



Sawyer County

Agenda

Land, Water, & Forest Resources Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 10, 2024 @ 8:30 AM
Sawyer County Board 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://sawyercountygov.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. [12.13.23 LWFR Minutes DRAFT](#)

	7. REGISTER OF DEEDS UPDATE
6 - 7	a. ROD Monthly Report
	8. EVENTS (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)
	9. LAND RECORDS AND COUNTY SURVEYOR DEPARTMENT REPORT
8 - 9	a. 1) January Surveyor Report 2024 2) LWFRC January 2024 Real Lister
	10. SAWYER COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT
	a. Recreational Trails Report Motorized- Non-motorized-
10 - 12	b. County Forestry Report dec 23 forestry report
13 - 21	c. Sawyer County Forest 2024 Annual Work Plan SCF 2024 Annual Workplan
22 - 25	d. Sawyer County Forest/WDNR Annual Partnership Meeting Minutes 2023 SCF Partnership Meeting
	e. DNR Forestry Report
	11. ZONING/ CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
26	a. County Report Conservation Department Update Jan 2024
	b. USDA report
	c. LCO report
	12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
	13. CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS
	14. 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 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

ROD Monthly Report

December, 2023

Activity	Number of Copies	Total Revenue including amounts to State
Emailed Copies		149.00
Counter Copies		156.00
Birth	31	692.00
Death	21	804.00
Marriage	7	158.00
Divorce	0	0
Recorded Documents	365	6,479.50
Transfer Fees		49,079.70
Laredo		4,384.70

General:

Ended 2023 with county share of transfer fees being at 181%, roughly 60,000 over budgeted amount. Register of Deed fees were at 104%, roughly 4,200 over revenue.



Sawyer County Surveyor's Department
10610 Main Street, Suite 54
Hayward, Wisconsin 54843-0248
Telephone 715-634-3564 Fax 715-634-3546
<https://sawyercountygov.org/>

County Surveyor's Report 1/10/24

Field work continues in Township 37 North Range 5 West.

We performed maintenance on several corners in the Town of Round Lake in December. We also searched for a quarter-corner which had not been documented since 1912. We recovered a pile of stones at the corner location, and re-monumented it with a modern aluminum survey marker.

We finished 2023 with a total of 118 corners set or maintained by our department. An additional 106 corners were set or maintained by others, either during private survey work or under contract with the County.

Six Certified Survey Maps were reviewed in December.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Gregory
Sawyer County Surveyor



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December 28, 2023

Real Property Lister Report

All tax bills have been printed and were distributed to each municipality by Friday, December 15th. This was later than usual given the municipality treasurer turnovers and underwriter insurance issues with their bonds. However, we still met the state deadline. We have also sent copies of the tax rolls to the Department of Revenue. We are busy answering phone calls and questions at the window about tax bills that landowners are now receiving.

We are also working at getting caught up on transfers and parcel splits through the end of the year. And we are working with the assessors to make a smooth transition away from Personal Property using the new Building, Fixtures, and/or Improvements Document.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Wendt
GIS Technician and Real Property Lister

715-638-3279

kimberly.wendt@sawyercountygov.org

Forestry Report December 2023

Active Sales

Twenty-two sales listed as active in month of December

Sale Date	# of Sales	Acres	Bid Value	Received	Est. Remaining
11/2/18	2	102	\$54,751.75	\$8,175.80	\$46,575.95
5/3/19	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
11/1/19	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5/5/20	2	220	\$194,138.50	\$266,573.50	\$6,251.50*
11/3/20	2	155	\$221,556.50	\$148,407.86	\$73,148.64
5/7/21	3	322	\$391,855.00	\$172,516.33	\$219,338.67
10/22/21	4	269	\$408,084.00	\$101,913.16	\$306,170.84
5/11/22	5	284	\$494,305.62	\$307,480.46	\$197,375.83*
11/1/22	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5/10/23	4	289	\$380,619.84	\$223,307.73	\$157,312.11
11/3/23	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Totals	22	1641	\$2,145,311.21	\$1,228,374.84	\$1,006,173.54

Inactive Sales

Sale Date	# of Sales	Acres	Bid Value	Received	Est. Remaining
11/2/18	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5/3/19	2	106	\$46,520.00	\$0	\$46,520.00
11/1/19	1	83	\$83,319.14	\$56,223.74	\$27,095.40
5/5/20	1	39	\$40,500.00	\$0	\$40,500.00
11/3/20	2	113	\$54,230.00	\$9,000.00	\$45,230.00
5/7/21	7	599	\$320,476.00	\$8,078.25	\$312,397.75
10/22/21	6	524	\$380,500.20	\$67,361.03	\$313,139.17
5/11/22	12	773	\$582,286.60	\$178,563.04	\$411,660.74*
11/1/22	13	1128	\$668,624.20	\$119,430.20	\$549,194.00
5/10/23	11	710	\$1,172,061.30	\$87,175.58	\$1,084,885.72
11/3/23	16	1417	\$693,810.95	\$0	\$693,810.95
Totals	71	5492	\$4,042,328.39	\$525,831.84	\$3,524,433.73

* Sales having overruns

** Sales having underruns

Three sales closed out in December.

Timber Sale Value (sold contracts-uncut) on file = **\$4,530,607.27**

<u>Timber Revenue</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Timber Sales	\$278,362.81	\$2,617,710.33
<u>Christmas Trees/Boughs</u>	\$35	\$45
<u>Performance Bond Cashed</u>	\$0	\$20,222.94
<u>Other Revenue</u>		
<u>Camping/Firewood/Access/Hay</u>	\$40	\$936
<u>Park Reservations</u>	\$0	\$760
		<u>Budget</u>
Gross Timber Sale Revenue	\$2,617,755.33	\$1,850,000
10% Payment to Towns	\$ 261,775.53	
Net Timber Sale Revenue	\$2,355,979.80	
Performance Bonds Drawn	\$ 20,222.94	
Total Other Revenue	\$ 1,696.00	
Timber Sale Revenue Billed Out	\$ 55,382.68	

Timber Sale Inspections	<u># month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	41	369

Comments: Goal for timber sale inspections is 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>
	0/37	0/2801	3600

Comments:

Recon Acres Updated	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Annual Goal</u>
	264	6366	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.

Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Hours

December

50.25

FY24 Contract

257.50

Current Contract:

Pending Contract FY24 Stands

Approximately 600 hours timber sale establishment/admin. \$43,775.10.

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.

Mountain Bike Trails:

Nothing new to report.

Birkie Trail:

Nothing new to report.

ATV/UTV/Snowmobile Trails:

Trail 5 rehab project work continues. 7.27 miles from FR 784 to 2.35 miles west of FR 174. Grant funded, \$188,250 project cost.

Parks:

Hatchery Park: Nothing new to report.

Nelson Lake Park: Nothing new to report.

Carbon Credit Project:

Nothing new to report.



Sawyer County Forestry Department

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SAWYER COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT ANNUAL WORK PLAN FOR 2024

Following is the proposed Sawyer County Forest work plan for the year 2024. 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 115,198 acres in size.

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

- **Forest Cover:**

Aspen	40,973
Northern Hardwood	23,902
Oak	10,128
Black Spruce	5,470
White Pine	4,453
Swamp Hardwood	3,925
Red Pine	2,058
Tamarack	1,834
Red Maple	951
Cedar	896
White Spruce	531
Hemlock	327
Jack Pine	148
Balsam Fir	51
White Birch	45
Misc. Deciduous	23
Misc. Coniferous	10

Total Productive Forested Acres 95,847

**Non-productive/ Non-forested acreage accounts for 19,351 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 3500 acres of timber in accordance with the 2024 Annual Allowable Cut (excluding salvage operations due to unknown occurrences) in the following timber types in 2024:

	<u>Un-Even Aged Harvest/Thinning</u>	<u>Even-Aged Harvest Harvest/Thinning</u>
Northern Hardwoods	1330	70
Aspen	0	900
Oak	25	545
White Pine	0	245
Red Pine	0	180
Swamp Hardwood	20	55
Tamarack	0	20
Red Maple	20	15
White Spruce	0	45
Black Spruce	0	55
	1395	2130

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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 2024. 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 2024 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 2024 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.
- D. Evaluate and begin planning for harvesting and replanting red and white pine plantations nearing rotation ages.

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 the public of changes made to access.
3. Continue to maintain signs on roads and trails in accordance with the 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 the 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 the 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 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 the 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 are needed to prevent timber trespass or to clarify boundaries in order to continue management.

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS FOREST ACTIVITIES

- A. Monitor camping policy in the County Forest for possible problems and/or changes to policy that will improve camping opportunities in the 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 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 Trail 5 rehab project, FR 784 to 2.35 miles west of FR 174. 7.27 miles, grant funded \$246,200.
4. Complete Trail 11 Rehab project, Tuscobia Trail to Lost Lake Rd. south. 3.1 miles, grant funded \$92,295.
5. Complete Trail 15 Rehab project, Hwy 77 to Phipps Fire Lane. 1.7 miles, grant funded \$45,750.
6. Complete Trail 31 Rehab project, Rusk Cty line to Tuscobia Trail. 3.9 miles, grant funded \$104,130.
7. Complete Trail 77 Rehab project, Janet Rd. to Telemark Rd. 2.0 miles, grant funded \$53,900.
8. Complete Trail 3 Rehab project, County Hwy B to FR 319. 0.96 miles, grant funded \$21,880.
9. Complete Trail 3 Rehab project, Green Lake Rd. to Washburn Cty line. 2.79 miles, grant funded \$62,720.
10. Complete Tuscobia Trail Rehab project, Crawford Rd. to Uncle Tom's Rd. 7.38 miles, Grant funded, \$153,800.
11. Complete Tuscobia Trail Rehab project, Shrock Rd. to Wooddale Rd. 2.02 miles, grant funded \$41,800.
12. 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.

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3. Seeley Trails
The Seeley Trails are maintained and groomed primarily by the Seeley Hills Club.
Work with Seeley Hills club developing management plan for non-motorized trail system.
- D. Bike Trails
 1. Continue to work with Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) to maintain mountain bike trails both the single-track 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.

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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 hunter walking trails.
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 the 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 – FY25 Stands. Approximately 595 hours, \$45,000 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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Sawyer County Courthouse
10610 Main Street, Suite 100
Hayward, WI 54843
Phone: (715) 634-4846
Fax: (715) 638-3234



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 18, 2023.
2. Sawyer County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2021-2035.

Correspondence/Memorandum – Annual Partnership Meeting

State of Wisconsin

DATE: Monday, September 18th, 2023

TO: Greg Peterson – Sawyer County Forest Administrator, Patrick Zimmer – Hayward Forestry Team Leader, and Doug Brown – County Forest and Public Lands Specialist

FROM: Brody Fischer, Sawyer County Forest Liaison

SUBJECT: 2023 Sawyer County Forest Annual Partnership Meeting Minutes

Overview:

Required attendance: County Forest Administrator, County Forest Liaison, Team Leader, Area Leader, Wildlife Biologist. Optional attendance may include but not limited to county forest staff, local DNR integrated foresters and technicians, local wildlife technician, NHC staff, Area Forestry Leader, etc. Document the date and location of the meeting.

ATTENDEES: Greg Peterson, Sawyer County Forest Administrator

Patrick Zimmer, WI DNR Hayward Area Forestry Team Leader

Brody Fischer, WI DNR Forester Liaison Sawyer County

Josh Spiegel, WI DNR Wildlife Biologist

Paul Cigan, WI DNR Plant Pest and Disease Specialist

Jim Kujala, WI DNR Forester

Randy Sobralski, WI DNR Forestry Technician

David Todus, WI DNR Forester

Holly Schielke, WI DNR Forester

Kyle Cummings, Sawyer County Forester

Erik Schielke, Sawyer County Forester

Jeff Steidl, Sawyer County Forester

Meeting held at Hwy OO trail head building in Seeley, WI on 9/18/2023.

Review of Prior Year's Time Standards and Accomplishments (FY23):

- Sawyer County Forest time standards were at 2217 hours for FY 23. The actual number of hours contributed to SCF was 2224, fulfilling DNR's time commitment. The base goal was exceeded by 52 hours.
- One project that stood out in this year's accomplishments entailed the Parks Farm Road Improvement Project. With the aid of Josh Spiegel obtaining funds through RMEF, nearly two miles of trail was able to be reconstructed and upgraded by the aid of a contractor and DNR employees. There has been a lot of positive feedback from the public land users along with high remarks from the audit team during Sawyer County Forest Dual Certification Audit at the beginning of August.

Review of Current Years' Time Standards (FY24):

- The time standards for FY24 are the same as last year at 2217. Discussions on managing the completion of these hours in certain areas (recon, sale establishment, etc.)
- Priorities for FY24 will be sale establishment, recon updating, site prep, and prescribed fire.

Timber Sale Goals and Updates:

- DNR to set up approximately 500 ac a year while completing county forest time standards. Compartments and stands will soon be distributed to county staff and DNR liaison for this harvest schedule.
- Harvest acres over the 15-year average to stay relatively similar to FY23, however red pine should be slightly higher due to ageing stands.
- Blue line projects to start once the leaves drop, to ensure better GPS accuracy. All property boundary establishment work will be conducted by Sawyer County Forestry personnel.

Recon Status & Goals:

- Currently there are 9515 acres of recon greater than 20 years old. Most of this acreage is in even-aged aspen stands. DNR and county staff will continue to update this recon concurrently with sale establishment efforts.

Reforestation and Forest Regeneration:

- Currently there is no reforestation account to purchase seedlings to plant on the county forest. However, Sawyer County's carbon program is starting up and they are hopeful that future revenue from this program may be used for regeneration purposes.
- Small quantities of trees are received for kids to plant on Arbor Day. Small patches within the Sawyer County Forest have been furrowed by WI DNR for planting locations.
- There are many areas that had been scarified in the past for oak regeneration, and some scarification currently being implemented. The scarification is prescribed by the county foresters given their objective for that stand.
- Prescribed fire has been implemented on the county forest for a while now. Burning has been mostly in the non-forested acres for wildlife management but there are also some silviculture burns slated for this fall or upcoming spring.

Wildlife Program:

- Wildlife Biologist Josh Spiegel stated that the Nickel an Acre fund is not projected to change soon. Utilizing RMEF grant money within the elk range within the county forest will open opportunities to use Nickel money elsewhere. Also, potentially utilize RMEF grant for land acquisition (continued later).
- DNR wildlife department is hoping to continue to improve roads and trails within the county forest for wildlife management and access for public land users. Also, upgrading and maintaining Rx burn breaks to a more trail like structure.
- Continuing CWD surveys and extending kiosk locations within the county.

Grants & Loans:

- There are currently no SFGs yet, hoping to apply for one next year to improve access in the Draper block or off Hogsback Road in the Winter block.
- As mentioned before, RMEF could help fund this also if it is within the elk range. RMEF also has a program to help with land acquisition for public access where they would do the initial land purchase, then sell the land for the same amount once the purchasing entity can allocate the funds. This is usually a 3-5 year process.
- In December of 2022, a Stewardship Grant was utilized to purchase the Cooper parcel north of Hatchery Park to expand the Sawyer County Forest.

NHC/Endangered Resources:

- No outstanding issues at this time.
- DNR Liaison forester conducts NHI and Archeological searches for timber sales within the Sawyer County Forest. Regional Forest Ecologist will continue to be consulted if/when known issues arise.

Forest Health:

- Paul Cigan WI DNR Plant Pest and Disease specialist advised that it has been a very dry summer and the northern 1/3 of Wisconsin is in severe drought. This is a contributing factor to the rise of defoliators mainly north of Sawyer County.
- Two-line chestnut borer is quite populated this summer which is showing up in many areas across Sawyer and adjacent counties. Numerous landowners call in worry of Oak Wilt, but the blame has been trending toward Two-line.
- Although affects haven't been seen in Sawyer County, Spongy Moth has defoliated a record 350,00 acres across Douglas and Bayfield counties. With such a prominent drought this year, the forecast is likely for another outbreak next year.
- Another forest pest on the rise this year is Spruce Budworm. Many acres of spruce and fir are showing signs of budworm and drought is a contributing factor.
- An aerial survey was conducted in the Seeley block of the Sawyer County Forest in mid-August for Oak wilt. While in the air, signs of Spruce Budworm and Oak wilt were observed. Roughly fifteen Oak Wilt points were recorded for future ground truthing on and off of the county forest.
- Douglas and Bayfield counties are experiencing a secondary defoliator of this season called the Orange Striped Oak Worm, which is not helping their cause whatsoever.
- Forest tent caterpillar is overdue for its outbreak. Last outbreak was in 2001 with their cycle ranging from six to sixteen years.
- EAB is most likely expanding in Sawyer County. Previously, EAB was found near Moose Lake and has likely spread from there and in other places. Cigan advised to keep an eye on Black Ash swamps and manage these areas for diversity to become mixed stands for the future.

Invasive Species:

- Sawyer County Foresters have been actively managing Garlic Mustard in the spring season when it is emerging.
- There is little worry about the European Honeysuckle that resides in many aspen stands in the Winter block. Aspen regeneration shows that it can overtop and outcompete the honeysuckle easily. The honeysuckle only remains as a foresters headache.

Dozer Projects:

- Sawyer County Forestry has been advised of the 50% price increase for dozer hours, with little reaction since it is still a good deal for their agency.
- An erosion mitigation project had been implemented on Lake Helene Road with good success and great germination of the cover seeding.
- Upcoming project work may include trail rehab work off the Thornapple Grade and burn break improvement before the Rx burn season.

Recreation:

- The Birkie and CAMBA clubs have not come forward with any plans or proposals.
- Easy Strider trail expansion has been initiated with prework being implemented currently.
- Two ATV grant projects tied to the Tussock trail have been completed this year. Four more ATV grant projects are slated for next year.

Forest Certification:

- This year's audit findings resulted in one SFI OFI and FSC OBS. With this, the certifying bodies suggest ensuring BMPs particularly for RMZ's are still valid prior to a timber sale becoming active. More guidance to come from WCFA Legislative/Certification committee. A second FSC OBS was identified pertaining to Chain of Custody standards. DNR County Forest Specialist is working with WCFA to provide additional guidance to all counties on correcting this issue.
- Sawyer County has their next internal DNR audit October 2023.

Open Forum:

- A pine blowdown salvage harvest has been drafted and is in the bid process. Bid opening will be held Friday, September 22nd, 2023.
- Conversation was had about selling sales with variable products instead of leaving one option to harvest to a four-inch top. Similar to selling whole tree, changing the minimum size requirement to a larger diameter may help with more bids on timber sales and aid loggers in a suppressed market for pulpwood across the board.

DRAFT



Zoning & Conservation Department Update Dec. 2023 – Jan. 2024

Prepared by Jay Kozlowski, Zoning & Conservation Administrator

- At next month's meeting we will be submitting a resolution to apply for the WI DNR Municipal Dam Grant for repairs/reconstruction to the Fishtrap Lake Dam. As part of this process there will also be a special public hearing conducted by the Sawyer County Zoning Committee for the potential approval of the Dam Failure Analysis for Fishtrap Lake Dam.
- AIS grant was accepted and approved by DNR, we are now waiting on funds from that.
- Poster/Speaking Contest will be January 17-19th. Registration is due Jan 16th.
- Still looking for an agricultural representative to sit on the LWFRF. FSA recommended Mr. Tweed Shuman but as a County Supervisor it would not be recommended he also serve as FSA member. Conservation Department will be looking for other FSA members to serve on the Committee.
- Only a few tree bundles remain for the annual tree sale.
- Submitting annual conservation report the DATCP this month.
- Beginning updates on other Dam inspection, operation, and maintenance plans (IOMP's) and emergency action plans (EAP's)
- Other shoreline surveys for cost share projects and dam brushing is also occurring.