

## Minutes

Sawyer County Comprehensive Plan Development Committee  
July 28th, 2021 6:00 p.m.

Chairman Mark Olson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Voting members present: Phil Nies, Mark Olson, Kay Wilson, Steve Kelsey, Linda Zillmer.

Others present: Jay Kozlowski, Zoning Administrator, Jason Laumann, Northwest Regional Planning, Emily Nelson, Northwest Regional Planning

Public meeting notice was filed.

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion by Kay to approved the minutes of the May 17, 2021. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Steve. Motion carried.

Public Comment

No comments

### **2. Q&A presentation with Emily Nelson & Jason Laumann of Northwest Regional Planning Commission.**

Jason recommends giving this presentation to Frank Zufall and Sawyer County Record. (Electronic version was sent to them)

Presentation continues with speaker Emily and Jason with 18 page slide show highlighting areas of changes and challenges is Sawyer County.

### **3. Approval of draft version (with any additions or alterations)**

Lorraine Gouche, vice chair of tribal governing board speaks on housing concerns for Tribe and other Sawyer County residents.

Kay Wilson speaks on potential map updates:

-Map 3 snowmobile trail updates.

-Map 4 cell tower updates

-Page 6.5 potential to add STR information into paragraph form:

Information to be included: In addition to the more traditional, commercially focused rentals, there are also short-term rentals, otherwise known as tourist rooming houses available in Sawyer County. These are defined as “all lodging places and tourist cabins and cottages, other than hotels and motels, in which sleeping accommodations are offered for pay to tourists or transients.” In general, these are vacation homes, cabins, and cottages owners rent out to the public for a short period

of time. Their presence has been increasing since the mid-2000's, particularly with the rise of web-based booking services such as Airbnb and Vrbo. The rise of short-term rentals has brought new opportunities and challenges. These properties are an opportunity for owners to supplement their incomes and to make use of underutilized spaces by offering rooms or entire homes to visitors for a fee. These properties also promote economic ripple effects when tourists are housed in areas throughout the county rather than in a single hotel district. Challenges include the potential nuisance impacts on adjacent properties and concerns about the economic impacts of competition to hotels, resorts, and traditional bed and breakfasts. These short-term rentals are also state regulated and licensed. Sawyer County acts as an agent of the state to approve all short-term rental lodging licenses and to ensure all short-term rentals in the county meet health and safety requirements.

Jason Laumann speaks on previous discussion that if new census information is available that it would be incorporated in the plan. This new data has now been added.

Motion by Phil, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mark to approve draft language of the plan with changes to the 2 maps and additional language on STR. Motion carried 4-1.

### **3. Discussion on a recommendation to the County Board for Public Hearing date and meeting format.**

Discussion held on whether to hold a separate meeting or hold meeting during special budget meeting? Consensus would be to hold it as a separate stand-alone meeting. Date that would work for a majority of the Comp Plan Committee and recommendation to County Board would be Monday, October 4, 6PM in large Court Room of Sawyer County Court House.

WI Statute 66.1001

Comp plan committee approves draft & recommends to the County Board

County Board approves draft to schedule public hearing

Public Hearing -Class I posting during which the plan is available for review

Hold hearing plus comments

County Board/Committee - either go back and review, or approve with changes

Send copies to adjoining municipalities & administration

Meeting adjourned

Meeting minutes prepared by: Jay Kozlowski, Sawyer County Zoning & Conservation Administrator.