



Sawyer County

Agenda

Land, Water, & Forest Resources Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 11, 2023 @ 8:30 AM
Assembly Room

Page

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. To view or participate in the **virtual meeting** from a computer, iPad, or Android device please go to <https://zoom.us/j/99719807086> You can also use the dial in at **1-312-626- 6799** with the Webinar ID: 997 1980 7086. Use *9 to Raise/lower hand and *6 to Unmute/mute. If additional assistance is needed please contact the Sawyer County Forestry Office at 715-634-4846 prior to the meeting. This meeting will be recorded and will be available on our website at: <https://sawycountygov.org>. If you are on a computer, click the "Raise Hand" button and wait to be recognized. If you are on a telephone, dial *9 and wait to be recognized.

2. ROLL CALL

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. At this time, members of the public will be given the opportunity to address the Committee. Please adhere to the following when addressing the Committee:
 - Comments will be limited to 3 minutes or less per individual.
 - Comments should be directed to the Committee as a whole and not directed to individual Committee members.
 - The Committee cannot respond to your comments during this time.
 - Please sign in and fill out a public comment sheet if you wish to speak on an item.

6. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. [12.7.22 LWFRC Minutes DRAFT](#)

7. EVENTS (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

- a. 1) Seeley Hills Classic Ski Race - Jan. 14
- 2) Seeley Big Fat Mountain Bike Event -- Jan. 21
- 3) Birkie Week Events - Feb. 22, Feb. 24-25
- 4) Fat Bike Birkie - March 11

8. LAND RECORDS AND COUNTY SURVEYOR DEPARTMENT REPORT

- 6 - 10 a. Town of Radisson Lake Name (discussion and possible action)
[Lakename](#)

9. SAWYER COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

- a. Recreational Trails Report
Motorized-
Non-motorized-
- 11 - 14 b. County Forestry Report
[Dec 22 forestry report](#)
- 15 c. DNR Forestry Report
[DNR Forestry Report December 2022](#)
- 16 d. Approval of Emergency Fire Wardens (discussion and possible action)
[2023 EFW list for sawyer co board](#)
- 17 - 18 e. Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Application Resolution -
(discussion and possible action)
[Res 2023- Sawyer County Forest Land Acquisition Town of Hayward](#)
- 19 - 27 f. Sawyer County Forest 2023 Annual Work Plan Approval (discussion and possible action)
[SCF 2023 Annual Workplan](#)
- 28 - 31 g. 2022-2023 Sawyer County Forest/WDNR Annual Partnership Meeting Minutes Approval (discussion and possible action)
[Sawyer Co. 2022-23 Annual Partnership Meeting Minutes](#)
- h. DNR Update on CWD and deer baiting

10. ZONING/ CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

- 32 a. County Report
[Conservation Department Update Jan 2023](#)
- b. USDA report
- c. LCO report

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

12. CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

13. ADJOURNMENT

DISCLAIMER:

A quorum of the County Board of Supervisors or of any of its committees may be present at this meeting to listen and observe. Neither the Board nor any of the committees have established attendance at this meeting as an official function of the Board or committee(s) or otherwise made a determination that attendance at the meeting is necessary to carry out the Board or committee's function. The only purpose for other supervisors attending the meeting is to listen to the information presented. Neither the Board nor any committee (other than the committee providing this notice and agenda) will take any official action with respect to this noticed meeting.

Copy sent via email to: County Clerk and News Media. Note: Any person wishing to attend whom, because of a disability, requires accommodation should call the Sawyer County Clerk's office (715.634.4866) at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.

Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee Mission Statement: "Develop, guide and implement policies that protect and ensure the sustainability of our bio-diverse community."

**Minutes of the December 7th 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**
- ☒ Vice Chair – **Marc Helwig**
- ☒ **Ed Peters**
- ☒ **Brian Bisonette – virtual**
- ☐ **Jason Weaver**
- ☒ **Kevin Sheptick**

Others Present:

Lynn Fitch	Andy Albarado
Pat Zimmer	Dan Ploeger
Jay Kozlowski - Virtual	John Rainville
Tim Seidl	
Greg Peterson	

Call to Order – Chair Jesse Boettcher 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 – John Rainville

Minutes from the previous meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Helwig to approve the minutes and addendum to the minutes of the November 9, 2022, meeting; second by Mr. Peters. Motion carried without negative vote.

Events –

Sawyer County Treasurer's Department –

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report – Mr. Ploeger provided an update on where the survey crew has been and will be working within the county. Tax bills are entering the printing stage.

Sawyer County Forestry Department Report – Trails – The Alliance is switching from ATV/UTV season to snowmobile season but trails are not open yet. Mr. Shuman advised the ATV/UTV ordinance is moving through discussions with the tribe and various towns involved; final outcome yet to be determined.

County Forestry Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Peterson advised the gross sale activity appears to be staying constant now and revenues are close to \$1.5M. We should be close to reaching our target of \$1.85M. Sale inspections are also on target. The Tuscobia rehab project is now complete.

DNR Forestry Report – No December report.

Zoning/Conservation Department Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Seidl reported that the tree sale is up and running on the website now. The Price Dam gate needs repair and trying to find parts is difficult; they are trying to confirm costs to fix this. They have met with the DNR and others regarding the water levels on Lac Courte Oreilles and they are in discussions with the DNR on what level it should be kept at. Mr. Bisonette advised that LCO has a concern about the BillyBoy Flowage wild rice seeding area water levels.

USDA Report – Mr. Sheptick provided an update on the schedule of USDA deadlines including the emergency relief program.

LCO Report – Mr. Bisonette advised that the Tribal Governing Board is intending to meet with various townships on the ATV/UTV ordinance. Mr. Peters that the DNR is looking at lowering the phosphorous level on Lac Courte Oreilles.

Other Topics for Discussion Only -

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee will be Wednesday, January 11, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 am
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

DRAFT

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Geographic Names Council
101 S. Webster Street
Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

Tony Evers, Governor
Preston D. Cole, Secretary
Telephone 608-266-2621
Toll Free 1-888-936-7463
TTY Access via relay - 711



Sawyer County Land Records & Regulation
Dan Ploeger, Director
10610 Main Street, Suite 54
Hayward, WI 54843

12/15/2022

Dear Sir,

The Wisconsin Geographic Names Council has received a proposal to name or change the name of a geographic feature that falls within Sawyer County. Local opinion and support is highly valued by the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council when making naming decisions, therefore we are seeking your input with this correspondence.

Enclosed you will find a geographic name case file. I can provide the official proposal form and case documents upon your request.

Please return the attached recommendation form with Sawyer County recommendation as soon as possible. If no response is received by March 1st, 2023, the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council will make a recommendation to the United States Bureau on Geographic Names without your input.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns,

Carroll Schaal, Chair
Wisconsin Geographic Names Council
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Carroll.Schaal@Wisconsin.gov
Office Phone: (608) 261-6423
Cell Phone (608) 630-3098

[Bear Foot Lake Unnamed Feature]

Recommended Name of Feature: Bear Foot Lake

Current Name of Feature: Unnamed Feature (WBIC 2379300)

Unnamed Feature	Geographic Names Information System
Unnamed Feature	WDNR – Register of Waterbodies
Unnamed Feature	24k Hydrology
Unnamed Feature	County GIS
Unnamed Feature	Google Maps
Unnamed Feature	USGS Topography
Unnamed Feature	Local Names

Location & Description: Located South of Irvine Dr and East of Buggy Blvd, in Southeastern Sawyer County near the township of Radisson. This 18.93-acre lake is located on private property that is owned by the Proponent.

Coordinates are (45.73746444651716, -91.14191936461465)

Proponent: Leonard Yeadon--- yeadon68@yahoo.com

Summary: “I recently purchase land that his private lake is part of. In this area of Northern Wisconsin, bears are plentiful. So, I feel it fitting to name the lake after the bears.” Additionally, this lake has been monitored, last monitored in 2016. Station WIBC: 10005567. Confirmed that Leonard Yeadon owns the land around the private lake, JASON J & KRISTA L Ash also own property on this private lake. Input from them would also be advised.

Local Opinion:

Sawyer County:

Town of Radisson:

JASON J & KRISTA L Ash:

Decision:

Marked Jan 10, 2022

Geographic Name Proposal
Form 2200-124 (R 7/16)

Page 1 of 2

State of Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources
Geographic Names Council
PO Box 7921, Madison WI 53707-7921
dnr.wi.gov

Notice: Pursuant to s. 23.26, Wis. Stats., complete and submit this form to the address in the upper left hand corner with requested geographic name proposal. See page 2 for naming guidelines. Personal information collected will be used for administrative purposes and may be made available to requesters to the extent required by Wisconsin's Open Records Law (ss. 19.31 - 19.39, Wis. Stats.).

Geographic Feature Information

Description of Feature - Include size (acres), length (miles) or population etc.

Recommended Name of Feature

LAKE BOARS

By Whom: (Name and Address)

Bearfoot Lake

Other Names or Spellings in Use:

N/A

Reason for this Proposal - Identify Problem and Need (Attach supplementary sheet if necessary)
I recently purchased land that this private lake (unnamed) is part of.

Origin and Significance of Recommended Name - Attach Supporting Documents (resolution, historical data, etc.)
IN this area of Northern Wisconsin, Bears are plentiful. So I feel it fitting to name the lake after the Boars.

Feature Location

County

Shingles

Stream

☒ N
 Lat: 0° 0' 0" Long: 0° 0' 0"

Heads: Sec. _____, T. _____, N. R. _____

☐ E
☐ W
☐ E
☐ W

Ends: Sec. _____, T. _____, N. R. _____

☐ E
☐ W
☐ E
☐ W

Lake, Village, etc.

Secs. _____, T. _____, N. R. _____

☐ E
☐ W
☐ E
☐ W

Secs. _____, T. _____, N. R. _____

☐ E
☐ W
☐ E
☐ W

(or locate by landmarks and attach map)

Applicant Information

Name

Agency

Telephone Number (include area code)

Leonard Benson

N/A

408-781-5325

Address

City

State ZIP Code

9105 W IRVINE DR.

Ogishwa

WI 54862

Signature of Applicant

Applicant Email

Date Signed

Thomas Hladar

ghladar108@yahoo.com

10 Jan 22

Name of Map or Other Reference

DNR Use Only - Map Search and Field Investigation

Name Given Feature

Person Contacted

Address

Occupation

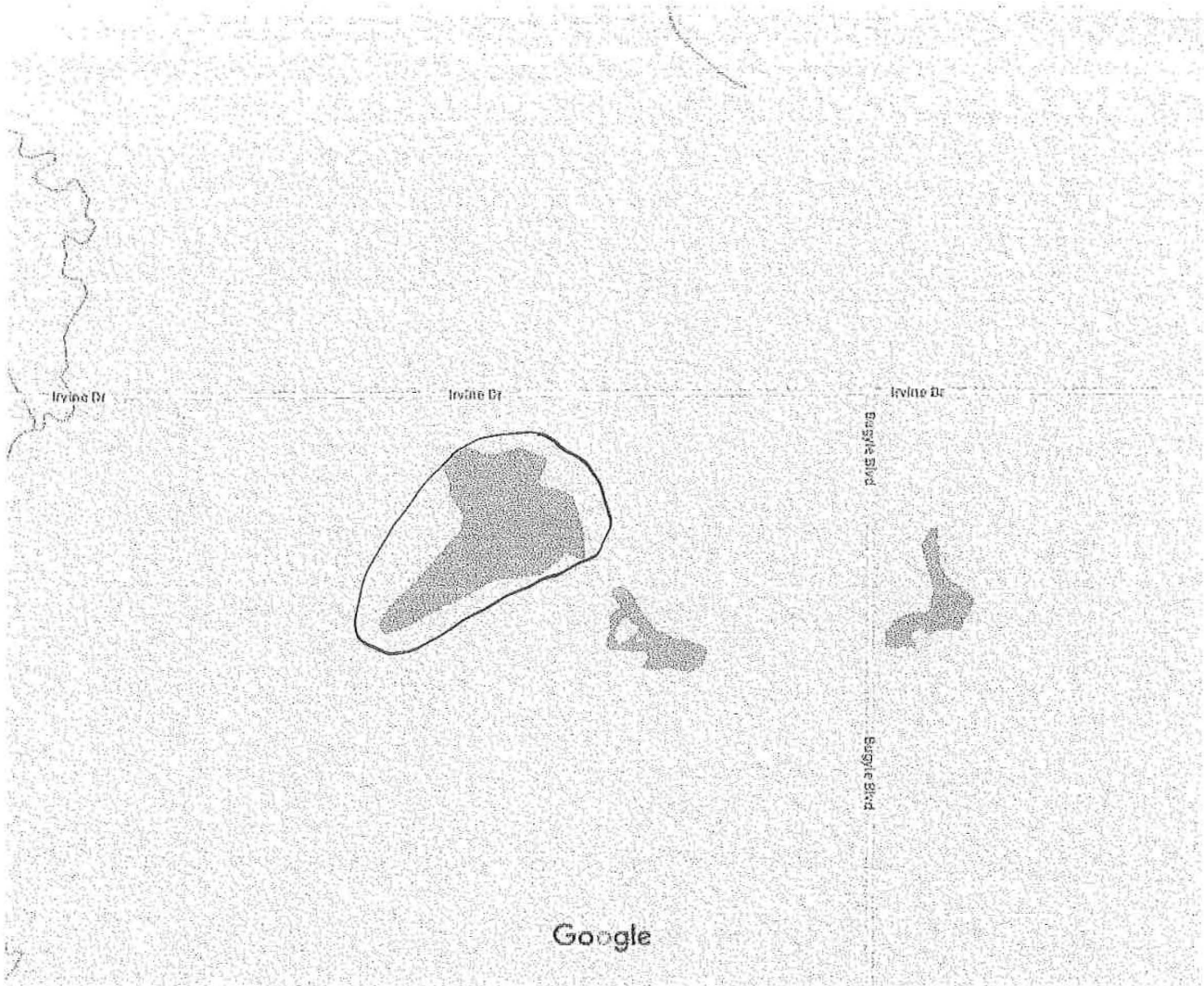
Special Concerns

Findings and Recommendations

Signature of Investigator

Date Signed

Google Maps



Map data ©2022 1000 ft

State of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
101 S. Webster Street
Box 7921
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Tony Evers, Governor
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GEOGRAPHIC NAME PROPOSAL RECOMMENDATION

Must be returned by March 1, 2023.

This is to notify the Wisconsin Geographic Names Council that Sawyer County recommends that the proposed name Bear Foot Lake is:

- ☐ **Approved**
☐ **Rejected**
☐ **Render a Decision Without Our Recommendation**

Please include additional comments, factors contributing to your recommendation, or supporting documentation in the section below or attached.

Name (Print)

Title

Street Address

Phone Number

City, State, Zip Code

Email

Signature

Date

Please return this recommendation via mail or email.

Mailing Address:

State of Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources
Geographic Names Council
Attn: Carroll Schaal
PO Box 7921
Madison WI 53707-7921

Email Address: DNRLakeb@wisconsin.gov

Forestry Report December 2022

Active Sales

21 sales listed as active in month of December

Sale Date	# of Sales	Acres	Bid Value	Received	Est. Remaining
4/6/18	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
11/2/18	1	106	\$36,260.00	\$34,118.97	\$2,141.03
5/3/19	2	163	\$41,725.00	\$35,618.00	\$6,940.12*
11/01/19	3	292	\$168,419.50	\$46,226.09	\$122,193.41
5/5/20	2	93	\$94,050.80	\$34,347.09	\$59,703.71
11/3/20	3	466	\$404,616.50	\$288,445.26	\$138,516.84*
5/7/21	2	136	\$123,927.60	\$89,383.39	\$34,544.21
10/22/21	2	301	\$176,467.20	\$9,825.00	\$166,642.20
5/11/22	5	421	\$237,603.40	\$46,760.90	\$190,842.50
11/1/22	1	136	\$51,924.10	\$7,788.62	\$44,135.48
Totals	21	2114	\$1,334,994.10	\$592,513.32	\$765,659.50

Inactive Sales

Sale Date	# of Sales	Acres	Bid Value	Received	Est. Remaining
4/6/18	1	91	\$50,440.00	\$0	\$50,440.00
11/2/18	3	158	\$80,491.75	\$8,175.80	\$72,315.95
5/3/19	3	186	\$82,150.00	\$10,000.00	\$72,150.00
11/1/19	1	83	\$83,319.14	\$56,223.74	\$27,095.40
5/5/20	5	368	\$291,359.46	\$27,830.95	\$263,528.51
11/3/20	4	218	\$122,045.00	\$38,799.60	\$83,245.40
5/7/21	15	1230	\$928,579.00	\$138,641.46	\$805,006.00*
10/22/21	10	670	\$701,037.00	\$0	\$701,037.00
5/11/22	15	917	\$997,509.72	\$1,135.00	\$996,374.72
11/1/22	13	1128	\$668,624.20	\$9,840.15	\$658,784.05
Totals	70	5049	\$4,005,555.27	\$290,646.70	\$3,729,977.03

* Sales having overruns

** Sales having underruns

Eight sales closed out in December.

Timber Sale Value (sold contracts-uncut) on file = **\$4,495,636.53**

<u>Timber Revenue</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Timber Sales (county forest)	\$464,705.32	\$1,925,094.16
(Non-County Forest Lands)	\$0	\$14,027.66
<u>Christmas Trees/Boughs</u>	\$5	\$75
<u>Performance Bond Cashed</u>	\$0	\$0
<u>Other Revenue</u>		
<u>Camping/Firewood/Access/Hay</u>	\$0	\$974
<u>Park Reservations</u>	\$0	\$800
		<u>Budget</u>
Gross Timber Sale Revenue	\$1,925,094.16	\$1,850,000
10% Payment to Towns	\$ 192,509.42	
Non-County Forest Sale Revenue	\$ 14,027.66	
Net Timber Sale Revenue	\$1,732,584.74	
Total Other Revenue	\$ 1,849.00	
Timber Sale Revenue Billed Out	\$133,836.50	

Timber Sale Inspections	<u># month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	51	291

Comments: Goal for timber sale inspections is generally one inspection per week while sale is actively being harvested or wood is being hauled.

Tract Establishment	<u># sales month/ YTD</u>	<u>acres month/YTD</u>	<u>Goal</u>
	0/33	0/2492	3600

Comments:

Recon Acres Updated	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Annual Goal</u>
	695	10,045	6,000 acres

Comments: Recon is the assessment of geographic, structure and compositional attributes of forest stands. Field information is stored in the Wisconsin Forest Inventory & Reporting System (WisFIRS). Basic resource information is collected, stored and updated systematically and continuously. Database is used to analyze existing resources, evaluate management alternatives and assist in the development and implementation of management plans.

<u>Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Hours</u>		
<u>December</u>	<u>FY22 Contract</u>	<u>YTD</u>
0	242.75	385.5
<u>Current Contract:</u>		
Sawyer County – DNR FY22 Stands		
Approximately 575 hours timber sale admin. \$40,046.54.		
Preparing final year end reimbursement request.		

Comments: Under the federal Good Neighbor Authority, the USDA Forest Service is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with states to perform forest management activities on national forest lands. WDNR has entered into a GNA agreement with the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF). WDNR is authorized to contract with counties to assist with forest management activities on national forest lands. The focus of the GNA program is to assist in the implementation of the CNNF Forest Plan, which will provide:

- Forest products to the local economy
- Collaboration between federal, state and county forest managers
- Improved health and resiliency of forestlands and watersheds within Wisconsin

Oak Wilt:
Nothing new to report, treatments done for the season.

Mountain Bike Trails:
Fat bike trail system received heavy damage from December ice/snow storm. Clean-up efforts continue.

Birkie Trail:
Entire Birkie trail system received heavy damage from December ice/snow storm. Clean-up efforts continue.

ATV/UTV/Snowmobile Trails:
Entire snowmobile trail system received heavy damage from December ice/snow storm. Clean-up efforts continue.

Parks:
Hatchery Park: Nothing new to report.

Nelson Lake Park: Nothing new to report.

Carbon Credit Project:

Preparing initial project documentation and information request from Anew to begin the implementation of the carbon credit project.

Sawyer County Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 11th, 2023
DNR Forestry Report for December 2022

Recreation (Kyle Marinoff, DNR Parks and Recreation Supervisor):

Winter storms in December caused tree damage on motorized recreational trail systems across the county. This caused trails in Sawyer and Barron Counties to close. We have the Alliance, various Clubs, contractors, volunteers and DNR staff assisting with cleanup when and where possible.

Flambeau Hills Ski Trail will also remain closed until further notice due to the storms.

Ice conditions on area lakes are terrible and any travel aside from foot travel is not recommended. There are reports of only 4-8" of ice in the area with now nearly 2 feet of snow on top. This has caused significant weight on the ice and pushed water through, again making travel conditions very difficult and unsafe.

Lastly, the Tuscobia Winter Ultra will be taking place December 29th – 31st. This event is held annually and is a ski, hike and bike event that runs from Park Falls to Rice Lake. This event is still on as scheduled but could be postponed due to the trail conditions.

Report submitted by Roy Zubrod, DNR Forester on 12/30/2022.

To the Honorable:

County Board of Sawyer County, Wisconsin.

Ladies & Gentlemen:

In accord with section 26.12(3) and section 26.14(3) of the Wisconsin Statutes we recommend the following persons to act as authorized emergency fire wardens for the prevention and suppression of forest fires in this county for the year 2023 and ask your approval of this organization list.

EMERGENCY FIRE WARDENS

MULLET, Marvin 13394W Trepania Rd., Hayward, WI 54843
LCO Fire Dept. for town of Bass Lake

BEARHART, Henry, 9790N CTH K Hayward, WI, 54843
LCO Conservation for town of Hayward

DINEEN, Dan, 10592W Omaha Rd., Radisson, WI 54867
DJ Mart for town of Radisson

DINEEN, Dan, 6317 W State Rd 27, Stone Lake, WI 54876
DJ Mart for town of Sand Lake

KALSCHEUR, Greg, 12272N Upper A Rd, Hayward WI 54843
Happy Hooker Bait & Tackle for town of Spider Lake

ROBINSON, Doug, Hayward WI 54843
(USFS) Forest Service Ranger Station for town of Hunter
604 Nyman Ave. Hayward WI

DeMaria, Sara, Hayward, WI 54843
(USFS) Forest Service Ranger Station for town of Hunter
604 Nyman Ave. Hayward, WI 54843

MATTMILLER Michael, Hayward, WI 54843
(USFS) Forest Service Ranger Station for town of Hunter
604 Nyman Ave. Hayward, WI

Park Falls, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

(Date)

By: _____
Area Forester/Ranger

(Date)

By: _____
County Board Chairperson

1 Resolution 2023-_____
2
3 Sawyer_County Forest Land Acquisition Town of Hayward
4
5 Resolution offered by the SAWYER COUNTY LAND, WATER, AND FOREST
6 RESOURCES COMMITTEE RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Sawyer
7 County, Wisconsin, That
8
9 WHEREAS, that Sawyer County has purchased the below described lands
10 consisting of 84.16 acres within Sawyer_County: NESW, and the FRAC NWSW of
11 Section 18, T41N, R8W, Town of Hayward _____,
12 Sawyer County Wisconsin; and;
13
14 WHEREAS, the County Board has the authority to acquire said property for the
15 purpose of establishing County Forest Land pursuant to ss. 28.10 Wis. Stats; and
16
17 WHEREAS, the acquisition policy and boundaries are outlined and defined in
18 Chapter 400 of the Sawyer County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, as
19 approved for years 2021-2035 by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors on
20 August 18, 2022; and
21
22 WHEREAS, acquisition of this property will perpetually provide forest products to
23 our local economy, revenues to the County, outdoor recreation opportunities to the
24 public, and improve property administration on the County Forest; and
25
26 WHEREAS, the County is eligible to apply for grant funding through the Knowles-
27 Nelson Stewardship grant program pursuant to ss. 23.0953 Wis. Stats; and
28
29 WHEREAS, said funding may provide funding for up to 50% of the acquisition
30 price; and
31
32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SAWYER COUNTY BOARD
33 OF SUPERVISORS that the County requests the grant funding available from the
34 Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources under the “Knowles – Nelson
35 Stewardship Land Acquisition grant program; and
36
37 HEREBY AUTHORIZES the Sawyer County Forest Administrator act on behalf of
38 Sawyer County to: submit an application to the State of Wisconsin for land
39 acquisition grant funding; sign documents; and take necessary action to undertake,
40 direct, and complete an approved land acquisition project.
41
42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sawyer County will comply with State
43 rules for the program and meet the financial obligations under the grant.
44
45 Recommended for adoption by the Sawyer County Board at its meeting on January
46 19, 2023, by the Sawyer County Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee on
47 January 11, 2023.

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Jesse Boettcher

Ed Peters

Jason Weaver

Marc Helwig

Brian Bisonette

Kevin Sheptic

This Resolution is hereby adopted by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors this
19th day of January, 2023.

Tweed Shuman,
Sawyer County Board of Sup. Chairman

Lynn Fitch, Sawyer County Clerk

Sawyer County Forestry Department



Sawyer County Courthouse
10610 Main Street, Suite 100
Hayward, WI 54843
Phone: (715) 634-4846
Fax: (715) 638-3234



SAWYER COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT ANNUAL WORK PLAN FOR 2023

Following is the proposed Sawyer County Forest work plan for the year 2023. The plan gives direction and meaning to the proposed County Forest budget. The plan further defines and supplements the Sawyer County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan and emphasizes the current needs of the County Forest and Recreational System.

- **FORESTS**

The Sawyer County Forest (SCF) is 115,197 acres in size.

The following list shows the acreage of productive forested land by various timber types on the SCF:

- **Forest Cover:**

Aspen	40,576
Northern Hardwood	23,975
Oak	10,271
Black Spruce	5,457
White Pine	4,573
Swamp Hardwood	3,943
Red Pine	2,067
Tamarack	1,814
Red Maple	1,049
Cedar	897
White Spruce	549
Hemlock	298
Jack Pine	136
Balsam Fir	52
White Birch	45
Misc. Deciduous	23
Misc. Coniferous	10

Total Productive Forested Acres 95,735

**Non-productive/ Non-forested acreage accounts for 19,462 acres*

Sawyer County Forestry Department



Sawyer County Courthouse
10610 Main Street, Suite 100
Hayward, WI 54843
Phone: (715) 634-4846
Fax: (715) 638-3234



I. TIMBER HARVEST

Timber harvests are not only important for the economic well being of Sawyer County, but also for the health and vigor of the forest. This includes all aspects of the forest including wildlife, watershed protection, air quality, recreation, and many other noncommercial values. Professional implementation of proper forest management and harvest techniques is essential. The timber management goal is to produce sustained yields of forest products by scheduling timber sales to achieve the average annual allowable cut. The long-term goal is to develop a regulated harvest in which the same number of acres or same volume of wood could be harvested each year for perpetuity. A regulated harvest can occur when there is a proper balance in age class distribution and uniform growth rates for each forest type. Compartment reconnaissance information from the Wisconsin Forest Inventory & Reporting System (WisFIRS) will be used to determine where timber harvesting is needed. Sawyer County Forest plans to assess approximately 7500 for harvest. From that acreage, SCF plans to offer for sale approximately 3600 acres of timber in accordance with the 2023 Annual Allowable Cut (excluding salvage operations due to unknown occurrences) in the following timber types in 2023:

	<u>Un-Even Aged Harvest/Thinning</u>	<u>Even-Aged Harvest Harvest/Thinning</u>
Northern Hardwoods	1370	65
Aspen	0	900
Oak	35	540
White Pine	0	255
Red Pine	0	200
Swamp Hardwood	20	55
Tamarack	0	20
Red Maple	30	15
White Spruce	0	45
Black Spruce	0	50
	1455	2145

Sawyer County Forestry Department



Sawyer County Courthouse
10610 Main Street, Suite 100
Hayward, WI 54843
Phone: (715) 634-4846
Fax: (715) 638-3234



II. TIMBER SALE ESTABLISHMENT

- A. Set up and offer for sale approximately forty (40) sales totaling approximately 40,000 cords and 1,000 MBF. Two timber sale bid openings will be conducted in 2022. Each bid opening will offer approximately ½ of the annual allowable cut acres.

III. TIMBER SALE INSPECTIONS

- A. Maintain a continual program of inspections on all of the timber sale contracts for the purpose of checking completion status, contract compliance, and to prevent timber theft. Active timber sales will be visited a minimum of once per week. SCF staff with assistance from the DNR Liaison Forester will be responsible for this work.

IV. FOREST REVENUE

- A. Projected 2023 timber sale revenue \$1,850,000

V. FOREST RECONNAISSANCE

- A. Continue to update and maintain SCF recon data. SCF staff will be responsible for updating recon records on their assigned compartments. The Liaison Forester is responsible for updating recon records on DNR assigned compartments. The target for recon updates for 2022 is 6000 acres to be updated in the SCF recon system.

VI. REFORESTATION

- A. Conduct pre-sale scarification on timber sales for red oak, white pine, and white birch regeneration where conditions are advantageous.
- B. Conduct tree planting with Hayward and Winter School Districts.
- C. Evaluate possible sites for future regeneration projects such as pre- and post-sale scarification, possible planting sites.

VII. TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

There are no non-commercial TSI projects planned.

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VIII. COUNTY FOREST ROADS

The SCF does not have any officially designated county forest roads and does not receive any county forest road aid.

IX. ROADS AND TRAILS

A. Road and Access Plan.

1. Make maps available to the public for all recreational activities on the county forest.
2. Inform public of changes made to access.
3. Continue to maintain signs on roads and trails in accordance with Road and Access Plan.
4. Review road and access plan with Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee for possible changes in road/trail designation.

B. Continue to plan all roads and access.

C. Continue to berm or gate roads and trails as need arises for erosion control to assure BMP issues are addressed or to protect sensitive areas.

D. Enforce seasonal closure period for forest roads and trails during spring break up.

1. Inform public of road closure.

E. Improve trails for timber sale access and roads open to public motor vehicle access with a priority on those areas where damage is occurring due to high public use, or problem areas identified as part of the GPS classification. Permanent secondary trails should also be given a priority.

X. LAND ACQUISITION

A. Follow direction of 15-Year Plan and as approved by Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee:

1. Evaluate land purchases as presented to Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee for possible County Board approval.
2. Evaluate land trades as presented to Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee for possible County Board approval.
3. Pursue grant funding sources for any approved acquisition project.

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XI. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)/COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

- A. Continue to operate and maintain currency of GIS system including roads and trails, historical timber sales, and other layers for public information.

XII. SURVEYING

- A. Utilize Trimble GPS unit to locate interior property corners where section corners are available and to establish approximate county forest property boundaries where necessary for tract establishment.
- B. Present to committee problem areas for certified survey or re-monumentation efforts. Surveys generally are needed to prevent timber trespass or to clarify boundaries in order to continue management.

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS FOREST ACTIVITIES

- A. Monitor camping policy on County Forest for possible problems and/or changes to policy that will improve camping opportunities on forest.
- B. Issue and administer firewood, Christmas tree, camping, and bough harvesting permits.
- C. Continue to detect and treat confirmed positive oak wilt sites on County Forest to prevent further spread. Continue to monitor previously detected and treated sites.
- D. Continue to monitor and plan for positive confirmation of Emerald Ash Borer.

XIV. RECREATION TRAILS

- A. Snowmobile Trails
 - 1. Sawyer County will continue to maintain 389.78 miles of state funded snowmobile trails which includes 50.5 miles of Tuscobia State Trail and 68.6 miles of on County Forest. Maintenance is contracted with the Sawyer County Snowmobile/ATV Alliance. Grant funded, \$116,934.00.
 - 2. Apply for grant funding where needed for any trail improvements or bridge repairs/replacement.

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B. ATV/UTV Trails

1. Sawyer County will continue to maintain 157.1 miles of state funded summer ATV/UTV trails which includes 50.5 miles of Tuscobia State Trail and 50 miles of summer ATV/UTV trails on County Forest. Maintenance is contracted with the Sawyer County Snowmobile/ATV Alliance. Grant funded, \$125,680.00
2. Sawyer County will continue to maintain 149.8 miles of winter state funded ATV trails including 50.5 miles of Tuscobia State Trail and 50 miles of winter ATV trails on the County Forest. Maintenance contracted with the Sawyer County Snowmobile/ATV Alliance. Grant funded \$14,980.
3. Complete Tuscobia Rehab project, Hwy 40 to Hwy 27. 4.6 miles, grant funded \$95,500.
4. Complete Tuscobia Rehab project, Wooddale Rd. to Wooddale Rd. 2.6 miles, grant funded \$53,950.
5. Complete Trail 11 Rehab project, Tuscobia Trail to Lost Lake Rd. south. 3.1 miles, grant funded \$92,295.
6. Complete Trail 15 Rehab project, Hwy 77 to Phipps Fire Lane. 1.7 miles, grant funded \$45,750.
7. Complete Trail 31 Rehab project, Rusk Cty line to Tuscobia Trail. 3.9 miles, grant funded \$104,130.
8. Complete Trail 77 Rehab project, Janet Rd. to Telemark Rd. 2.0 miles, grant funded \$53,900.
9. Apply for grant funding where needed for any trail improvements or enhancements.

C. Ski Trails

1. American Birkebeiner Trail
The American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation (ABSF) maintains and grooms the Birkebeiner Trails including the Birkie, Birkie Classic, and "OO" Loop Trails as a skiing and hiking trail for Sawyer County. Maintenance and grooming costs are largely paid by the Foundation itself.
2. Hatchery Creek Park Trails
ABSF maintains and grooms the Fish Hatchery Park ski trail. Continue cooperation with the ABSF
3. Seeley Trails
The Seeley Trails are maintained and groomed primarily by the Seeley Lions Club.
Work with Seeley Lions club developing management plan for non-motorized trail system.

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D. Bike Trails

1. Continue to work with Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) to maintain mountain bike trails both the singletrack trail system and two track trails located on forest roads within the SCF.
2. Continue working with bike groups to provide snow/fat bike opportunities within County Forest.

E. Hunter Walking Trails

1. Maintain established trails.
2. Mow approximately twenty percent of existing trails; work in conjunction with DNR Wildlife and local conservation groups.
3. Identify new possible trail locations based on need and habitat considerations

F. Hiking Trails

1. Continue working with Southwest Sawyer County Non-motorized trail group to maintain Green Lake trail, and assist with any further developments of hiking trails.

G. NoRTAC (Northern Region Trail Advisory Committee)

1. Continue participation in regional trail committee to address trail needs and issues within the region.

XVI. FISH and WILDLIFE

A. Nickel an Acre

County receives \$5,760/year for Wildlife Management related activities on County Forest. A maximum of three years of funding can be accrued.

Approved Funding Activities

1. Prescribed burning and development of oak savanna conversion project located in Town of Winter along Thornapple River.
2. Building of berms/ installation of gates on closed access roads. (In accordance with the Access Management Plan).
3. Scarification work for red oak regeneration.
4. Purchase of grass seed for seeding and stabilizing forest roads after harvest.
5. Construction of access roads to facilitate logging operations in isolated areas.
6. Mowing of hunter walking trails.

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7. Wildlife opening maintenance and construction, specifically within the expanded elk range.
8. Purchase of prescribed fire equipment for county staff.

XVII. Parks

- A. Hatchery Creek Park
 1. Continue maintenance and development of park and pavilion building. Continue cooperation with ABSF, CAMBA, and other community groups with park projects and recreational trails.
- B. Eagles Landing
 1. Continue maintenance of park.
- C. Nelson Lake Boat Landing/Park
 1. Continue maintenance and development of park in cooperation with the Town of Lenroot.

XVIII. Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)

Under the federal Good Neighbor Authority, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with states to perform forest management activities on national forest lands. The WDNR has entered into a GNA agreement with the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF). WDNR is authorized to contract with counties to assist with forest management. The focus of the GNA Program is to assist in the implementation of the CNNF Forest Plan, which will provide:

- Forest products to the local economy
 - Collaboration between federal, state and county forest managers
 - Improved health and resiliency of forestlands and watersheds within Wisconsin.
- A. Continue participation in GNA program.
 1. Complete Sawyer County – FY22 Sale Establishment/Administration contract. Approximately 575 hours, \$40,046.54 reimbursable through GNA funding.
 2. Prepare, approve and begin next fiscal year program contracts as available.

Hours provided to the GNA program are in addition to Sawyer County normal work hours.

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XIX. Carbon Credit Project

Work with ANEW providing the necessary documentation and information to implement the Sawyer County carbon credit project.

Information about timber sale activities or any other Forestry Department program may be obtained by contacting the Sawyer County Forestry Department, Sawyer County Courthouse, 10610 Main Street, Suite 100, Hayward, WI 54843.
Phone: 715-634-4846 FAX: 715-638-3234.

- **REFERENCES:**

1. Annual Integrated Planning Meeting held on September 26, 2022.
2. Sawyer County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2021-2035.

2022-23 Sawyer County Forest and Wisconsin DNR Annual Partnership Meeting Minutes

Date: September 26th, 2022
Time: 9:30a.m.
Location: 12186 W Highway OO, Samuel C Johnson Family Outdoor Center

Personnel Present:

Greg Peterson, Sawyer County Forest Administrator
Kyle Cummings, Recreational Coordinator/Forester, Sawyer County
Erik Schielke, Forester, Sawyer County
Amy Morales, DNR NW District Forestry Supervisor
Dan Yankowiak, DNR District Recreational Supervisor
Kyle Marinoff, DNR Parks/Recreation Supervisor
Joshua Spiegel, DNR Wildlife Biologist
Paul Cigan, DNR Forest Health Specialist
James Kujala, DNR Forester
David Todus, DNR Forester
Holly Schielke, DNR Forester
Roy Zubrod, DNR Forester

Agenda Items:

1. **Tussockia State Trail.** Discussion by Kyle Marinoff. Management activities currently focused on trail maintenance such as grading, adding material and culvert replacement. Sawyer County currently has 2 approved maintenance projects under contract on the trail. The replacement of concrete culverts was discussed. To help with cost, capitol development funds will be pursued. DNR projects on the trail include brushing the entire length of the trail and installing asphalt screening on a bridge near the Price/Sawyer County line to mitigate soil erosion. Beaver populations near stream crossings have been brought under control and DNR has signed a contract extension with APHIS. Other items discussed were the Master Planning process and Dan Yankowiak filling in as trail liaison until vacancy is filled.
2. **Wildlife Management.** Discussion by Josh Spiegel.
 - *CWD.* With the opening of Deer Harvest Seasons, CWD Sampling will be available by request or at 24/7 CWD Kiosks. Kiosks will be located at the Hayward DNR Service Center and Winter Ranger Station. Deer carcass disposal dumpsters will be available at the Hayward DNR Service center starting mid-October and at the Winter Ranger Station in early November.
 - *Surveys.* Species surveys are ongoing, including summer deer observations. These are used for population estimating and trends.

- *Habitat.* Wildlife habitat work is ongoing throughout Sawyer County including State and County owned lands. Work includes burn break construction/improvement, access improvement, and openings/trail mowing and planting. Mowing will occur in the Winter block on Thornapple and Haystack Roads.
- *Elk.* The Elk management plan will go back to the NRB this winter for review. Cranberry Association and Wisconsin Farm Bureau were added to the Elk advisory committee. Northern Elk Zone staff received two grants from RMEF for elk management work occurring on the Sawyer County Forest. One is a habitat grant and will be used for burn break establishment, improvement of habitat and openings on the county forest. The other grant is for access improvement for management and recreational users. A portion of this grant will be used to improve road access into Parks Farm on the county forest.
- *Old wildlife openings.* A new Wildlife/Elk LTE Technician hiring process is being completed and will have a GIS background. This individual will digitize information available on existing and old openings. With this project, wildlife biologist can develop maintenance and improvement schedule as time allows.
- *County Forest Access from Lake of the Pines Conservation Easement Property.* Discussion took place to pursue RMEF funds and WI Elk Stamp dollars to improve access into Sawyer County from conservation easement property (Formerly Consolidated Papers, Inc.). A culvert project is needed to make this happen. Approval has been granted by landowner (Northwoods ATP LP) and silvicultural exemption will be pursued. This project would open the door to improved timber management options as well as oak and grassland management, including prescribed burning.

3. Forest Health Update. Discussion by Paul Cigan.

- *EAB.* New infestation discovered in May on the south shore of Moose Lake on federal forest land. The infestation has been present approximately 4 years based upon the amount of damage observed. Signs and symptoms of EAB were discussed.
- *Oak Wilt.* Aerial detection completed and shapefiles distributed to Sawyer County. To date, three sites have been treated on the county forest. Treatment options with frill girdle and root rupture were discussed. Efficacy rate after 4 years for 4 or fewer trees is about 74%, more than 4 trees success goes down to 30-40% With root rupture chances of success can be increased up to 80%. Sites need to be monitored up to 5 years for best results. For a second year, DNR was awarded a grant from USDA to help with oak wilt treatments on private property.
- *Two-lined chestnut borer.* As dry weather patterns continue, outbreaks have increased county wide. The difference between two-lined chestnut borer and oak wilt was discussed.
- *Other items discussed.* Spongy moth, oak leaf roller and forest tent caterpillar.

4. 2022 Forest Certification Discussion. Discussion by Roy Zubrod. Talking points derived from Draft findings from the 2022 CFL SFI and FSC surveillance audit done in Oconto, Marinette, Florence, and Forest Counties.

- **SFI (Opportunities for Improvement) OFI 2022-01: There is an opportunity to improve understanding of SFI'S "Special Sites" designation. Please review in new 2022 SFI standard. Objective 6. Answer: Sawyer County will look for opportunities to identify and document areas and/or follow recommendations from WCFA certification committee.**
- **FSC (2 minor CARS – Specific to only Oconto County for addressing, but good opportunity for all FSC Counties to review clear language in the 15-year plan regarding clearly stating/description of HCVFs on the property. Answer: Addressed in Chapter 830 Exceptional Resources Unique Areas. 830.1 HCVFs for FSC and dual-certified counties. Totogatic River Hemlocks FSC Category 3 HCVF.**

Sawyer County will be part of the WCFA surveillance audit in 2023 along with Barron, Burnett, and Washburn counties.

5. Forest Management. Discussion by Greg Peterson (points a, b, f, g, h, i), Roy Zubrod (points c & d) James Kujala (point e) and David Todus (point j)

- County forest department budget and accounts.* No change from 2021, revenue target is set at 1.85 million.
- Timber sale establishment goals.* Harvest goal will be approximately 3,644 acres with emphasis on aspen, northern hardwood, oak, red pine, and white pine.
- DNR Time Standards.* Goal was exceeded by 105.5 hours. Actual was 2294.5 vs standard of 2189. New base hour standard is 2217.
- Dozer hours/projects.* Currently working on 2 oak scarification projects and fire breaks on Parks Farm. A washout/erosion project on a county forest woods road is also assigned.
- Prescribed burning.* There are five burns scheduled for 2023. Four are for habitat improvement within the Northern Elk Zone and one silviculture burn. Total acreage is approximately 370.
- Recon percentage-acreage update.* Targets have been reached for updates.
- Update on invasive species.* A small area of garlic mustard was treated on Boedecker Road (approximately 100 square feet).

- h) *Discussion on any forestry grants.* No sustainable forestry grant will be pursued. Wildlife habitat grant balance is within 3-year allotment. Funding is being spent on burn equipment, seeding and mowing.
- i) *Recreation.* 5 grants awarded from ORV council. Amount is under 500,000.00
- j) *Good Neighbor Authority (GNA).* All sales advertised in fall 2022 were sold. Timber sale bidding will switch from fall to spring in the future for administrative purposes. Contract work with Sawyer County will be switched from DNR fiscal year to annual contract period. Projects currently underway and 2024 work will be distributed when available.

6) Any Other Items Requiring Attention/Discussion.

- a) *Carbon Credit Update.* (Discussion by Greg Peterson) Options still being weighed by county board. Will act upon when conditions satisfied.
- b) *Wood Markets.* (Discussion by Roy Zubrod) Discussed e-mail sent from Colin Buntrock dated 9/23/22.
 - Timber markets have generally remained steady this summer except for pulpwood markets in southern Wisconsin.
 - Softwood sawtimber remains in demand by sawmills because of strong housing/remodeling markets. However, hardwood lumber markets have slowed down considerably over the last two months. This has resulted from a supply-demand imbalance and may result in some reduced shifts at sawmills.
 - High fuel costs remain and continue to create significant challenges for loggers and truckers, some mills have offered a fuel stipend to help cover the cost of wood delivered to the mill.
 - Some loggers have downsized in size due to market contractions from mill closures (Verso) and thin operating margins.
- c) *Forest Regeneration Metric.* (Discussion by Roy Zubrod) Discussed e-mail from Kori Schroeder dated 9/21/22) Data collection is still underway and will continue until leaf fall. County CDAC's will get reports by the end of December or sooner if time allows.
- d) *Mosquito Brook.* (Discussion by Roy Zubrod) Discussed e-mail from Jacob Druffner dated 9/22/22. There is no progress to report with the landowner owning the property with the dam failure. DNR currently looking at options and hope to gain resolution in the future. DNR plans to replace walking bridge below dam to have trail accessible to public on DNR land.
- e) *DNR Audit.* Sawyer County is scheduled for audit in 2023. Sawyer County will coordinate with Nichol Martin when time allows.



Conservation Department Update December 2022 – January 2023

Prepared by Jay Kozlowski, Zoning & Conservation Administrator

- Tree sale is up and running and can be ordered through the County website. There are still trees available!
- Poster and Speaking Contest: This year's theme is "One Water". Entries are due January 24th and competitions being held on January 27th.
- Price Dam Update: Clutch/gear mechanism is in the process of being repaired. No anticipated completion dates.
- The Zoning Department has again surpassed permit issuance numbers from last year. That makes the year of 2022 the highest number of permits in the last 16 years.
- End of year clean-up and early construction projects reviews are currently occurring within the Conservation Department.