-kind donations and their own funding. For this LMPN grant, there is no grant match or in-kind donations required. It's basically free, guaranteed money that renews annually.

For the 2024 grant, we will be asking for the full amount, and with this amount of money up for grabs and Natalie being the only person that does the AIS work, she will have her hands full trying to use up the \$22k. Since this is our first time with the new LMPN Grant, we didn't want to get overwhelmed and wanted to see how this grant plays out (i.e. where there are gaps in the funding, what's covered and not covered) before we would potentially take on other grants to fill in those gaps or start brand new projects. If you have other specific questions on grants or AIS in general you can reach out directly to Natalie.

-Below is a table with all the possible grant options with funding amounts

-Yes, we can apply for multiple grants at a time if we wanted to

-Pre-applications are required and due Sept. 15th

For more detailed information on all DNR Surface Water Grants go to:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/SurfaceWater.html>

Section 1, Table 1. Surface water grants and project types, showing funding caps, cost share rates, maximum grant terms, public access requirements and application deadlines, organized by "Planning" versus "Management" category.

Grant Category	Project Type	Funding Cap	DNR Cost Share	Maximum Grant Term (yrs)	Public Access Required	Application Deadline
Education & Planning	Surface Water Education	\$5,000	67%	3	No	Nov. 15
	Lake, River & AIS Planning	\$10,000	67%	3	No	Nov. 15
	Comprehensive Management Planning for Lakes & Watersheds	\$25,000	67%	3	No	Nov. 15
Management	County Lake Grants	\$50,000	67%	3	No	Nov. 15
	Healthy Lakes & Rivers	\$25,000	75%	3	No	Nov. 15
	Surface Water Restoration (Lakes)	\$50,000	75%	3	Project-specific	Nov. 15
	Surface Water Restoration (Rivers)	\$25,000	75%	3	No	Nov. 15
	Lake & Watershed Management Plan Implementation	\$200,000	75%	3	Project-specific	Nov. 15
	River Management Plan Implementation	\$50,000	75%	3	No	Nov. 15
	Ordinance Development	\$50,000	75%	3	No	Nov. 15
	AIS Prevention & Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW)	\$24,000	75%	CBCW - 1 Other - 4	Project-specific*	Nov. 15
	AIS Early Detection & Response	\$25,000	75%	4	Project-specific	Year-round
	AIS Large-scale Population Management	\$150,000	75%	3	Yes	Nov. 15
	AIS Small-scale Population Management	\$50,000	75%	3	Yes	Nov. 15
	AIS Research & Demonstration (annually)	\$500,000	75%	3	No	Nov. 15
	Lake Fee Simple or Conservation Easement Land Acquisition	\$200,000	75%	3	No	Nov. 15
	River Fee Simple or Conservation Easement Land Acquisition	\$50,000	75%	3	No	Nov. 15
	Wetland Restoration Incentives	\$10,000	100%	3	No	Nov. 15
	Lake Monitoring & Protection Network	Allocation by County	100%	1	No	Nov. 15

*Public access is not required for AIS prevention projects addressing verified species listed as prohibited under ch. NR40.

An applicant may seek multiple grant awards in a single cycle. There is a \$50,000 combined annual limit for education & planning per waterbody or per applicant.

Lake funding is for inland waterbodies only, and wetlands eligible for lake funding must be connected to a lake ecosystem.

Farm Service Agency Update

Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) payments were processed for July 2023 milk. The margin was \$3.52 per cwt. For a producer that had signed up for the \$9.50 coverage level, received a payment of \$5.98 per hundred weight. I'm sure most dairy producers would rather get more for their milk than get the DMC payments.

Sawyer County reached the D2 status for drought (severe drought) for eight consecutive weeks according to the US Drought Monitor, effective date of 8/1. For information, Rusk and Chippewa Counties reached that status effective 9/4. This makes the county eligible for the Livestock Forage Program (LFP). This is based on pasture acres and grazing. If producers didn't report their pasture ground, they can late file and acreage report, which includes paying a late-filing fee of \$46/farm number.

Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP). Deadline to sign up is November 1, 2023. This offers cost-share for certified organic producers to help with some required costs.

November 15th is the final date to report fall planted crops, such as Rye, Wheat, etc.

I have been selected as the County Executive Director (CED) for Eau Claire, Chippewa and Rusk Sawyer Counties as of August 13, 2023. I had been serving as the Program Technician in Charge for about the past year. I would like to attend a meeting at some point to meet everyone. Is the next meeting October 11th at 8:00 a.m.? As long as they don't schedule a meeting for then, would that work for me to come?

I also plan to send updates on a more regular basis.

Thank you!

Amy Moldenhauer
County Executive Director
Farm Service Agency