



Sawyer County

Agenda

County Board of Supervisors Meeting
Thursday, January 19, 2023 @ 6:30 PM
Large Courtroom; Sawyer County
Courthouse/Virtual Meeting

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/95015680309>. You can also use the dial in at **1-312-626-6799** with the Webinar ID: 950 1568 0309. Use *9 to Raise/lower hand and *6 to Unmute/mute. If additional assistance is needed please contact the County Clerk's Office at 715-634-4866 prior to the meeting. This meeting will be recorded and will be available on our website at: <https://sawyercountygov.org>.

2. ROLL CALL

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW

5. MEETING AGENDA

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. At this time, members of the public will be given the opportunity to address the Board. Please adhere to the following when addressing the Board:
 - Comments will be limited to 3 minutes or less per individual.
 - Comments should be directed to the Board as a whole and not directed to individual Board members.
 - The Board 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.

7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. [12.20.22 County Board Minutes DRAFT](#)

8. ZONING COMMITTEE

- a. Chair Report

9. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- a. Chair Report
- b. Appointment of Emergency Management Director - Nicole Ripczinski (discussion & possible action)
- c. Emergency Management - December Winter Storm - Emergency Declaration Update

10. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

- a. Chair Report
- b. Courthouse Remodeling Update
- 7 - 8 c. CTH CC Speed Zone Extension (discussion and possible action)
[1\) Speed ordinance-CTH CC at Chippewa Flowage](#)
[2\) Inked CTH CC](#)
- 9 - 10 d. Cory Robinson driveway variance request (discussion & Possible action)
[1\) Cory Robinson driveway map](#)
[2\) Cory Robinson request](#)

11. LAND, WATER, AND FOREST RESOURCES COMMITTEE

- a. Chair Report
- 11 b. Approval of Emergency Fire Wardens (discussion and possible action)
[2023 EFW list for sawyer co board](#)
- 12 - 13 c. Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Grant Application Resolution - (discussion and possible action)
[Res 2023- Sawyer County Forest Land Acquisition Town of Hayward](#)
- 14 - 22 d. Sawyer County Forest 2023 Annual Work Plan Approval (discussion and possible action)
[SCF 2023 Annual Workplan](#)
- 23 - 26 e. 2022-2023 Sawyer County Forest/WDNR Annual Partnership Meeting Minutes Approval (discussion and possible action)
[Sawyer Co. 2022-23 Annual Partnership Meeting Minutes](#)

12. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

- a. Chair Report

13. FINANCE COMMITTEE

- a. Chair Report

14. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & UW EXTENSION COMMITTEE

- a. Chair Report

15. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- a. [Administrator's Report 2023-1](#)

27 - 29

16. CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

DISCLAIMER:

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.

Mission Statement: *The Sawyer County Board of Supervisors will strive to provide excellent services and responsible leadership to protect and enhance Sawyer County citizens, businesses, and resources, while preserving our unique heritage.*

**Minutes of the December 20th meeting of the Sawyer County
Board of Supervisors
Large Courtroom; Sawyer County Courthouse/Virtual**



Voting Committee Members

Present (X)	District	Wards
☒ Dale Schleeter	01	T Lenroot W-1, T Hayward W-7, C Hayward W-5
☒ Jesse Boettcher	02	T Lenroot W-2, T Round Lake W-1
☒ Tweed Shuman	03	T Hayward W-1 & 2
☒ Stacey Hessel	04	T Hayward W-3 & 4
☒ Jason Weaver	05	T Hayward W-5 & 6
☒ Marc D. Helwig	06	C Hayward W-1 & 2
☐ Thomas W. Duffy	07	C Hayward W-3 & 4
☒ Marshal Savitski	08	T Bass Lake W-1 & 2
☐ Brian Bisonette	09	T Bass Lake W-3 & 4
☐ Michael Maestri	10	T Sand Lake, T Edgewater W-1
☒ Chris Rusk virtual	11	T Edgewater W-2, T Bass Lake W-5, T Hayward W-8, T Meteor, T Couderay, V Couderay
☒ John Righeimer	12	T Spider Lake, T Round Lake W-2, T Winter W-1
☐ Ron Kinsley	13	T Hunter, T Radisson W-1, T-Ojibwa W-1, V Radisson
☒ Ron Buckholtz	14	T Radisson W-2, T Ojibwa W-2, T Weirgor, V Exeland, T Meadowbrook
☒ Ed Peters - virtual	15	T Winter W-2, T Draper, V Winter

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance— Chair Tweed Shuman called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Roll call was taken; quorum was met.

Certification of Compliance with the open meeting law was met.

Public Comments –

Sheriff Department Recognition – Sheriff Mrotek and Chief Sajdera presented lifesaving awards Carley Donahue (not present), Deputies Logan, Price and Halbur and Jail Sgt. Spurlock. Also recognized were Chief Sajdera and Deputy Woller for outstanding coverage during times of transition.

Minutes – A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Ms. Hessel to approve the minutes of the November 15th County Board meeting. Motion carried without negative vote.

Winter Storm Emergency Update -- Ms. Lyons and Sheriff Mrotek made an update on the recent storm outages and timeline. It was difficult to get a power outage assessment through the power companies. She reviewed the relocations of some residents and housing shelters, specifically residents with O2. They are now beginning next steps which includes bringing radios in to communicate better with power companies, identifying which private lanes are not now plowed, and preparing cots in case another usage is needed. They continue to target power outages where residents are occupying before moving to vacant homes/cabins. DNR wardens and deputies have been doing door-to-door checks.

Disaster Declaration Resolution -- Mr. Albarado presented the Disaster Declaration to assist in recovering cleanup costs and advise the State of Wisconsin of our emergency conditions. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Helwig to approve this resolution. A roll call vote was taken and passed 10-0 with "yes" votes from Shuman, Boettcher, Hessel, Righeimer, Rusk, Buckholtz, Savitski, Peters, Helwig, and Weaver. No vote registered for Schleeter.

Zoning Committee Chair Report – Mr. Boettcher reported on the highlights of the zoning committee mentioning that members voted in favor of keeping the zoning ordinances as an appendix in Municode.

Public Safety Report – Mr. Buckholtz reviewed the highlights of the Public Safety meeting which included receiving an update on determining who qualifies for electronic monitoring. Mr. Albarado presented the appointment of John Froemel to the position of Ambulance Director/Medical Examiner. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Savitski to approve this appointment. A roll call vote was taken and passed 10-0 with "yes" votes from Schleeter, Shuman, Boettcher, Hessel, Righeimer, Buckholtz, Savitski, Peters, Helwig, and Weaver. Mr. Rusk had lost connection and did not vote.

Mr. Albarado presented the Tribal Law Enforcement Grant Resolution for \$38,000 to establish a Tribal Animal Control program. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Weaver to approve this resolution. A roll call vote was taken and passed 10-0 with "yes" votes from Schleeter, Shuman, Boettcher, Hessel, Righeimer, Buckholtz, Savitski, Peters, Helwig, and Weaver. Mr. Rusk had lost connection and did not vote.

Public Works Committee Chair Report – Public Works updates were provided by Mr. Albarado. The ATV/UTV ordinance remains under work. Mr. Gedart was recognized for many years of service as he is retiring. The courthouse construction remains on target and turnover of the building should be March 10th.

Land, Water and Forest Resources – Mr. Boettcher advised that discussion with towns and LCO is still in process for the ATV/UTV ordinance. Timber sales are on track.

Health and Human Services – Mr. Boettcher reported that CPS worker staff members are down 40%; covid numbers remain low while other illnesses are on the rise. Testing of ground water is underway in Town of Round Lake.

Finance Committee Chair Report – Mr. Albarado presented the reasoning for developing county signatory authority in that a policy relating to the review and approval of contracts identifies who can obligate the County and is a process that auditors have requested. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Righeimer to approve this resolution. A roll call vote was taken and passed 10-0 with "yes" votes from Schleeter, Shuman, Boettcher, Hessel, Righeimer, Buckholtz, Savitski, Peters, Helwig, and Weaver. Mr. Rusk did not cast a vote.

Mr. Albarado presented a Resolution Establishing a County Investment Policy that was reviewed at the Finance Committee. An amendment to the original policy designates the Finance Committee as the official members of those approved to oversee the County investments. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Righeimer to approve the amendment. A roll call vote was taken and passed 10-0 with "yes" votes from Schleeter, Shuman, Boettcher, Hessel, Righeimer, Buckholtz, Savitski, Peters, Helwig, and Weaver. No vote was cast by Mr. Rusk. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Righeimer to approve the Resolution Establishing a County Investment Policy. A roll call vote was taken and passed 10-0 with "yes" votes from Schleeter, Shuman, Boettcher, Hessel, Righeimer, Buckholtz, Savitski, Peters, Helwig, and Weaver. No vote cast by Mr. Rusk.

Mr. Albarado presented a Resolution Establishing 2023 Employee Wages and Personnel identifying a 2% increase to all non-represented employees effective the first full payroll of 2023, and an additional 1% adjusting effective the first full payroll after July 1, 2023. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Righeimer to approve this resolution. A roll call vote was taken and passed 10-0 with "yes" votes from Schleeter, Shuman, Boettcher, Hessel, Righeimer, Buckholtz, Savitski, Peters, Helwig, and Weaver. No vote was cast by Mr. Rusk.

Economic Development and UW Extension Committee – Mr. Righeimer reviewed highlights of the committee meeting; the Bounceback program is about to end and Sawyer County received many local \$10,000 grants. A placemaking event

was held at LCO and the SC/LCO Development Corp welcomed Andy Albarado as a new board member at large. Trails are now transitioning to snowmobiling.

Municode – Mr. Albarado advised that the most current version of Municode in the packet is for documents recorded through December 16, 2021. Additional ordinances approved since that date have been submitted for recording and new ordinances will be submitted as they are approved. Zoning ordinances will remain in the appendix at this time. This is a living document that will constantly change. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Helwig to approve this ordinance. Voice vote was taken and passed 10-0. No vote was cast by Mr. Rusk.

County Administrator's Report – Mr. Albarado advised that administration will be reviewing all employee benefits and union negotiations have begun. The County held its first wellness day today. He has held department reviews with department heads. A grant has been submitted for a \$2M project on housing in collaboration with Northwoods Technical College.

Closed Session – Namekagon Transit – At 7:11 pm, a motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Helwig to enter closed session pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(e) for deliberating or negotiating purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session; and (f) considering financial medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of changes against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations. A roll call vote was taken and passed 10-0 with "yes" votes from Schleeter (voice vote), Shuman, Boettcher, Hessel, Righeimer, Buckholtz, Savitski, Peters, Helwig, and Weaver by electronic vote. Mr. Rusk had lost connection and did not vote.

At 7:40 pm a motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Helwig to enter open session. A voice vote was taken. Motion carried without negative vote.

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings –

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the County Board of Supervisors will be Thursday, January 19, at 6:30 pm in the Large Courtroom.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

Ordinance # _____

Establishing a Speed Zone On County Road CC

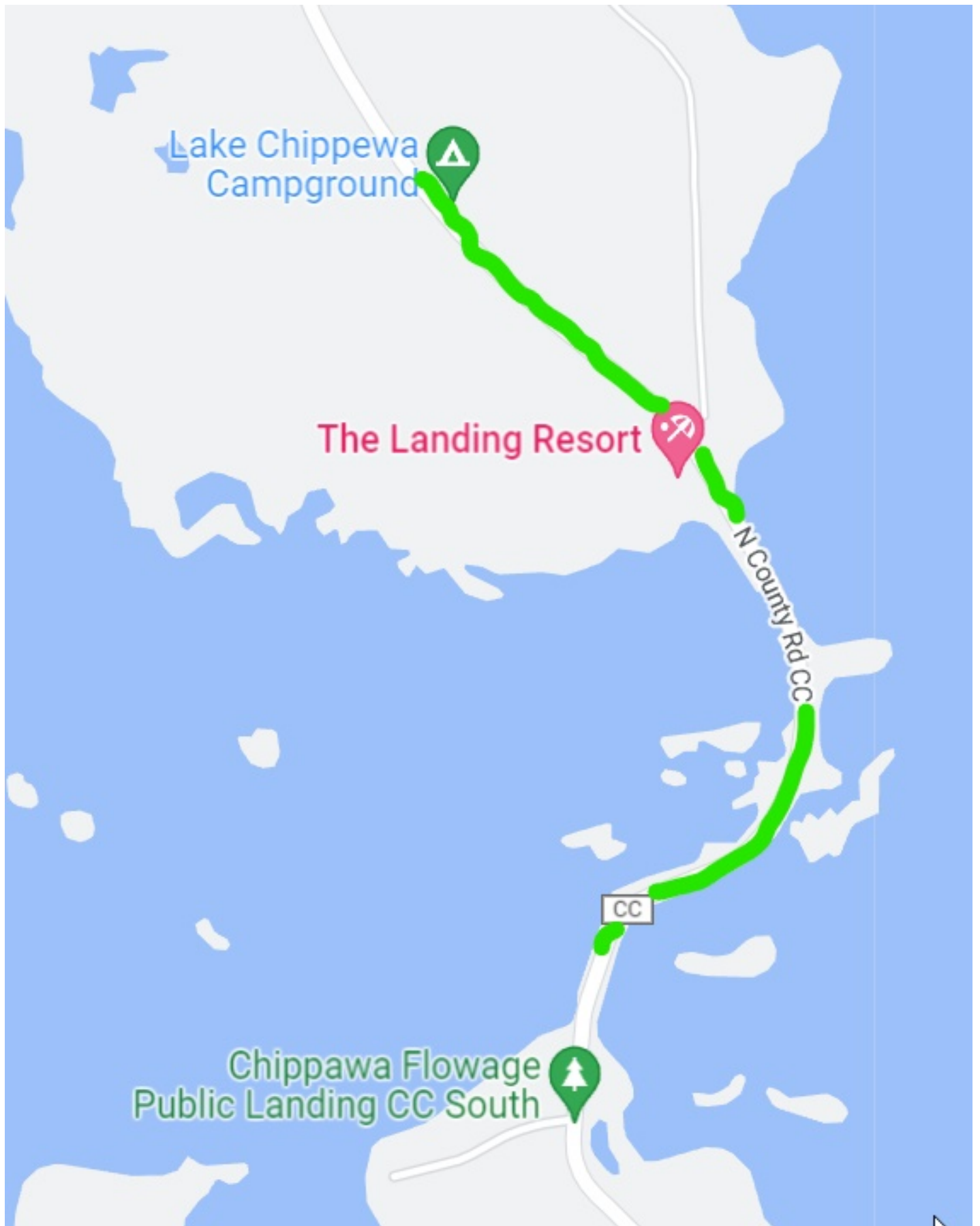
WHEREAS, The Sawyer County Traffic Safety Commission, the Sawyer County Public Works Committee, and the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors have determined and established that 25 miles per hour shall be the maximum speed at which vehicles may travel on County Road CC, from 745 feet north of the CTH CC South Boat Landing to 75 feet north of Lake Chippewa Campground, and

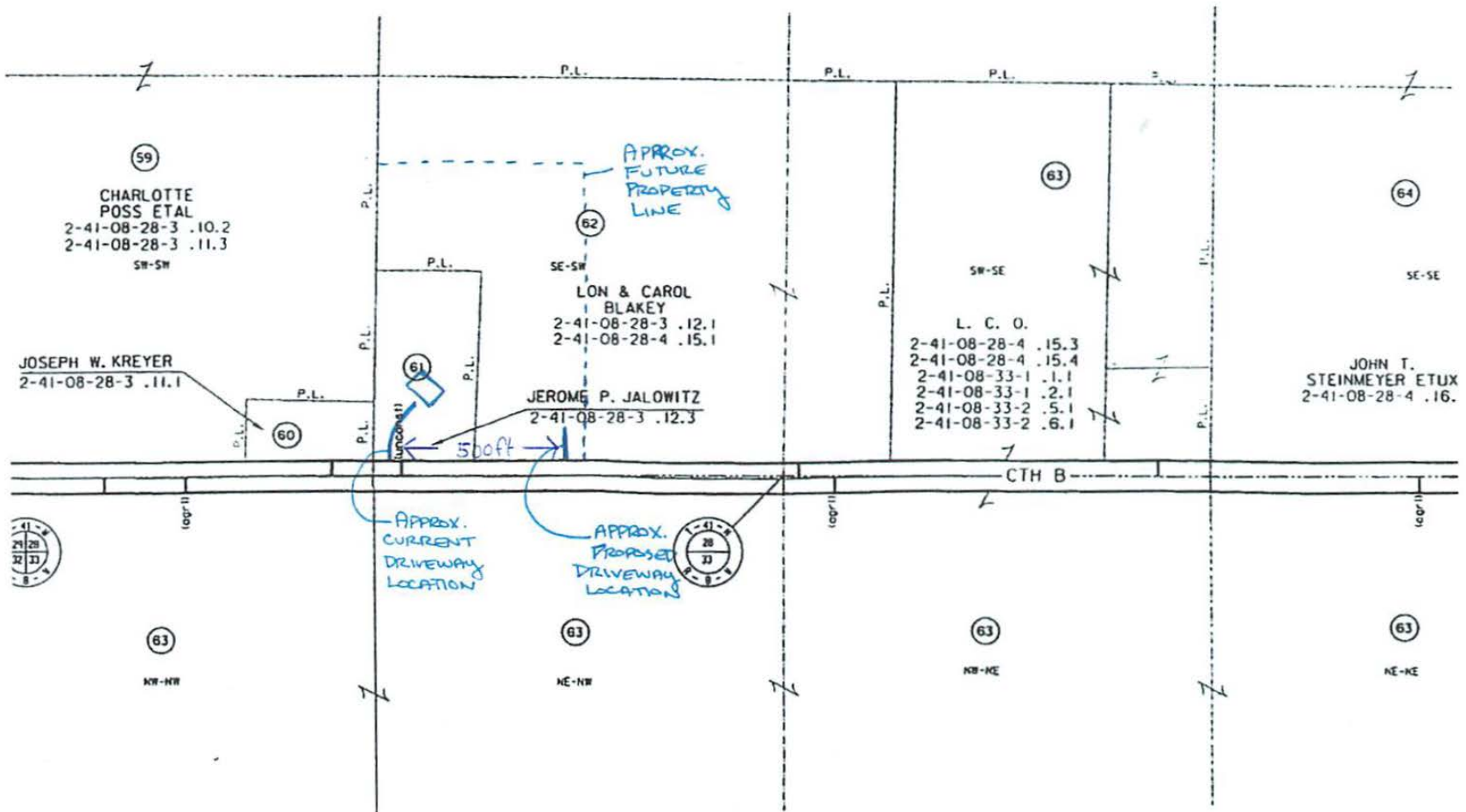
WHEREAS, this 25 mile per hour section totals approximately .814 miles in length and this speed has herein been established as the reasonable and safe maximum speed to travel, pursuant to section 349.11 of the Wisconsin Statutes;

NOW THEREFORE, The Sawyer County Board of Supervisors hereby ordains, with the approval of federal and state agencies, and upon the erection of standard signs giving notice thereof, as follows:

Section 1 – 25 miles per hour shall be the maximum permissible speed for vehicles operated on County Road CC in Sawyer County, from 745 feet north of the CTH CC South Boat Landing to 75 feet north of Lake Chippewa Campground, a distance of .814 miles.

Section 2 – Any person violating any provision of this ordinance may suffer forfeiture of no less than \$30.00 nor more than \$300.00, plus costs, or imprisoned not more than 30 days upon failure to pay such fine or forfeiture and costs.





Cory Robinson of Venom Outdoors is requesting a driveway access for a parcel of land that is located within Sawyer County's Controlled Access Plan on County Road B. Cory Robinson has not yet purchased the land, but wants to obtain a driveway permit prior to closing on the property. Without a driveway, the property is inaccessible from County Road B. The Controlled Access Plan, which was adopted on June 10, 1999, does provide for an individual to obtain a driveway, but only with approval from the Sawyer County Highway Department. Since 1999, Sawyer County has issued two other variances. These variances were granted by the committee.

Attached is a map showing the location of the requested driveway. This area is approximately ¼ mile east of the intersection of County Roads B and K.

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)

(Date)

By: _____
Area Forester/Ranger

By: _____
County Board Chairperson

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Resolution 2023-_____

Sawyer_County Forest Land Acquisition Town of Hayward

Resolution offered by the SAWYER COUNTY LAND, WATER, AND FOREST
RESOURCES COMMITTEE RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Sawyer
County, Wisconsin, That

WHEREAS, that Sawyer County has purchased the below described lands
consisting of 84.16 acres within Sawyer_County: NESW, and the FRAC NWSW of
Section 18, T41N, R8W, Town of Hayward, Sawyer County Wisconsin; and;

WHEREAS, the County Board has the authority to acquire said property for the
purpose of establishing County Forest Land pursuant to ss. 28.10 Wis. Stats; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition policy and boundaries are outlined and defined in
Chapter 400 of the Sawyer County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan, as
approved for years 2021-2035 by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors on
August 18, 2022; and

WHEREAS, acquisition of this property will perpetually provide forest products to
our local economy, revenues to the County, outdoor recreation opportunities to the
public, and improve property administration on the County Forest; and

WHEREAS, the County is eligible to apply for grant funding through the Knowles-
Nelson Stewardship grant program pursuant to ss. 23.0953 Wis. Stats; and

WHEREAS, said funding may provide funding for up to 50% of the acquisition
price; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SAWYER COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS that the County requests the grant funding available from the
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources under the “Knowles – Nelson
Stewardship Land Acquisition grant program; and

HEREBY AUTHORIZES the Sawyer County Forest Administrator act on behalf of
Sawyer County to: submit an application to the State of Wisconsin for land
acquisition grant funding; sign documents; and take necessary action to undertake,
direct, and complete an approved land acquisition project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sawyer County will comply with State
rules for the program and meet the financial obligations under the grant.

Recommended for adoption by the Sawyer County Board at its meeting on January
19, 2023, by the Sawyer County Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee on
January 11, 2023.

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Jesse Boettcher

Ed Peters

Jason Weaver

Marc Helwig

Brian Bisonette

Kevin Sheptick

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*

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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

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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.

Sawyer County Forestry Department



Sawyer County Courthouse
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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.

County Administrator's Work Report

January 12, 2023



General Updates

Corporation Counsel – Continue to work on a number of items with Counsel (Zoning, Records Request, policy reviews, and agreements). In addition, have a had a couple potential liability issues where County Mutual has appointed Counsel to assist (HR and Procedural items) – these have been addressed or have minimal activity.

Municode – Contract is in place for maintaining the adopted Code of Ordinances. They can now be found online through County website. As updates occur they will be posted online, and the Code adopted on a quarterly basis. Print updates will occur once a year. Ordinance updates/amendments being worked on by Public Health, Zoning, Animal Control

Courthouse Renovation

\$4.7 million of work completed with pay orders submitted. Approx \$4.1 million remaining. Construction/Project Manager agreement total of \$8,618,746
Owner Contingency fund currently at \$198,131 (original \$395,789). RFI/Change orders in process will bring fund to about \$190,000.

Working through a few issues related to furniture/casework and electronic locks, but otherwise project is proceeding well.

Turnover date still projected to be March 10.

Personnel

Union Negotiations – No update. No meetings or exchange of proposals since December 16.

Hiring has been improving. Still slow to fill vacancies in Jail.
Currently also recruiting for Highway Commissioner, all EMS positions, Social Worker/CPS Caseworkers.

Reviewing County benefit package (non-wage) and identifying improvements/additions. RFP is out to companies to assist in benefit planning and health insurance brokering. Due end of month.

Focusing on employee Wellness and Safety –
Wellness Day – December 20 – went well
Reviewing old Safety Manual and instituting safety training schedule

Starting work on a County Training- Inservice Day later in year.
Annual Reviews completed with Department Heads.

Finalized structure of Emergency Services (Ambulance and Medical Examiner)

And creating an Emergency Management-Communications Center – board appointment in January

Criminal Justice Collaborating Council

Bylaws update approved by CJCC – to go to County Board in February

CJCC adding a couple members, and asking for more involvement from other County Departments, primarily HHS.

Opioid Settlement Status

No new details on Securitization.

We have about \$121,000 in Opioid Settlement funds thus far, and they are held in segregated fund. Third WCA Opioid Summit held last week, focus on potential uses of settlement funds.

Public Health has taken lead on gap analysis and putting together a framework to address Opioid overdoses. Framework includes Prevention, Harm Reduction, Treatment, and Recovery. Multi-faceted. Has been presented to CJCC, and will be presented to County Board in February along with draft budget.

Treatment and Diversion

Justice Point continues work, and County has tentative TAD grant for \$225,000 for 2023 for fully implementing Treatment Court and continuing Diversion work.

Oasis building – ADRC moving into building now. ADRC and VSO up and operating in building. Still filling reception/assistant position. External highway sign is up. Will be an Open House at a later date.

Office Moves in Courthouse - due to expanding Justice Point programming (TAD) there is a need to shuffle some office spaces. No other update.

Carbon Credit Agreement signed with Anew – Kickoff meeting held

Cooper (County Forest land) land closed on in December – acquisition complete. Resolution to Board to apply for Stewardship funds for part of purchase price.

Senior Resource Center

Use of IT and Maintenance staff as part of assistance (in lieu of \$)

Policy –

Reviewing current policies and identifying gaps.

Implementing

Contract Review/Signing

Investment

Outstanding Items involving LCO

Child Support MOU – still in progress

161 Agreement (child placements) – still in progress

ATV/UTV ordinance – still in progress – effort to look at all ordinances in County (Towns and LCO) and find some common ground.

County/LCO Tribal Law Enforcement Grant and Agreement Awarded

Work being done on all of them. Hope to have all wrapped up by end of the year.

Airport

Winter weather and snowfall has had significant impact on airport operations and costs for snow removal. Equipment has been down, but is currently up and running. State is starting process for new equipment to come in future years.

Also significant discussions about timeline for funding runway rehabilitation project.

Broadband

Conversations starting with providers, as next round of funds become available. Already request for support from BevComm.

Emergency Declaration Update – December 14th-15th event

Emergency Management personnel continue to work on recovery from event.

Preliminary estimates submitted to State by deadline of January 16th.

Total submitted from Sawyer County (all units) - \$853,912 (\$47.25 per capita) which is 10 times the \$4.44 per capita that is minimum threshold.

Amount from County government was \$413,415. (\$279,000 was for debris clean-up on County Roads).

Five municipalities did not submit or did not submit enough to clear per capita threshold.