

**Minutes of the December 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 - Virtual
- ☒ Marc Helwig
- ☒ Kevin Sheptick

Others Present:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| Lynn Fitch | Don Stover - Virtual |
| Mike Coleson | Dianne Ince |
| Jay Kozlowski | Linda Zillmer - Virtual |
| Greg Peterson | Louise Ladenthin - Virtual |
| Don Mrotek | Dan Ploegger |
| Roy Zubrod | |

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 --

Minutes from the previous meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2021, meeting; second by Mr. Helwig. Motion carried without negative vote.

Events –

Sawyer County Treasurer's Department – Ms. Ince presented a request for an over-the-counter land sale in the Town of Edgewater Tax ID #008-937-01-4207. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Helwig to approve this sale and forward to County Board. Motion carried without negative vote. Ms. Ince thanked the committee for the many years of support during her tenure.

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report – Mr. Ploeger advised that they have been working on GIS redistricting and updating the website. Kimberly is working on easements, and the survey crew is currently working out of Draper. Tax bills will be going out in the mail soon.

Sawyer County Forestry Department Report – Mr. Mrotek provided an update on motorized trails. Snowmobile trails do not have a static open date, as openings will depend on weather conditions. The Lions Facebook page lists openings as they become available. The statewide snowmobile directors will be having their annual meeting in Hayward in January. Mr. Paulsen presented a verbal report from Ben Popp on the silent sports. The Birkie has 10,000 of its anticipated 13,000 skiers registered for 2022. They are working on a World Cup race hosted here for the 50th anniversary.

County Forestry Report – A written report is provided. Mr. Peterson advised that there are 8 active timber sales in November and sale revenue was over \$200,000. We appear to meet or exceed budget at this time. All six grant projects applied for have been approved; one is a \$35,000 grant to make updates at Hatchery Creek Park.

Carbon Tax Update – Mr. Peterson reported that all the paperwork is submitted and we should get an assessment back in a couple weeks.

DNR Forestry Report – A written report was provided and Mr. Zubrod reviewed several highlights.

Zoning/Conservation Department Report – At 8:42 am a motion was made by Mr. Boettcher; second by Mr. Buckholtz to enter public hearing for the purpose of hearing the proposed decontamination ordinance. Mr. Kozlowski presented an introduction and advised that notice was sent to all municipalities for comment. He has received all positive responses back. Public comment was made by Jane Goetting, Warren Johnson, Donna Carlson, Don Stover and Linda Zillmer in favor of the ordinance; there was no opposing comments. A motion was made at 8:53am by Mr. Boettcher; second by Mr. Buckholtz to come out of public hearing. Motion carried without negative vote. Mr. Buckholtz made a motion to approve the ordinance and forward to County Board for consideration; second by Mr. Helwig. Motion passed without negative vote.

Upper Brunet River Dam Project – Mr. Kozlowski provided an update on the status of fixing the Brunet River Dam. Our options include a performing a complete draw-down for a cost of about \$500,000 or constructing a coffer dam for the additional cost of \$200,000-\$400,000. The lake serves between 60-120 individuals annually. A motion was made by Mr. Boettcher; second by Mr. Helwig to move forward using the coffer dam option if costs can be covered by a grant, and if not to then move forward using the draw-down dam method with the decision point being 30 days from today. Motion carried without negative vote.

Mrs. Sheptick provided an update for USDA advising that a new staff person has been hired for the Ladysmith office and a committee member representing the east side of Sawyer County will be voted on today.

Other Topics for Discussion Only -

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee will be Wednesday, January 12, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk