

**Minutes of the February 11, 2026 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: Steve Kariainen
- ☒ Vice Chair: Randy Neumann
- ☒ Kay Wilson
- ☒ Jim Evans
- ☐ Dale Magnuson
- ☐ Allison Jonjak

Mike Markgren
Liz Klein
Jay Kozlowski
Greg Peterson
Brian DeVries
Brody Fischer

Others Present:

Jane Schroeder
Don Mrotek
Tim Davison
Mike Martin
James Doss
Rachel Thompson

Call to Order – Chair Kariainen 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; the agenda was set.

Public Comments – Linda Zillmer, Joan Buehrle

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: **January 7, 2026**

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Evans Second by: Mr. Neumann

Motion carried without negative vote.

Events—No applications were received

Register of Deeds Update--

Ms. Thompson presented a written report for January and updated the committee on transfers, Laredo and Vital Records.

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report –

Land Records—A written RPL report was provided.

Surveyor—A written surveyor report was provided.

Forestry –

2026 Emergency Fire Wardens—Mr. Doss presented a list of names to appoint as 2026 DNR Emergency Fire Wardens in the area; these individuals are authorized to issue burn permits.

Motion to approve the 2026 Emergency Fire Wardens list for confirmation by the County Board

by: Mr. Neumann Second by: Mr. Evans

Motion carried without negative vote.

County Forestry Report—

Mr. Peterson reported that 18 sales were active in January. There is approximately \$4.64M in sold-uncut timber on file. LP is suspending deliveries of timber. There is no update on the sale of carbon credits.

Wisconsin DNR Report-

Mr. Fischer presented a written report that was submitted by Craig Morris.

USFS Report- Mr. Martin reported 10 active timber sales on USFS Great Divide; upcoming work will take place on the Mukwonago Forest off Hwy 77; USFS will host trail hikes for interested stakeholders. Rec trails have seen a lot of winter use, and pre-fire season prep is underway.

Motorized Trails Report— Mr. Davison reported that rec trail use is high with the snowfall; there have been accidents and deaths this season; the association is working to educate the public on safety.

Mr. Mrotek attended the 10-county NoRTAC meeting on Jan 29, where discussion centered on uniform emergency signage. Phone apps, fire numbers and grid systems are used for locating 911 calls.

Mr. DeVries will talk to the Alliance about Sawyer dispatch and the gis system in use. NoRTAC members discussed setting fixed opening and closing dates for the snowmobile trails in the region.

Mr. Mrotek attended the Governor's snowmobile council meeting on Feb 5 where they discussed funding needed to maintain trail infrastructure. Sawyer ranked #2 in winter recreation searches on Travel Wisconsin's site.

Non-motorized— No report

Zoning/Conservation Department – Mr. Kozlowski reported that the DNR issued the official water level change for Billy Boy flowage. The Land & Water Resource Management Plan was presented to the State and will now move forward to the County Board for final approval.

Conservation staff attended the NW LWCA competition for the poster and speaking contest- Soil, Where it all Begins," where 2 speakers from Winter School placed 1st and 3rd. The 1st place speaker and one poster will compete at the state competition in March.

Wildlife Damage Claims-

Mr. Doss from USDA APHIS recommended 9 Wildlife Damage claims totaling \$31,066.33 for approval and noted that the claim sites are inspected in person.

The 2025 Wildlife Damage claims were approved for forwarding to the County Board on a motion by: Mr. Neumann

Second by: Ms. Wilson

Motion carried without negative vote.

Board Appointed Committee Updates – None

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings -- None

Future Agenda Items – None

Adjournment – 9:06 am

Next Meeting: March 11, 2026 **Time:** 8:30am **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk