

**Minutes of the August 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sawyer County  
Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee  
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors  
Board Room; Sawyer County**



**Voting Committee Members (X) Present:**

- Chair: **Ed Peters**
- Vice Chair – Marc Helwig
- Kay Wilson
- Brian Bisonette – virtual
- Jason Weaver
- Kevin Sheptick

**Others Present:**

Lynn Fitch  
Jay Kozlowski @ 8:45 am  
Cathy LaReau  
Brody Fischer  
Greg Peterson  
Brian DeVries  
Andy Albarado

**Call to Order** – Chair Ed Peters 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 dated:** **July 12, 2023**

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Helwig                      Second by: Mr. Sheptick

Motion carried without negative vote.

**Register of Deeds Update -**

A written report was provided. Activity on real estate transfers is down due to high interest rates.

**Events – County Fair**

**Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report -**

Written reports were provided; the department had approximately 177 transfers and a record 17 Certified Survey Maps to process in July. The survey crew worked on replacing corners in Highway 70 in the Towns of Draper and Winter. Updates were made to our Corner Monument Record website.

**Sawyer County Forestry Department -**

Recreational Trails Report – Ms. LaReau advised that the Alliance crews have been repairing trails. They are attempting to get grant funds to help repair LCO trails. Rerouting has become harder to do as property ownership changes. The quarterly NorTac meeting was held in July, and the motorized user survey should be ready to launch this winter and will run an entire snowmobile and ATV season.

County Forestry – A written report was provided; YTD revenue is \$1.5M. Mr. Peterson reviewed other report highlights. Our Sawyer County Forestry Certification Audit passed with flying colors this year. Damage from the summer storm resulted in a forestry sale of some timber.

Closed Session – Trail Right-of-Way Parcel – Eris H Miles Family Trust Parcel – Tax ID 17199 – At 8:50 am a motion was made by Ms. Wilson; second by Mr. Sheptick to enter closed session per Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing 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 passed 5 – 0 with “yes” votes from Peters, Helwig, Sheptick, Wilson and Bisonette; also in attendance were

Jay Kozlowski, Greg Peterson, and Kathy LaReau. At 9:04 am, a motion was made by Ms. Wilson; second by Mr. Helwig to enter Open Session. Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Albarado provided the parcel data and a Resolution to Authorize the Purchase of Land for Trail Right-of-Way for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Sheptick to accept this resolution with the edits for the 2023 dates and forward to County Board. A voice vote was taken and passed without negative vote.

DNR Forestry – A written report was provided. Mr. Fischer advised that the DNR upgraded the Parks Farm access road in partnership with Sawyer County, and they received high praise from the auditors on this project. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation assisted by funding this project.

#### **Zoning/Conservation Department -**

County Report – A written report was provided and reviewed by Mr. Kozlowski. The Zoning Department continues to see above average workflow and permits are up approximately 30% each year over the last three years. These numbers are impacting other services in zoning and conservation.

USDA Report – Mr. Sheptick advised that Governor Evers requested drought assistance for Douglas and Bayfield and other northern counties to provide low-interest loan rates.

LCO Report – Mr. Bisonette reported that they are meeting with the Trails Alliance to discuss trail signage and maintenance support.

#### **Future Agenda Items -**

**Other Topics for Discussion Only** – Mr. Albarado reported on a tour of the DNR nursery that is being repurposed as a seed production facility.

#### **Adjournment – 9:20 am**

**Next Meeting:** September 13, 2023      **Time:** 8:30 am      **Location:** Board Room  
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk