

**Minutes of the June 9th 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

Others Present:

Lynn Fitch
Mike Coleson
Jay Kozlowski – Virtual
Greg Peterson
Don Mrotek
Linda Zilmer – Virtual
Terrel Boettcher - Virtual
Roy Zubrod
Dan Ploegger
Ben Popp

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 –

Public Comments --

Minutes from the previous meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2021, meeting; second by Mr. Sheptick. Motion carried without negative vote.

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report – Mr. Ploegger reported that lots of time has been spent on addressing address issues as volume increases. Crew members have recently been working in Draper, Ojibwa and Hayward; one person resigned so they are now short-staffed.

Sawyer County Forestry Department Report – The 2021-05-26 County Forestry Ordinance was presented. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Helwig to approve this ordinance and forward it to the June County Board meeting. Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Peterson reported on the ABSF solar panel proposal at the Birkie site. The solar panel system will provide power for all services at the Birkie station and there are no restrictions for solar panels on county land. A motion to approve the proposal was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Sheptick. Motion carried with a 5-1 voice vote, Jesse Boettcher casting the negative vote.

Mr. Peterson advised that he attended two listening sessions for economic development of the forest products industry in Wisconsin. The goal mentioned at these sessions is to establish diversification in the forest industry.

Recreational Trails – Mr. Mrotek stated that volunteers are currently inspecting trails for repairs needed and, in this process, the trail system is being mapped for GPS coordinates. Mr. Popp advised that non-motorized trails are open and being mowed. The recent mountain bike race had 900 bikers. All trail buildings are open and being cleaned weekly.

DNR Forestry Report -- Mr. Zubrod advised that the DNR completed a sampling of forests for infestation of tent caterpillars, and though some evidence was found, they did not think it would result in significant future damage. He

advised that the in-person emergency fire warden duties have been approved to commence. He provided a report on elk mortality.

Zoning/Conservation Department Report -- A written report was provided. Mr. Kozlowski reported that the department is completing a lot of shoreline design projects and it is the busiest season they have ever experienced.

USDA Report – Mr. Sheptick stated that the USDA offices are now operating at 50% staff level and in-person visits remain by appointment only. County committee elections will be held soon.

LCO Report – Mr. Bisonette advised that the tribe is starting to address ATV/UTV trail maintenance. They are currently maintaining the Chippewa Flowage island camp sites, and annual water testing has resumed. They are getting lots of calls on nuisance bears and are starting the gypsy moth trapping program.

Other Topics for Discussion Only -

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee will be Wednesday, July 7, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 am
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

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