

Minutes of the July 13th 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 - Virtual
- Ed Peters
- Brian Bisonette
- Jason Weaver - Virtual
- Kevin Sheptick

Others Present:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Lynn Fitch | Andy Albarado |
| Alex Butterfield | Dan Ploeger |
| Jay Kozlowski - Virtual | Roy Zubrod |
| Kyle Cummings | Linda Zillmer |
| Cathy LaReau | |
| Janeen Abric | |

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 – Barb O’Brien

Minutes from the previous meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Peters to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2022, second by Mr. Sheptick. Motion carried without negative vote.

Events –

Sawyer County Treasurer’s Department – Ms. Aibric and Mr. Albarado presented ACT 216 which provides an avenue to change County land sales processes. It extends the timeframe of returning the net proceeds going back to the land-owner in the event of the sale. Mr. Albarado shared a memo he drafted stating the current policy for sales and proposing a new process going forward whereby the Treasurer can make the sale at auction or outright at the counter rather than going to committee if the price is at market or higher.

A motion was made to approve the sale of the three OTC parcels in the Town of Bass Lake by Mr. Peters; second by Mr. Sheptick. Motion carried without negative vote. The parcels approved are Tax ID #s 002-136-10-2100, #002-136-09-3500, and #002-109-10-1900.

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report – Mr. Ploeger reported that the counter is busy with public requests.

Review Board Policy & Procedure Manual Committee Roles & Responsibilities -- The current LWFRC roles and responsibilities were presented for consideration. Public Comment was made by Linda Zillmer. Mr. Boettcher requested that clear identification of the Committee name should be made in the policy section. Mr. Albarado will also include statute 28.11 in its jurisdiction scope. We will keep this item on the agenda for August.

Zoning/Conservation Department Report – Written reports were provided. Mr. Kozlowski reported that the division has been completing multiple site visits and reviewed other highlights of his report. Meetings for the Upper Brunet Dam repair project have begun.

Mr. Sheptick provided a report on USDA activities.

LCO – Mr. Bisonette advised that bear nuisance calls continue. There was a bacterial fish kill on Gurnoe Lake that could show up on other lakes in the area. They are monitoring the lakes to see if it presents itself.

Sawyer County Forestry Department Report – Written reports were provided. Kyle Cummings reported that one of the two Tuscobia Trail grants was awarded. Trail maintenance continues. Ms. LaReau shared the trail counter stats showing heavy usage.

Mr. Cummings provided a review of the timber sales. In August, they will begin treating any oak wilt infections they find and are treating an ash borer infection in the Moose Lake area.

DNR – A written report was provided; Mr. Zubrod reviewed the highlights. The DNR will complete a detection flight for oak wilt in August and pass on results to Mr. Peterson. Due to the ash borer infection in Moose Lake, they are prohibiting the harvesting of firewood in that area.

9:26 am -- Closed Session – A motion was made by Mr. Bisonette; second by Mr. Peters to move to closed session pursuant to Wis. Statute 19.85(1)(e) to deliberate or negotiate the purchase of public properties, the investing of public lands, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive bargaining reasons require a closed session. A roll call vote was taken and resulted in a 6-0 vote in favor. “Aye” votes were from Mr. Boettcher, Mr. Peters, Mr. Weaver, Mr. Helwig, Mr. Bisonette and Mr. Sheptick.

A motion was made by Mr. Peters; second by Mr. Bisonette to resume open session. Motion carried without negative vote @ 9:35 am.

Open Session – Mr. Boettcher advised that no action was taken in closed session.

Carbon Tax Credit -- 9:36 am -- A motion was made by Mr. Peters; second by Mr. Sheptick to enter closed session pursuant to Wisconsin

Closed Session – A motion was made by Mr. Bisonette; second by Mr. Peters to move to closed session pursuant to Wis. Statute 19.85(1)(e) to deliberate or negotiate the purchase of public properties, the investing of public lands, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive bargaining reasons require a closed session. A roll call vote was taken and resulted in a 6-0 vote in favor. “Aye” votes were from Mr. Boettcher, Mr. Peters, Mr. Weaver, Mr. Helwig, Mr. Bisonette and Mr. Sheptick.

9:49 – A motion was made by Mr. Bisonette; second by Mr. Peters to resume open session. Motion carried without negative vote.

9:49 am – Open session – Mr. Boettcher advised that no action was taken in closed session.

Other Topics for Discussion Only -

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee will be Wednesday, August 10, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:51 am
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk