

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

Others Present:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| Lynn Fitch | Dan Ploeger |
| Mike Coleson | Seth Zesiger |
| Jay Kozlowski | Linda Zillmer |
| David Todus - DNR | Tim Louis |
| Don Mrotek | Mike Keefe |
| Dianne Ince | Ron Bergin |

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 – Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2021, meeting; second by Mr. Boettcher. Motion carried without negative vote.

Events – The following 2022 event list was provided for consideration: Birkie Tour – 1/15/22; Seeley Hills Classic – 1/29/22; American Birkebeiner Events – 2/23-27; and Fat Tire Birkie – 3/12/22. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Sheptick to approve this slate of events. Motion carried without negative vote. Proof of insurance has been provided. The remaining event, June Epic Mountain Bike Race, was withdrawn from consideration until next month.

Sawyer County Treasurer's Department – Ms. Ince provided a list for Approval of October 2021 Lands Sale Parcels. A total of 46 parcels were on the land bid sale and a list of successful bidders was provided. Eighteen parcels will be sold when approved, seven of them being adjacent property owners. A motion by Mr. Buckholtz was made to approve the sale list and forward to the October County Board meeting; second by Mr. Boettcher. Motion carried without negative vote.

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report – Mr. Ploegger advised that the GIS department has been working on addressing and on redistricting maps. They are trying to contract out survey work but are having a difficult time getting bids.

Sawyer County Forestry Department Report – Trails: Mr. Mrotek reported heavy summer trail activity. NorTec will be meeting next week and the snowmobile association will meet in Wisconsin Dells next month. He provided demographic statistics on historical and current snowmobile/ATV/UTV registered users. Mr. Bergin provided an update on mountain bike activity. They experienced a good year and trails remained in good shape. They did not build many new trails but instead enhanced and rehabbed the existing ones. Public comment made by Linda Zillmer.

County Forestry Report – A written report was provided.

Hayward Nursery Mr. Todus advised that the Hayward Nursery is developing a two-year business plan and considers itself a seedling distribution center and extraction site. Plans to continue to upgrade the seed extractor and shift

toward a tree improvement center so they become more of a seed orchard to grow genetically superior seeds are in the works.

DNR Forestry Report – Mr. Todus advised that a certification audit has been completed and the preliminary report is included in the packet.

Public Comment made by Barb O'Brien.

Zoning/Conservation Department Report – Written reports are provided. Mr. Kozlowski advised that the approval for the Brunet River dam project has been received and expected to commence in November/December. They have hired a new staff person and the department has been busy addressing violations, completing dam inspections, and conducting site visits along with training.

Decontamination Ordinance – Mr. Kozlowski presented the draft version of the ordinance which has been reviewed by legal counsel. He requested that this be sent to municipalities for review and a public hearing be scheduled for November. The ordinance will address regulations for requiring using a decontamination station at a waterway, if one exists on premise. Mr. Buckholtz made a motion to approve the process of sending to municipalities and scheduling a November public hearing; second by Mr. Bisonette. Motion carried without negative vote.

Wildlife Damage – Written reports were provided. Mr. Kozlowski presented the Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program requesting a deadline of December 20, 2022 as the last claim date being available to request crop damage reimbursements. A motion was made by Mr. Boettcher; second by Mr. Sheptick to approve the December 20, 2022, date as the last date for claims. Motion carried without negative vote. Mr. Zesiger reviewed the Crop Price Proposal for 2021 explaining the calculation for yearly average used to determine crop price reimbursements. A motion was made by Mr. Sheptick; second by Mr. Boettcher to approve the proposed prices. Motion carried without negative vote. The 2022 Wildlife Budget proposal was reviewed and a motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Sheptick to approve the proposal as presented. Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Sheptick advised that all USDA offices are now open but by appointment only. Mr. Bisonette provided an LCO conservation report stating that they have been working on habitat enhancement projects, planting trees, completing a prescribed burn by River Side, and completing stocking operations for the year.

2022 Budget – Mr. Keefe presented the 2022 status report; this budget will go to the county board next week for discussion and to the public hearing the following week.

Other Topics for Discussion Only -

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee will be Wednesday, November 3, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

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