

**Minutes of the December 13, 2023 meeting of the Sawyer County
Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Board Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members (X) Present:

- ☒ Chair: **Ed Peters**
- ☒ Vice Chair – Marc Helwig - virtual
- ☒ Kay Wilson
- ☒ Brian Bisonette – virtual
- ☒ Jason Weaver
- ☐

Others Present:

Lynn Fitch	Andy Albarado
Cathy LaReau	Tweed Shuman
David Todus	Jerry Wright
Greg Peterson	
Brian DeVries	
Kris Treland-Neuman	

Call to Order – Chair Ed Peters called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Certification of Compliance with the open meeting law was met. Roll Call was taken; a quorum was met.

Meeting Agenda –

Public Comments –

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: November 8, 2023

Motion to approve made by: Ms. Wilson Second by: Mr. Weaver
Motion carried without negative vote.

Register of Deeds Update -

A written report was provided and listed activity and revenue in the department

Events -

Seeley Big Fat Race – Mr. Peterson provided the map of the courses for both January 20th long- and short-course races. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Ms. Wilson to approve the long and short course applications. Motion carried without negative vote.

Wakeboard Discussion Update -

Mr. Peters advised that the discussion is moving forward to hearings in Madison but an alternative bill is being reviewed. The resolution that we put forward with the depth verbiage seems to be the component missing at the state level. Mr. Albarado advised that a public hearing was held in Eagle River last month where public comments were heard. At this point the two bills at the state level are at Committee level but still are not as restrictive as our County would like to see. Mr. Bisonette reported that the Tribe has put significant funds toward erosion prevention on the Chippewa Flowage, as it is a shallow body of water. He has been receiving calls from residents asking that the Tribe take a stand on this issue and send a letter to the Governor but nothing has been completed yet. The Clerk was asked to circulate our resolution from last month with a cover letter to the State County Clerks. A motion was made by Ms. Wilson to have Mr. Albarado draft the letter and circulate to the County Clerks' group; second by Mr. Weaver. Motion carried without negative vote.

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report -

Written reports were provided and reviewed by Mr. DeVries. He advised that the company that hosts the interactive mapping website that they use is getting out of the business. He is moving to a company called Schneider GIS who gave us a good price on the product. A few departments have reviewed the site and they will soon be letting users know this change is taking place. Several county users will be meeting with Schneider to share design concerns and suggestions. The Novus website will remain in place. This past year, the department has been working on developing

their own website, as well, and that site has gone live. Mr. DeVries will send the link to the new page to committee members.

Sawyer County Forestry Department -

Recreational Trails Report – Ms. Treland-Neuman provided a verbal update. The Alliance is transitioning from ATV to snowmobile. They are awaiting delivery of two new pieces of grooming equipment, and they continue to work on trail rehab. Mr. Wright provided a verbal update for the silent trail sports; they are developing new trails and signage.

County Forestry – A written report was provided and reviewed by Mr. Peterson. He states there is a high level of activity despite market concerns. Sale review for the month was \$187,000 so YTD is on target. The recon goals have also been met for the year. Nothing new to report for oak wilt.

Consider County Gravel Pit Siting/Development on County Land – Mr. Peterson advised that they received a request from the Highway Department to do some exploratory digs and it was determined that good material was found. A request for a County pit on County forest land is being submitted for a 40-acre parcel. The forestry department is in favor of this request for access to gravel for their projects. A motion was made by Mr. Weaver; second by Mr. Helwig to pursue the approval process of a non-metallic mine and move this request to the next level. A voice vote was taken and passed without negative vote.

DNR Forestry –

David Todus represented the department with a verbal report.

Zoning/Conservation Department -

County Report – A written report was provided.

USDA Report – A written report was provided.

LCO Report – Mr. Bisonette provided a verbal report, stating that staff is preparing for winter. They have a 40-acre habitat improvement project that was started recently.

Future Agenda Items -

Other Topics for Discussion Only -

Adjournment – 9:08 am

Next Meeting: January 10, 2024 **Time:** 8:30 am **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk