

**Minutes of the April 14th 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: **Bruce Paulson**
- Ron Buckholtz – Vice Chair
- Jesse Boettcher - Virtual
- Brian Bisonette - Virtual
- Marc Helwig - Virtual
- Kevin Sheptick

Lynn Fitch
Mike Coleson
Jay Kozlowski
Tim Siedl
Greg Peterson
Kris Treland
Terrell Bettcher - Virtual

Others Present:

Jay Kozlowski
Brian DeVries
Kimberly Wendt
Roy Zubrod - Virtual
Dan Ploeger
Linda Zillmer – Virtual

Call to Order – Chair Bruce Paulson 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 – Mr. Paulson requested that item 10g be moved up to item 7 of the agenda; there were no objections.

Public Comments – Public comment was heard from Linda Zillmer.

Minutes from the previous meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the minutes of the March 10th, 2021, meeting; second by Mr. Sheptick. Motion carried without negative vote.

Events – Mr. Peterson presented a request to approve the application for the September 9th Chequamegon Mountain Bike Festival. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Sheptick to approve the application. Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Peterson presented the August 21st Seeley Mountain Bike Festival application. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Helwig to approve the application. Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Treasurer's Department – An over-the-counter land sale for parcel 020-638-11-3303 in the Town of Ojibwa was presented by Mr. Paulsen. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Helwig to approve this request and move it forward to the April County Board meeting. Motion carried without negative vote.

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report – Mr. DeVries and Ms. Wendt presented an overview of the County GIS system and talked about how the GIS services relate to other departments within the County. A variety of maps are available for staff and public use, one which provides a visual of changes in landmarks over the past five years. Aerial photography and Lidar sonar systems are used in creating these maps which often save County staff research time before heading into the field. Grant funds were used in the development of some of the mapping systems.

Sawyer County Forestry Department Report

Motorized and non-motorized trail systems - Ms. Treland advised the County that the trail system is being highlighted in a Discover Wisconsin segment set to start airing today.

Mr. Peterson provided a summary of the grant applications included in the packet. He stated that they are continuing to piece together segments of the Tussockia trail system, and they are applying for 6.6 miles of new snowmobile trails.

The Outdoor Recreation Plan has been on the website and available for public comment, with no comments having been received to date. The plan has added more detail regarding soil information and day-use areas within the county. Mr. Buckholtz made a motion to approve the plan and move it forward to the April County Board meeting as presented; a second was made by Mr. Boettcher. Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Peterson advised that he has researched the carbon tax credit program and there may be opportunity for the County to sell our carbon tax credits on the market. An outside company will do an assessment of our services to determine viability; several surrounding counties are going through this assessment now. Further information will be available at the May meeting.

A written County Forestry report was provided. There are 25 sale bids going out today and there is good interest from contractors. The County road bans should go off on April 19th.

Mr. Helwig advised he was leaving the meeting at 9:21 am.

Mr. Zubrod provided a written report and stated that the DNR is starting to put in docks at state-owned boat landings this week.

Zoning/Conservation Department Report – Written reports were provided. Mr. Kozlowski advised that the County has now received reimbursement for the Tiger Cat Dam replacement and building/property sales remain strong. Mr. Sidel reported out on the continuing education webinars he attended and stated that the 10-year Plan presented to the Wisconsin Land and Water Board was well-received.

Mr. Kozlowski provided an overview of the research completed in regard to the Farm Land Preservation program. Until Sawyer County has more farmers interested in participating, the expense and work to participate does not appear to warrant participation. Other grant funds are available to farmers that may be more suitable and easier to secure. No other surrounding counties are currently enrolled in this program. He recommends that the County maintain the status quo and not move forward with implementing the program at this time.

Mr. Sheptick advised that the ASC office in Ladysmith is now opening its doors to the public on an appointment basis.

Mr. Bisonette updated the committee on the progress being made on the new fish hatchery which will be completed this spring.

Other Topics for Discussion Only – Mr. Ploeger mentioned that Nelson Lake is filling up and should be up to full capacity soon.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee will be Wednesday, May 12th, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk