

**Minutes of the May 8, 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:

- ☒ Kay Wilson
- ☒ Steve Kariainen
- ☒ Randy Neumann
- ☒ Brian Bisonette
- ☒ John Suralski

Others Present:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Lynn Fitch | Andy Albarado |
| Jay Kozlowski | Chris Gregory |
| Kris Treland-Neumann | Brian DeVries |
| Brody Fischer | Craig Olson |
| Greg Peterson | Stacey Hessel |
| Tweed Shuman | Paula Chisser |
| Brian DeVries | |

Call to Order – County Clerk Fitch 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.

Elections – Clerk Fitch read the rules of the election for Chair and Vice Chair and opened the floor for nominations. Ms. Wilson nominated Mr. Suralski for position of Chair; there being no further nominations a voice vote was called and Mr. Suralski was appointed unanimously as Chair. Nominations were opened for Vice Chair. Ms. Wilson nominated Mr. Kariainen for the position of Vice Chair; there being no further nominations, a voice vote was called and Mr. Kariainen was appointed unanimously as Vice Chair.

Meeting Agenda –

Public Comments –

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: April 10, 2024

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

Register of Deeds Update -

A written report was provided detailing activity in the office of ROD. Ms. Chisser announced that she will not be seeking re-election for the position of Register of Deeds. The activity in the office has declined this past year due to the lack of home purchases and refinancing.

Events -

No events

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report -

Written reports were provided. Mr. Gregory reviewed the responsibilities of his department and staff. Certified Survey Maps and deeds are reviewed here before being recorded. The District 1 Wisconsin Real Property Listers Association spring meeting will be held at our courthouse facility this month. Mr. DeVries provided an overview of their staff responsibilities. They have been working on Board of Review, the print rolls and assessor evaluations. He reviewed the function of the GIS software and components of the interactive mapping system.

Sawyer County Forestry Department -

Recreational Trails Report – Ms. Treland-Neumann provided a verbal review. The Alliance were able to open all the trails on May 1st and the expect a busy season. There are numerous trail maintenance projects in process.

County Forestry Report – Reports were provided and reviewed by Mr. Peterson. Active and inactive sales volumes, and revenue for April timber sales was \$180,024.49. The ATV/UTV trail projects were listed, and they have applied for seven special grant programs and probably won't hear results until July. They have four approved grant projects that will go out for bid this week. The 2024 Spring timber sale bid report was reviewed with three new bidders that had high bids on some sales. A motion was made by Ms. Wilson; second by Mr. Neumann to approve the timber sale bids.

DNR Forestry Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Fischer provided an overview of the relationship the DNR has with Sawyer County. Fire dangers have fallen with the recent precipitation, and a 4th-grade tree planting event was held on May 3rd where approximately 750 trees were planted.

Zoning/Conservation Department -

County Report – A written report was provided and reviewed by Mr. Kozlowski. He provided a review of the relationship the zoning department has with land, water and conservation systems. They are still looking for an agricultural representative to sit on this committee. The County tree sale sold over 2,000 trees to area property owners, and they continue to monitor the water levels on the seven County-owned dams. Conservation staff have been assisting property owners with shoreline erosion projects, ice ridge repairs, and are starting to raise beetles for purple loosestrife control.

USDA Report – No update

LCO Report – Mr. Bisonette reported that the fish hatchery has had successful walleye stock. They have also been busy with complaints of bear and beaver damage. Their campsites are now open through LCOcamping.com for reservations. All LCO trails are now open and maintenance has begun work on areas needing repairs.

Future Agenda Items –

Other Topics for Discussion Only –

Adjournment – 9:11 am

Next Meeting: June 12, 2024 Time: 8:30 am Location: Board Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk