

**Minutes of the August 10th 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 - Virtual
- ☒ Brian Bisonette - Virtual
- ☒ Jason Weaver - Virtual
- ☒ Kevin Sheptick

Others Present:

Lynn Fitch	Andy Albarado
Alex Butterfield	Ron Burgen
Jay Kozlowski -	Roy Zubrod
Craig Cooper	Linda Zillmer
Cathy LaReau	

Call to Order – 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 – Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Boettcher to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2022, second by Mr. Peters. Motion carried without negative vote.

Events –

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report – Mr. Ploegger was unable to attend.

Review Board Policy & Procedure Manual Updates – Mr. Albarado added minor changes that will move to the County Board meeting.

Sawyer County Forestry Department Report – A Motorized Trails report was provided by Ms. LaReau. The Alliance plans to purchase more counters and are starting trail maintenance. Updating of signage is underway. They have applied for a grant for a Pavilion on the Tussock Trail and have received the award. Ron Burgen reported on non-motorized trails and there are ongoing rehab efforts to maintain some of our older trails.

County Forestry Report – A written report was provided and reviewed by Mr. Peterson. There has been a recent slow start in sales but he anticipates it will pick up. The DNR will likely be doing a flight to address Oak Wilt sections.

DNR Forestry Report – A written report was provided and reviewed by Mr. Zubrod. This will be the last year that the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation will be raffling off a tag.

Proposal to allow Class I E-Bikes – Mr. Peterson reported that we've been requested to do a trial on allowing E-Bikes on the trails. Mr. Burgen advised that the use of E-Bikes is growing and opening the sport to more people. The proposal is only for Class I E-Bikes that has a small electric motor and aids the rider while peddling only; top end is 20-mph while peddling. They are seeking approval for a one-year trial. A motion was made to approve a one-year trial period to include Class I E-Bikes on the trail by Mr. Boettcher; second by Mr. Weaver. Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan Final Draft – Mr. Peterson advised that he has submitted this plan to the DNR for review and has a summary sheet of suggested changes that came out of the review. A motion was made by Mr. Peters; second by Mr. Boettcher to approve the Resolution for Approval of the 2021-2035 Sawyer County Comprehensive Land Use Plan and forward to County Board. Motion carried without negative vote.

Closed Session – At 9:16 am a motion was made by Mr. Boettcher; second by Mr. Helwig to enter closed session for Trail Right-of-Way for the purpose of 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 proceeded with all “aye” votes from Boettcher, Peters, Helwig, Weaver, Bisonette and Sheptick. Present were Mr. Peterson and Mr. Kozlowski. All virtual members certified they were alone and in a closed room.

At 9:53 am, a motion was made by Mr. Boettcher; second by Mr. Helwig to enter open session at 9:53 am. Motion carried without negative vote. No action was taken on this item.

Closed Session Cooper Property – At 9:54 am, a motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Boettcher to enter closed session for the purpose of 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 proceeded with all “aye” votes from Boettcher, Peters, Helwig, Weaver, Bisonette and Sheptick. A motion was made at 10:10 am to enter open session by Mr. Boettcher; second by Mr. Peters. Motion carried without negative vote.

Open Session – No action was taken in closed session.

Zoning/Conservation Department Report – Mr. Kozlowski advised they are doing shoreline mitigation agreements and property checks; the tree and shrub sale order is out for next year and available on our website.

Nelson Lake Drawdown Proposal – Mr. Kozlowski presented the proposal to drawdown the Nelson Lake Dam at the recommendation of the DNR for an ongoing, every-other-year drawdown proposal for the next five years. A motion was made by Mr. Boettcher; second by Mr. Peters to approve the request. Motion carried without negative vote.

USDA Report – Mr. Sheptick provided an oral report with upcoming deadlines.

LCO Report – Mr. Bisonette advised that they are completing a number of habitat improvement programs. Their staff has been working on mitigating Milfoil on area lakes with an eco-harvester using a watercraft combine.

Carbon tax update – Closed Session – At 10:19 am a motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Sheptick to enter closed session for the purpose of 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 proceeded with all “aye” votes from Boettcher, Peters, Helwig, Weaver, Bisonette and Sheptick. At 10:23 am a motion was made by Mr. Boettcher; second by Mr. Helwig to enter open session. Motion carried without negative vote. No action was taken on this item and it will return to the September meeting.

Other Topics for Discussion Only -

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee will be Wednesday, September 7, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 am
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk