

**Minutes of the February 7, 2024 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
- ☒ Kay Wilson
- ☒ Brian Bisonette
- ☒ Jason Weaver - virtual
- ☐

Others Present:

Lynn Fitch	Andy Albarado-virtual
Jay Kozlowski	Seth Sesker
Cathy LaReau	
Brody Fischer	
Greg Peterson	
Brian DeVries @ 8:34 am	

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: **January 10, 2024**

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Helwig Second by: Ms. Wilson

Motion carried without negative vote.

Register of Deeds Update -

A written report was provided detailing activity in the office of ROD.

Events - None

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report -

Surveyor's Report – A written report was provided. Mr. DeVries advised that at the end of 2023 we submitted the WLIP grant funds to get our land records online. This year we received \$10,000 which went toward surveying activities. They applied for and received a \$1000 training grant and the base budget grant for \$57,937.

Real Property Lister Report – A written report was provided. Work on updating assessments has been ongoing.

Sawyer County Forestry Department -

Recreational Trails Report – Ms. LaReau advised that the clubs removed all stakes from lakes and many of the ice fishing contests have cancelled due to safety concerns.

County Forestry – A written report was provided. Mr. Peterson advised that they had 17 active sales in January totaling 1520 acres. The road bans going on early will present a hardship on loggers so requests for extensions without increase are arriving in the office. Inspections are on target and the conditions are allowing for lots of field work to be completed. They are currently working on harvesting record requests for the first carbon credit reporting year.

DNR Forestry – Mr. Fischer advised that they have been out in the field most days due to easy access without the snowfall.

Emergency Fire Warden Renewal – this item will move forward to County Board.

Release of Reserved for Flowage Easements & Gravel Pits on a Parcel in the Town of Winter- Mr. Albarado advised that this involves a parcel of land sold to reservations. This would release land from 1945 for any flowage rights and rights to gravel pits reserved in the Quit Claim Deed from Sawyer County to John Dietz. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig to approve the Quit Claim Deed and forward to County Board; second by Mr. Bisonette. Motion carried without negative vote.

Zoning/Conservation Department -

County Report – A written report was provided and reviewed. They are still working for a representative to sit on the Committee for the agricultural representative. Tree sale inventory is almost sold out and updates are ongoing on other Dam inspection, operation and maintenance plans.

Resolution for Participation in the Department of Natural Resources Municipal Dam Grant Program - As part of the municipal dam grant, a resolution was presented for application to the State municipal dam grant. Work would be done on Fishtrap Lake Dam. Mr. Koslowski shared a photo of the area and explained the replacement process. They would expect approximately \$700,000 in costs for the replacement. The resolution authorizes Mr. Koslowski to apply for the grant reimbursement. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig to approve the resolution authorizing participation in the DNR municipal dam grant program; second by Ms. Wilson and forward to the County Board. Motion carried without negative vote.

Wildlife Damage Claims – A list of claims was provided for review. These are pass-through claims of \$67,094.26 from the State. Mr. Sesker presented the list for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig to approve the claim list as presented; second by Mr. Bisonette. Motion carried without negative vote.

Nelson Lake Drawdown Proposal – Mr. Koslowski presented the 2024-25 fall/winter draw-down proposal to repair broken boat launch ramps. This request is in conjunction with the Nelson Lake Association and the Nelson Lake Resort Association. They will work the DNR and the lake association to complete the work. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig to approve the request to present the draw-down proposal to the DNR; second by Mr. Bisonette. Motion carried without negative vote.

USDA Report – No update

LCO Report – Mr. Bisonette advised that LCO contacted the BIA regional director and were assured that they would start getting responses on the issues that have been submitted. They have also been working with the Alliance on a resolution for the ATV trails supporting the county's application, and they are looking at changing some of the ATV/UTV codes and will be working with Ms. LaReau on that project.

Future Agenda Items –

Other Topics for Discussion Only -

Adjournment – 9:16 am

Next Meeting: March 13, 2024 Time: 8:30 am Location: Board Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk