

**Minutes of the January 11th meeting of the Sawyer County
Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Assembly Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members (X) Present:

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

Lynn Fitch
Jay Kozlowski
Cathy LaReau
Roy Zubrod
Susan Bauer
Greg Peterson

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Dan Ploeger
Jerry Wright
Linda Zillmer-virtual

Call to Order – Chair Jesse Boettcher 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 – Susan Bauer

Minutes from the previous meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Helwig to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2022, second by Mr. Peters. Motion carried without negative vote.

Events – The following events were presented for consideration and approval: Seeley Hills Classic Ski Race (1/14), Seeley Big Fat Mountain Bike Event (1/21), Birkie Week Events (2/22, 2/24-25) and Fat Bike Birkie Week (3/11). A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Peters to approve the list of events. A voice vote was taken and motion carried without negative vote.

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report – Mr. Ploegger advised that snow conditions are hampering outside work. He presented a letter from the DNR requesting the lake to be named Bear Foot Lake. A motion was made by Mr. Peters to approve the name; second by Mr. Helwig. A voice vote was taken and passed without negative vote.

Sawyer County Forestry Department Report – Trails Report – Mr. Peterson advised the winter storm impacted every mile of recreational trail we have. Volunteer groups continue to work on clean up; he recognized the Snowmobile/ATV Alliance for all their hard work. They are working with neighboring counties to try to get funding for damages that totaled over \$130,000 on snowmobile trails and \$70,000 on Birkie trails. Ms. LaReau advised almost all of the lakes have been staked. Mr. Wright advised 35 of the 70-mile biking trail system is open. Their FB pages provide updates on conditions.

County Forestry Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Peterson provided an update on sales and revenues. Our YTD timber sale revenue was \$1,925,094 so we met target. Recon updates were over goal for the year. Mr. Peterson and Mr. Albarado had a conference call on the carbon credit project.

DNR Forestry Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Zubrod provided a snow trail closure update.

Approval of Emergency Fire Wardens – A list of emergency fire wardens was presented. A motion was made by Mr. Peters; second by Helwig to approve this list as presented and forward to county board. A voice vote was taken and passed without negative vote.

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant motion to apply for funds for the recent purchase of the Cooper land was presented. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Peters to approve this resolution and forward to county board. A voice vote was taken and passed without negative vote.

Sawyer County Forest 2023 Annual Work Plan Approval – Mr. Peterson presented the outline for their plan of work for 2023 that allows them to apply for grant funds. They have several trail projects included. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig to approve the Sawyer County Forest 2023 Annual Work Plan and forward it to county board; second by Mr. Peters. A voice vote was taken and passed without negative vote.

2022-2023 Sawyer County Forest/WDNR Annual Partnership Meeting Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Peters to forward the minutes of the 2022-2023 Sawyer County Forest/WDNR Annual Partnership Meeting to the county board for approval; second by Mr. Boettcher. A voice vote was taken and passed without negative vote.

DNR Update on CWD and deer baiting – Mr. Zubrod reported that out of all the samples submitted to date there have been no cases of CWD in Sawyer County.

Zoning/Conservation Department Report – A written conservation department report was provided. Mr. Kozlowski advised the tree sale is still up on the website with good pricing. The poster/speaking contest will be held on January 27th. The Price Dam gear mechanism repair is in process. We continue to be on an uptick on building permits. They are working on end-of-year cleanup process in reporting.

LCO Report – Mr. Bisonette advised that LCO departments served as emergency services areas during the winter storm. He thanked the local clubs that helped with trail cleanup. They have applied for grant funds through BIA for local conservation projects and draw-downs.

Other Topics for Discussion Only -

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee will be Wednesday, February 8, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:21 am
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk