

Minutes of the October 12th 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 - Virtual**
- Vice Chair – Marc Helwig
- Ed Peters
- Brian Bisonette
- Jason Weaver
- Kevin Sheptick

Others Present:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Lynn Fitch | Andy Albarado |
| Mike Coleson | Dan Ploeger |
| Jay Kozlowski | Seth Zesiger - virtual |
| Cathy LaReau | Linda Zillmer |
| Dave Todus | Mike Markgren |

Call to Order – Vice Chair Marc Helwig 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. Bisonette to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2022, second by Mr. Sheptick. Motion carried without negative vote.

Events –

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report – Mr. Ploegger advised that the survey crew has been working in the Draper area.

Sawyer County Forestry Department Report – Ms. LaReau advised they have been preparing signage for the snowmobile season.

A written report was provided. Mr. Peterson reviewed the sales. Revenue for the month was \$197,000 and we are still under target for year-to-date revenue. They treated three oak-wilt pockets in the county.

No action taken on the trail right-of-way closed session.

Closed Session motion by Mr. Boettcher; second by Mr. Peters to enter closed session at 8:36 am pursuant to Wis. 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; “aye” votes from Boettcher, Helwig, Sheptick, Peters, and Bisonette.

A motion was made at 8:47 am to enter open session by Mr. Peters; second by Mr. Bisonette to move forward with the purchase and bring it to County Board for approval. Motion carried without negative vote.

Open session at 8:48 am – A motion was made by Mr. Peters to forward the land purchase agreement to full County Board for approval; second by Mr. Bisonette. Motion carried without negative vote.

DNR Forestry Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Dave Todus reviewed the highlights of the report.

Zoning/Conservation Department Report – County Report -- Mr. Kozlowski shared a slide presentation regarding the Upper Brunet River Dam and Nelson Lake Bog. The DNR has denied the Nelson Lake draw-down request.

Wildlife Damage-2023 Budget – Seth Zesiger from USDA presented the wildlife damage report reflecting the pass-through funds from the state that assists farmers for wildlife damages. A motion was made by Mr. Boettcher to approve the \$95,000 total funding; second by Mr. Peters. Motion carried without negative vote.

2022 Crop Prices – Mr. Zesiger presented the 2022 crop price and source proposal. A motion was made by Mr. Sheptick to approve the proposed recommendations; second by Mr. Bisonette. Motion carried without negative vote.

2022 Damage Assessment Deadline – Mr. Zesiger advised that a closing date needs to be set for the last day that claims can be made. He recommended a December 20th date be set. A motion was made by Mr. Peters to set the date for abatement claims at December 20, 2022; second by Mr. Bisonette. Motion carried without negative vote.

USDA Report – Mr. Sheptick provided key dates for the USDA office.

LCO Report – Mr. Bisonette reported that they are restocking area lakes with fish from their fishery ponds. Their legal department has invited four area township chairs to meet to discuss the ATV/UTV ordinance.

2023 Budget Update – A written 2023 budget was provided; Mr. Markgren advised that there were no new staffing requests and no significant changes from last year other than regular wage increases. The budget presented reflects a less-than-expected amount of health insurance premiums. A net increase of \$23,500 over last year is being presented.

Recess taken at 9:22 am until 9:30 am to await legal counsel attendance.

Carbon Credit Update -- A motion was made by Mr. Sheptick; second by Mr. Bisonette to enter Closed Session at 9:30 am pursuant to 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. Mr. Boettcher and Mr. Frisch certified they are alone for the call. A roll call vote was taken and passed 5 – 0; “aye” votes from Boettcher, Helwig, Sheptick, Peters, and Bisonette.

Closed Session at 9:30 am. A motion was made by Mr. Boettcher; second by Mr. Bisonette to enter open session at 10:39 am. Motion carried without negative vote. 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, November 9, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 10:41 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk