

**Minutes of the June 8th 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 - Virtual**
- Vice Chair – Marc Helwig
- Ed Peters
- Brian Bisonette
- Jason Weaver - Virtual
- Kevin Sheptick

Others Present:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Lynn Fitch | Andy Albarado |
| Alex Butterfield | Kris-Treland Neuman |
| Jay Kozlowski | Jane Schroeder |
| Greg Peterson | Linda Zillmer – Virtual |
| Cathy LaReau | |
| Brenda Adler | |

Call to Order – Vice Chair Marc Helwig 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 – A motion was made by Mr. Peters to approve the minutes of the May 11, 2022; second by Mr. Boettcher. Motion carried without negative vote.

Events –

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report – Mr. Ploegger advised that they are working on addressing, web site issues, and updating mapping problem areas in the software.

Sawyer County Forestry Department Report – Ms. LaReau advised that all trails are open and getting heavy use. There's an increase in organized benefit rides in the area. Some re-routes in the southern end of the county are being put in place. Trail repairs are ongoing and they are getting many new access requests from the community. Trail counters are in place to track activity. New registrations for ATVs continue to grow.

County Forestry Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Peterson provided an overview. Sale revenue as of now is \$165K+.

The National Forest Liaison presented the DNR report. A written report was provided. There were 13 fires within the County in May in a total of 4.19 acres. New elk calves are being collared as they are caught.

Carbon Tax Update – Mr. Boettcher recommended moving forward with the project; Mr. Peters requested authorizing some of the funds to go toward renewable energy projects in the future as these revenues are unrestricted. This would be a 10-year contract.

Zoning/Conservation Department Report – Written reports were provided. Mr. Kozlowski advised that the LCO water levels are slightly above recommended levels per the 1953 order which is affecting some water navigation. They are working through the process with the DNR to try to find resolutions.

Upper Brunet River Dam Bid – The incoming bid is now \$300K+ over original estimations. The Town of Draper would lend us a mini-excavator to complete part of the projects to save about \$100K. The current grant funds available

through the DNR would make the County obligated for approximately \$600K after grant funds paid. The contractor's pay request would be spread over two years. A motion was made by Mr. Boettcher to accept the bid contingent to amendments to line items 2 and 4, including gates made of stainless steel, and that we get the additional funding required; second by Mr. Peters and forwarded to County Board for approval. Motion carried without negative vote.

USDA Report – Mr. Sheptick provided a list of dates for the USDA office.

Other Topics for Discussion Only -

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee will be Wednesday, July 13, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

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