

**Minutes of the September 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: **Bruce Paulson**
- Ron Buckholtz – Vice Chair
- Jesse Boettcher -
- Brian Bisonette
- Marc Helwig -- Virtual
- Kevin Sheptick

Others Present:

Lynn Fitch
Mike Coleson
Jay Kozlowski
Greg Peterson
Don Mrotek
Roy Zubrod
Dan Ploegger

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 – Public comments made by Barb O’Brien and Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2021, meeting; second by Mr. Sheptick. Motion carried without negative vote.

Events –

Sawyer County Treasurer’s Department – Two over-the-counter land sales were presented. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Sheptick to approve the OTC Land Sale in the Town of Bass Lake #002-157-05-1500 and move it forward to the September County Board meeting. Motion carried without negative vote. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Sheptick to approve the OTC Land Sale in the Village of Radisson #175-106-04-0200 and move it forward to the September County Board meeting. Motion carried without negative vote.

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report – Mr. Ploegger advised that the department is still operating short-staffed and the redistricting process has consumed a great deal of time the past month.

Sawyer County Forestry Department Report – Trail Report – Mr. Mrotek reported on a heavy traffic holiday weekend on the trails and reviewed the trail maintenance grant request process. Additional grant funds have been applied for.

County Forestry Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Peterson advised that there were eleven active sales in August with a value just under \$4m; revenue YTD is a little over \$1.5M. Sale inspections are on target and the fall timber sale bids will go out the first week of October with bids opening on October 22nd. The department has treated several oak wilt sites.

DNR Forestry Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Zubrod stated that the Wisconsin DNR was awarded a \$50,000 grant to help control oak wilt on private land. If this one-year pilot program goes well there may be more funding opportunities in the future. An update on the Conners Creek snowmobile re-route plan was provided.

Zoning/Conservation Department Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Kozlowski advised that the department vacancies have not yet been filled and zoning staff are currently completing inspections to the best of their ability but there is a backlog due to staff shortages.

Well-head protection plan - Current research shows that only a few counties in the state have a county-wide protection ordinance; if the County wants to look further in this, it will likely require additional staff and to set up an advisory committee. Public comment made by Linda Zillmer.

USDA Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Sheptick reported that Ladysmith is short-staffed.

Other Topics for Discussion Only –

Future Agenda Items – logging buffer policy

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

DRAFT