

**Minutes of the January 19th meeting of the Sawyer County
Board of Supervisors
Large Courtroom; Sawyer County Courthouse/Virtual**



Voting Committee Members

Present (X)	District	Wards
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dale Schleeter	01	T Lenroot W-1, T Hayward W-7, C Hayward W-5
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jesse Boettcher	02	T Lenroot W-2, T Round Lake W-1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tweed Shuman	03	T Hayward W-1 & 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stacey Hessel	04	T Hayward W-3 & 4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jason Weaver	05	T Hayward W-5 & 6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marc D. Helwig	06	C Hayward W-1 & 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thomas W. Duffy	07	C Hayward W-3 & 4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marshal Savitski	08	T Bass Lake W-1 & 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brian Bisonette - virtual	09	T Bass Lake W-3 & 4
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Maestri - virtual	10	T Sand Lake, T Edgewater W-1
<input type="checkbox"/> Chris Rusk	11	T Edgewater W-2, T Bass Lake W-5, T Hayward W-8, T Meteor, T Couderay, V Couderay
<input type="checkbox"/> John Righeimer-EXC	12	T Spider Lake, T Round Lake W-2, T Winter W-1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Kinsley	13	T Hunter, T Radisson W-1, T-Ojibwa W-1, V Radisson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ron Buckholtz	14	T Radisson W-2, T Ojibwa W-2, T Weirgor, V Exeland, T Meadowbrook
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ed Peters - virtual	15	T Winter W-2, T Draper, V Winter

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance— Chair Tweed Shuman called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Roll call was taken; quorum was met.

Certification of Compliance with the open meeting law was met.

Public Comments –

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: December 20, 2022

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Duffy Second by: Mr. Savitski

Motion carried without negative vote.

Zoning Committee -

Chair Report – There was no meeting since the last County Board meeting. No further update.

Public Safety Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz provided an update of the November meeting.

Appointment of Emergency Management Director – Nicole Ripczinski – A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Helwig to appoint Nicole Ripczinski to the position of Emergency Management Director. She is currently our court security officer. A voice vote was taken and passed without negative vote.

Emergency Management – December Winter Storm – Emergency Declaration Update -- Mr. Albarado reviewed the emergency response report from the recent storm. A total \$850,912 cost for emergency cleanup was incurred, and we have applied to the State for some fund reimbursement. Additional cleanup needs to be done. Each municipality

had to submit expenses, as well the county in order to be considered for reimbursement; the threshold is \$4.44/capita in order to qualify.

Public Works Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Kinsley advised that the Sawyer County Airport runway project will be delayed by a year. Our Highway Administrator retired and Brad Beise is interim Commissioner.

Courthouse Remodeling Update – Mr. Albarado advised that \$4.7M of work has been completed, and the contingency fund is down to \$198,000. We anticipate to be in that section of the new building by March 10th.

CTH CC Speed Zone Extension – Written documentation was provided. Mr. Albarado reviewed the speed ordinance in the area of the Lake Chippewa Campground. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Buckholtz to approve this request. A roll call vote was taken and passed 12 – 1 with “yes” votes from Schleeter, Hessel, Weaver Helwig, Savitski, Bisonette, Maestri, Kinsley, Buckholtz, Duffy, Shuman, and Peters; one “no” vote from Boettcher.

Cory Robinson driveway variance request – Written documentation was provided and reviewed by Mr. Albarado. The request is to improve drainage in a new parcel of land and is contingent upon the purchase of the new parcel. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Schleeter to approve the request contingent upon the purchase of the new parcel of land. A roll call vote was taken and passed 13 – 0, with “yes” votes from Schleeter, Hessel, Weaver Helwig, Savitski, Bisonette, Maestri, Kinsley, Buckholtz, Mr. Boettcher, Duffy, Shuman, and Peters.

Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Boettcher advised that the Birkie week events were approved. The 2022 timber sale goals were met ending the year at \$1,925M. As of last Thursday, all county snowmobile trails were opened but lakes are not yet considered safe for automobiles.

Approval of Emergency Fire Wardens – The annual written list of emergency fire wardens was presented by Mr. Peterson. A motion was made by Mr. Kinsley; second by Mr. Schleeter to approve the list as presented.

Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Application Resolution – Resolution Sawyer County Forest Land Acquisition Town of Hayward was presented. Mr. Peterson introduced a Resolution to approve the first step in applying for the grant. This grant could cover up to 50% of the recent Cooper land purchase. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Boettcher to approve this resolution as presented. A roll call vote was taken and passed 13-0, with “yes” votes Schleeter, Hessel, Weaver Helwig, Savitski, Bisonette, Maestri, Kinsley, Buckholtz, Mr. Boettcher, Duffy, Shuman, and Peters.

Sawyer County Forest 2023 Annual Work Plan Approval – The 2023 SCF Annual Workplan for the year was presented. Mr. Peterson presented the work plan that allows the county to apply for grants that also helps cover half of his salary and benefits. A motion was made by Mr. Kinsley; second by Mr. Weaver to approve this plan. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed without negative vote.

2022-2023 Sawyer County Forest/WDNR Annual Partnership Meeting Minutes were presented for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Weaver; second by Mr. Duffy to approve the minutes as presented. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed without negative vote.

Health & Human Services Board --

Chair Report – Mr. Schleeter advised that Covid cases is very low at this time. At the January 18th Senior Resource Center meeting a workgroup was formed to explore all suggestions to review cost-savings options. Ms. Lyons and staff were recognized for their great response to the winter storm conditions.

Finance Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Kinsley advised that new finance reports were added to the Finance Committee agendas. We are moving forward with some financial investments with the Finance Committee being deemed as the appropriate investment committee team.

Economic Development & UW Extension Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Duffy advised that there were no action items on the agenda. The winter library just completed a fund-raising drive. The cleanup costs for the trail systems was in excess of \$130,000 and the Alliance is seeking funds to help cover those costs. The Birkie trails are open but did have \$70,000 in trail cleanup costs. Over 11,000 skiers have signed up for the Birkie race, and the long-range forecast appears to have cold weather to help the freezing of the lake crossing. Lack of parking availability limits allowing additional racers from registering.

County Administrator’s Report –

A written report was provided and Mr. Albarado reviewed the highlights. Municode is now adopted and available for community viewing on our website. There have been no additional union meetings for the Sheriff’s Department since the December meeting. They continue to review all staff benefits. The airport snow removal equipment continues to have repair issues. Additional broadband funding rounds are anticipated from the State. Andy is working with SC/LCO EDC and Northwood Tech on a potential housing project. Additional information can be found in the written report.

Future Agenda Items -

Other Topics for Discussion Only -

Adjournment – 7:17 pm

Next Meeting: March 16, 2023 **Time:** 6:30 pm **Location:** Assembly Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk