



# Sawyer County

## Agenda

County Board of Supervisors Meeting  
Thursday, January 21, 2021 @ 6:30 PM

Large Courtroom; Sawyer County Courthouse/Virtual Meeting

Page

### 1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- a. The public is **strongly encouraged** to access the public meeting remotely due to public health and safety concerns. To view or participate in the **virtual meeting** from a computer, iPad, or Android device please go to <https://zoom.us/j/95015680309>. You can also use the dial in number for listening only at 1-312-626-6799 with the Webinar ID: 950 1568 0309. If additional assistance is needed please contact the County Clerk's Office at 715-634-4866 prior to the meeting.
- b. If you are on a computer, click the "Raise Hand" button and wait to be recognized.
- c. If you are on a telephone, dial \*9 and wait to be recognized.
- d. Introduction to the new Farm Service Representative.
- e. 2021 Sawyer County Forest Annual Workplan (Action Item)  
[2021 work plan](#)  
[2020.21 Annual Partnership Meeting Minutes](#)

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### 2. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW

### 3. MEETING AGENDA

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

### 5. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. [County Board 12-17-20](#)

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### 6. APPOINTMENTS

### 7. ZONING COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT

- a. Zone District Map Amendment

**8. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT**

- a. Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update

**9. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT**

**10. LAND, WATER, AND FOREST RESOURCES COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT**

**11. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD CHAIR REPORT**

**12. FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT**

**13. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & UW EXTENSION COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORT**

**14. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

**15. SAWYER COUNTY BOARD/LAC COURTE OREILLES TRIBAL COUNCIL JOINT COMMITTEE UPDATE**

**16. CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS, OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY**

# 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 2021

Following is the proposed Sawyer County Forest work plan for the year 2021. 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	40,094
Northern Hardwood	24,696
Oak	9,976
Black Spruce	5,410
White Pine	4,655
Swamp Hardwood	3,805
Red Pine	2,124
Tamarack	1,734
Red Maple	1,195
Cedar	887
White Spruce	623
Hemlock	487
Jack Pine	136
Balsam Fir	52
White Birch	45

Total Productive Forested Acres 95,919

*\*Non-productive/ Non-forested acreage accounts for 19,278 acres*

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## 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 2021 Annual Allowable Cut (excluding salvage operations due to unknown occurrences) in the following timber types in 2021:

	<u>Un-Even Aged Harvest/Thinning</u>	<u>Even-Aged Harvest Harvest/Thinning</u>
Northern Hardwoods	1375	60
Aspen	0	900
Oak	40	535
White Pine	0	260
Red Pine	0	205
Swamp Hardwood	15	55
Tamarack	0	20
Red Maple	30	15
White Spruce	0	45
Black Spruce	0	50
	<hr/> 1460	<hr/> 2145

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## II. TIMBER SALE ESTABLISHMENT

- A. Set up and offer for sale approximately forty (40) sales totaling approximately 40,000 cords and 1,000 MBF. Two timber sale bid openings will be conducted in 2021. 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 2021 timber sale revenue \$1,850,000

## 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 2021 is 6000 acres to be updated in the SCF recon system.

## VI. REFORESTATION

- A. Conduct pre-sale scarification on timber sales for red oak, white pine, and white birch regeneration where conditions are advantageous.
- B. Conduct tree planting with Hayward and Winter School Districts.
- 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.

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## 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 Land, Water, and Forest Resources 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 Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee:

1. Evaluate land purchases as presented to Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee for possible County Board approval.
2. Evaluate land trades as presented to Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee for possible County Board approval.
3. Pursue grant funding sources for any approved acquisition project.

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## 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. Sawyer County will continue to maintain 383.2 miles of state funded snowmobile trails which includes 50.5 miles of Tuscobia State Trail and 68.6 miles of on County Forest. Maintenance is contracted with the Sawyer County Snowmobile/ATV Alliance. Grant funded, \$114,954.00.
  - 2. Apply for grant funding where needed for any trail improvements or bridge repairs/replacement.

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## B. ATV/UTV Trails

1. Sawyer County will continue to maintain 150.4 miles of state funded ATV/UTV trails which includes 50.5 miles of Tuscobia State Trail and 50 miles of summer ATV/UTV trails on County Forest. Maintenance is contracted with the Sawyer County Snowmobile/ATV Alliance. Grant funded, \$120,842.00
2. Sawyer County will continue to maintain 149.8 miles of winter state funded ATV trails including 50.5 miles of Tuscobia State Trail and 50 miles of winter ATV trails on the County Forest. Maintenance contracted with the Sawyer County Snowmobile/ATV Alliance. Grant funded \$14,980.
3. Complete Trail 8 Rehab project, "OO" to Boedecker Rd. 1.65 miles, grant funded \$24,750.
4. Complete Trail 8 Rehab project, Camp 38 to Telemark Rd. 0.75 miles, grant funded \$16,062.50.
5. Complete Trail 11 Rehab project, Lost Lake Rd. to Tuscobia Trail. 3.2 miles, grant funded \$86,950.
6. Complete Trail 8 Rehab project, Boedecker Rd. to Seeley Fire Tower Rd. 1.3 miles, grant funded \$36,000.
7. Complete Trail 5 Rehab project, Eagle Lodge north. 9.06 miles, grant funded \$246,200.
8. Complete Trail 5 Rehab project, FR 320. 0.29 miles, grant funded \$7,980.
9. Complete installation of 911 location signs.
10. 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
3. Seeley Trails  
The Seeley Trails are maintained and groomed primarily by the Seeley Lions Club.



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- 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.

## XVI. 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. Prescribed burning and development of oak savanna conversion project located in Town of Winter along Thornapple River.
- 2. Building of berms/ installation of gates on closed access roads. (In accordance with the Access Management Plan).
- 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.

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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.

## XVII. Parks

- A. Hatchery Creek Park
  1. Continue maintenance and development of park and pavilion building. Continue cooperation with ABSF, CAMBA, and other community groups with park projects and recreational trails.
- B. Eagles Landing
  1. Continue maintenance of park.
- C. Nelson Lake Boat Landing/Park
  1. Continue maintenance and development of park in cooperation with the Town of Lenroot.

## XVIII. Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)

Under the federal Good Neighbor Authority, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with states to perform forest management activities on national forest lands. The 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. 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.

- A. Continue participation in GNA program.
  1. Complete Sawyer County – FY21 Sale Administration contract. Approximately 263 hours, \$17,858.87 reimbursable through GNA funding.
  2. Complete Sawyer County – FY21 Stands contract. Provide approximately 615 hours of timber sale establishment activities, \$41,328.16, reimbursable through GNA program funding.
  3. Prepare, approve and begin next fiscal year program contracts as available.

Hours provided to the GNA program are in addition to Sawyer County normal work hours.

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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 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
2. Sawyer County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2021-2035.

## 2020-21 Sawyer County Forest and Wisconsin DNR Annual Partnership Meeting Minutes

Date: October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Time: 9:30A.M.  
Location: via Skype

### Personnel Present:

Greg Peterson, Sawyer County Forest Administrator  
Erik Schielke, Forester, Sawyer County  
Jeff Steidl, Forester, Sawyer County  
Kyle Cummings, Recreational Coordinator/Forester, Sawyer County  
James Kujala, DNR Forester  
David Todus, DNR Forester  
Matt Blaylock, DNR Park Falls Area Supervisor  
Patrick Zimmer, DNR Hayward Team Leader  
Nichol Martin, DNR Park Falls Forestry Area Staff Specialist  
Joshua Spiegel, DNR Wildlife Biologist  
Randy Sobraliski, DNR Forest Technician  
Roy Zubrod, DNR Forester

### Agenda Items:

#### **1. Tuscobia State Trail**

Discussion by Roy Zubrod. Talking points gathered from e-mail sent by Dan Yankowiak on 10-12-2020 and face-to-face conversation.

- a) *Parks Superintendent position* (Tuscobia Trail, Chippewa Flowage & Flambeau River State Forest). Dan Yankowiak now serves in public relations and partnership branch of parks and recreation. Interviews have been completed for Park Superintendent position with an announcement to be made soon.
- b) *Winter Depot*. Building project completed and now under DNR ownership and department protocols. Restrooms can and will be open for public use soon and parking area is open making facility a functional trailhead. Currently working with Friends of Tuscobia Trail regarding options to partially open the facility.
- c) *Trail Funding*. Birchwood Bobcats club received \$4,000.0 from DNR to fix culvert at Wooddale Road and Sawyer County received \$4,000.00 from DNR for gravel and beaver trapping.
- d) *Beaver Control*. Progress being made but problems still exist at some wetland and stream crossings.
- e) *Trail surface rehab projects*: Sawyer County completed three projects totaling 13 miles.

## **2. Fisheries Management**

Discussion by Roy Zubrod. Talking points gathered from e-mail sent by Max Wolter, DNR Fisheries Biologist, on 9-2-2020

- a) *Mosquito Brook*. A portion of Mosquito Brook was surveyed downstream from the county forest to assess the impacts from a dam failure on private land upstream. Results indicate there are still trout in the stream, but a lot of the deeper holes and habitat improvement structures filled in with sand. Fisheries staff would like to do some more habitat surveying next year on the portion of Mosquito Brook that runs through the county forest to better understand the extent of what happened.
- b) *Nelson Lake*. There will be a drawdown in 2020 on Nelson Lake for reasons of fisheries habitat manipulation, boat landing repair, culvert repair and dam inspection and repair if needed. DNR plans to survey the lake this fall and again in the spring to understand drawdown impacts on the fish population. DNR has been working closely with Sawyer County Zoning & Conservation, the Lake Association, and have been in contact with GLIFWC for wild rice concerns.

## **3. Wildlife Management**

Discussion by Josh Spiegel.

- a) *CDAC*. Deer harvest and antlerless quotas set by CDAC was discussed. NRB changed the numbers after the process was completed but reversed course and restored the original quotas. As reference the antlerless quota numbers are as follows: 1400 with 80/20 split (80% private, 20% public).
- b) *Elk Season*. Starts this coming Saturday (10/17) and has been expanded to the entire Northern Elk Range.
- c) *Ruffed Grouse*. Would like to try some management strategies on state lands and if successful would like to extend to Sawyer County if interested. Will be pursuing grants in the future as a funding source.
- d) *Openings & Trail Maintenance*. Discussed mowing on Parks Farm and other mowing projects on trails. Would like to create more openings in the future if opportunities exist.
- e) *Wildlife habitat grant*. Current fund balance just over \$11,000.00. 3-year allotment is around \$15,16,000.00. Would like to use funds to purchase new UTV for prescribed burn projects. In the past funding has been spent on gates, berms, seeding and scarification for oak regeneration.

#### **4. Forest Health Update**

Discussion by Roy Zubrod. Talking points gathered from e-mail sent by Paul Cigan, Forest Health Specialist, on 9-16-2020 and text message on 10-13-2020.

- a) *Oak Wilt*. No detection flights in 2020 due to Co-Vid 19 pandemic. There were 3 detections on the county forest and all 3 were treated by Sawyer County Forestry Dept. staff. Several other detections were found in other parts of the county and referred to private contractors for treatment. A suspect OW sample was collected in the Town of Meteor, which if determined to be positive, will be the only new township detection this season.
- b) *EAB*. Sawyer County placed 12 traps in various areas of the county and monitored throughout the summer. All traps will be taken down by the end of this week. To date, there were no detections, but concern exists of the potential for breeding populations that are present but are either too remote to be detected or too young to have caused visible tree impact. Strategies to reduce ash stocking on the county forest will be the same as in the past which is to weigh extra reason of risk when marking hardwood stands. Opportunities to diversify forest composition in swamps is limited due to poor hardwood markets.
- c) *Abiotic*. Late spring frost damage was observed but is mostly cleared up now. Top kill in balsam fir was observed in some areas due to a combination of low soil moisture and spring heat.
- d) *Oak issues*: There have been some reports of branch flagging this season in red oaks. This is primarily due to kermes scale and *Botryosphaeria* twig blight.
- e) *Pine/Conifer pulpwood decking*: Language will be incorporated in contracts to address decking of pine/conifer pulpwood.

#### **5. 2020 Forest Certification Discussion**

Discussion by Roy Zubrod.

- a) Results of the 2020 county forest external audit were discussed. The audit resulted in 0 Corrective Action Request (CARs) and 0 OFI/OBS for the second year in a row. Sawyer County is dual certified and has been following the criteria set forth by both certification standards. Sawyer County is scheduled for audit in 2023.

## **6. Forest Management**

Discussion by Greg Peterson (Points a, b, i, j), Roy Zubrod (Points c, d, f, g, h, i), James Kujala (Point e), and David Todus (Point k).

- a) *County forest department budget and accounts.* Revenue target is the same as last year at 1.85 million.
- b) *Timber sale establishment goals.* Harvest goal remains unchanged at 3,700 acres.
- c) *DNR time standard.* Now working toward actual goals set forth during the last negotiations – 2189 hours. Last year’s goal was 2297 and was exceeded by 238.25 hours.
- d) *Dozer hours/projects.* Completed oak scarification project for approximately 30 acres and improved road access into Weirgor Lake for approximately 1,065 feet plus construction of 5 water bars. Will explore other opportunities as time allows.
- e) *Prescribed burning.* No burning this year due to Co-Vid 19. Four projects were discussed for next year: Parks Farm grass openings (80 acres), Thornapple Units 1-3 (66 acres), Phipps Oak (36 acres) and Van Doorne Openings (12 acres) for a total of 194 acres.
- f) *Reforestation projects.* No projects planned.
- g) *Recon percentage – acreage update.* Roughly 8400 acres at greater than 20 years, most of this is aspen less than 40 years old. Sawyer County is prioritizing these backlog acres by cover type to get them up to date. A project to assess hardwood/oak cover types to determine future management options was discussed.
- h) *Update on invasive species.* Sawyer County will monitor and address as needed.
- i) *Discussion on any forestry grants.* Sawyer County will pursue Sustainable Forestry Grant and Forest Administrator Grant.
- j) *Recreation.* Sawyer County was awarded 5 grants from the ORV council. 4 projects are for trail rehabilitation on the county forest and 1 new mile for maintenance.
- k) *Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)* Discussed progress made for FY21 and presented future work areas for FY22. Will go into more detail with Greg in a meeting to be determined later.

## **7. Any Other Items Requiring Attention/Discussion**

Discussion by Roy Zubrod.

- a) *Forest Regeneration Metric.* To date, data has been collected on nearly 14,000 plots across the state with the goal being to collect enough plots in targeted cover types (northern hardwoods, oak, pine) to get statistically significant data at the county/ownership/covertime level. Data collection is not complete. At the end of the 3-year cycle, data will be available to the CDAC's for deer harvest planning. Data will be provided to Sawyer County when this point is reached (Talking points provided by Brian Anderson in e-mail sent 9-3-2020).
- b) *15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan.* Public comment period is over for chapters 100 and 200. Chapters 400, 500 & 600 are currently available for public review. Chapter 300 will be released in the future. At the next Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee meeting chapters 700, 800 and 900 will be released. The goal is to have the plan done and presented to the DNR for review in December.
- c) *ABSF (American Birkiebeiner Ski Foundation) Ground Lease & MOU.* Discussion revolved around ABSF not being allowed to privately own any structures on county owned land enrolled under County Forest Law.
- d) *Timber Sale Closeouts & Cutting Notice Approvals.* When closeout process begins, Sawyer County will fill out all necessary information in data fields. A request was made for written documentation to clear up confusion pertaining to the closeout process. Mentioned policy of direct sales when advertised sales don't sell in bid openings.
- e) *Wood Markets.* Discussed document provided by Logan Wells regarding current market conditions. Due to time constraints, only the highlights were covered, and the rest was reviewing on-your-own. Activity in the hardwood and softwood lumber markets is starting to improve. Improvements in the housing sector will be key to keep these markets moving. Paper markets are still slow and there is an oversupply of hardwood pulpwood on the market. One bright spot concerning paper is in packaging as shipping and on-line ordering has provided some stability to this market (Document sent by Logan Wells in e-mail sent 10-13-2020).



Draft

Minutes of the meeting of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors  
Tuesday, December 17, 2020; 6:30 p.m.;  
Large Court Room, Sawyer County Courthouse

Chair Tweed Shuman called the meeting of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors to order. Roll call was as follows (x indicates present, V indicates attendance virtually)

district - supervisor - T = Town, V = Village, C = City, W = Ward

- X 01 - Dale Schleeter – T Lenroot W 1, T Hayward W 7, C Hayward W 5 and 6
- X 02 – Jesse Boettcher – T Lenroot W 2, T Round Lake W 1
- X 03 - Tweed Shuman – T Hayward W 1 and 2
- 04 – Troy Morgan – T Hayward W 3 and 4
- X 05 – James H. Schlender Jr. – T Hayward W 5 and 6
- V 06 – Marc D. Helwig – C Hayward W 1 and 2
- X 07 - Thomas W. Duffy – C Hayward W 3 and 4
- V 08 - Bruce Paulsen – T Bass Lake W 1 and 2
- X 09 – Susie Taylor – T Bass Lake W 3 and 4
- V 10 – Chuck Van Etten – T Sand Lake, T Edgewater W 1
- X 11 – Dale Olson – T Edgewater W 2, T Bass Lake W 5, T Hayward W 8, T Meteor, T Couderay, V Couderay
- V 12 – Dawn Petit – T Spider Lake, T Round Lake W 2, T Winter W 1
- X 13 - Ron Kinsley – T Hunter, T Radisson W 1, T Ojibwa W 1, V Radisson
- X 14 – Ron Buckholtz – T Radisson W 2, T Ojibwa W 2, T Weirgor, V Exeland, T Meadowbrook
- X 15 – Ed Peters – T Winter W 2, T Draper, V Winter

The agenda for the meeting was presented as follows:

Call to Order, Roll Call, Pledge of Allegiance  
Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law  
Meeting Agenda  
Public Comments  
COVID Update  
Minutes from Previous Meeting: November 10, 2020  
Zoning Committee Chair Report

- Zone District Map Amendment Request RZN #20-008
- Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Temporary Guest Quarters

Public Safety Committee Chair report

- Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Update

Public Works Committee Chair Report

- Hangar Lease Agreement and Lease with Hayward Aviation – Discussion and possible action

Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee Chair Report

- 2021 Tree Sale

Health and Human Services Board Chair Report  
Finance Committee Chair Report

Approve bank signature cards effective January 4, 2021, for new County Clerk  
Economic Development & UW Extension Committee Chair Report  
Support Legislation for Transportation Aid to Counties and Municipalities with  
Tribal Facilities – Discussion and Possible Action  
County Administrator's Report  
Recognition of Retiring County Clerk  
Correspondence, reports from conferences and meetings, other matters for discussion  
Only

Public Health Officer Julia Lyons provided a COVID-19 update. Sawyer County has had 1,088 positive cases. Nine individuals who tested positive for COVID have died; they were over 65 and had additional health issues. There are currently 121 active cases. LCO started giving COVID vaccinations. This is a two part vaccination given either 21 or 28 days apart.

Motion by Duffy, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Petit, to approve the minutes from the November 10, 2020 meeting. Motion carried

Zoning Committee Chair Ron Buckholtz reported to the Board. The Zoning Department is busy issuing permits.

Zoning Administrator Jay Kozlowski presented Rezone request RZN #20-008 for Bruce Jasek in the Town of Couderay. The request is to rezone 4.94 acres from Residential/Recreational Two to Agricultural One. Motion by Paulsen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Buckholtz, to approve the rezone under Resolution #2020-52. Motion carried

Kozlowski presented a resolution to amend Sawyer County Ordinance, Section 2.0 Definitions (13, 22, 31, 57, 81, 102) & 4.26(4) Accessory Uses and Structures & Section 9.2 Land Use Permits (2, 5) & Section 9.24 General Requirements for Obtaining a Land Use Permit. This ordinance regulates bunk houses and temporary guest quarters. Motion by Buckholtz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Boettcher, to approve Resolution #2020-53. Motion carried

Public Safety Committee Chair James Schlender reported to the Board. Sawyer County has had eleven traffic fatalities in 2020. The annual average is three. Heroin overdoses are up. CJCC contracting with JusticePoint for alternatives to incarceration. LCO tribe contributing to help offset cost of JusticePoint contract. Beginning discussion on joint jurisdiction for citations issued on tribal land.

Public Works Committee Chair Ron Kinsley reported to the Board. Kinsley presented a resolution approving mutual termination of lease agreement. This is the last step for the sale of the White Eagle hangar to Hayward Aviation. Motion by Buckholtz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peters, to approve Resolution #2020-54. Motion carried

Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee Chair Bruce Paulsen reported to the Board. Paulsen commended County staff including Kelly Nechuta for creating an on line

site for the 2021 tree sale. Paulsen informed the Board the timber revenue will hit budget.

Health and Human Services Board Chair Dale Schleeter reported to the Board. The HHS Board discussed Comprehensive Community Services at the December meeting. Guests from Taylor County offered insight into how these programs can reduce placements.

Finance Committee Chair Bruce Paulsen reported to the Board. Motion by Kinsley, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schleeter, to approve bank signature cards effective January 4, 2021 for the new County Clerk, Lynn Fitch. Motion carried. The County received COVID grants of \$340,000. The County was originally allocated \$275,000. Accounting Manager Mike Keefe worked with the towns to collect another \$70,000 for the County. Paulsen commended Keefe and County Administrator Hoff for their efforts.

Economic Development & UW Extension Committee Chair James Schlender reported to the Board. The LCO tribe contributed to the Economic Development Corporation. Birkie Bridge over 77 is complete.

Chair Shuman presented a draft letter to Governor Evers in support of the state allocating gaming compact dollars back to the 10 counties that have tribal headquarters and to the towns that border the reservations. Motion by Helwig, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kinsley, to authorize Shuman to sign the letter. Motion carried

Sawyer County Administrator Tom Hoff reported to the Board on on-going county business and 2020 accomplishments. A full report is in the meeting packet on the website. The County received a reimbursement of over \$100,000 from 2020 Workers Compensation Insurance premiums and the 2021 premium came in over \$100,000 lower than 2020. The average experience MOD is 1.0; Sawyer County was at 1.3 and is now .95. This was mostly due to the hard work of Rose Lillyroot, Human Resource Coordinator and department heads. They worked together to reduce time off from work injuries and offered light duties. The County received \$340,000 in grant funding for COVID expenses. Departments tracked qualified reimbursable expenses in 2020 and Keefe submitted for reimbursement.

The Board recognized retiring County Clerk Carol Williamson for her years of service to Sawyer County. Williamson was presented a plaque from Supervisor Dale Schleeter.

Adjourned 7:40 pm

Audio of the County Board meeting is on the website.

Minutes prepared by Carol Williamson