



Sawyer County

Agenda

Land, Water, & Forest Resources Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 10, 2024 @ 8:30 AM

Sawyer County Board Room

Revised: Monday, July 8, 2024 4:56 PM

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. MEETING AGENDA

6. 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.

4 - 5	7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING a. 6.12.24 LWFCR Minutes DRAFT
6	8. REGISTER OF DEEDS UPDATE a. ROD Monthly Report
	9. EVENTS (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)
7 - 8	10. LAND RECORDS AND COUNTY SURVEYOR DEPARTMENT REPORT a. 1) Surveyor July 2024 2) LWFCR July 2024
	11. SAWYER COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT
9 - 11	a. Recreational Trails Report Motorized- Non-motorized-
12 - 14	b. County Forestry Report June 2024 Forestry Report c. Draper Road Project Request (discussion and possible action) 1) Draper Road Project Map 2) Sustainable Forestry Grant Application-Draper Road Access Project
15	d. Non-motorized Trail Ordinance Update - EBike Review (discussion and possible action) Request to Permit Class 1 E-bikes-Sawyer County
16	e. DNR Forestry Report July 10th 2024
	12. ZONING/ CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT
17	a. County Report Conservation Department Update July 2024 b. USDA report c. LCO report
	13. OUTSIDE COMMITTEE UPDATES
	14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

15. CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

16. 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 June 12, 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: John Suralski
- ☒ Vice Chair: Steve Kariainen
- ☒ Kay Wilson
- ☐ Randy Neumann - excused
- ☐ Brian Bisonette

Lynn Fitch
Jay Kozlowski
Brody Fischer
Greg Peterson
Jerry Wright

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Chris Gregory
Tim Seidl

Call to Order – Chair Suralski 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: May 8, 2024

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

Register of Deeds Update -

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

Events -

CAMBA Kids 2024, CAMBA South Womens Weekend Clinic, and Cheq 100 events were presented by Mr. Wright; insurance is on file. A motion was made by Ms. Wilson made a motion to approve all three events as presented; second by Mr. Kariainen. Motion carried without negative vote.

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report -

Written reports were provided. Ms. DeVries advised that the department has been busy completing Certified Survey Maps; 11 in May. Last month the land information council had a short informational meeting pertaining to the future with our Wisconsin Regional Consortium for an aerial photography contract. There will be cost sharing opportunities with some state agencies for this project.

Sawyer County Forestry Department -

Recreational Trails Report – Mr. Wright advised that CAMBA has not been able to find individuals to work on the trail crew. This year they've had five days of volunteer help with trail rehab. They are instituting programs to get more volunteers involved.

County Forestry Report – Reports were provided and reviewed by Mr. Peterson; an overview of the department functions and responsibilities was included. Forestry supports a good share of our County budget. Sawyer County has many valuable partnerships with organizations to share our county forest land. Timber Sale value contracts unsold is \$4,898,729.55 which is on target for our budget.

DNR Forestry Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Fischer advised that the wet spring has helped keep wildfires low. Mr. Fischer's duties in relation to our county were included in the report.

Zoning/Conservation Department -

County Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Seidl provided an overview; purple loosestrife and curly leaf pond weed control efforts are underway in a couple areas. Sawyer County was approved for the Municipal Dam Grant for Fishtrap Lake targeting a replacement project in the fall of 2025. Staff have been helping land owners with shoreline erosion projects.

USDA Report – No update

LCO Report – No update

Outside Committee Updates --

Future Agenda Items – EBike Trail Ordinance Update

Other Topics for Discussion Only –

Adjournment – 9:09 am

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

ROD Monthly Report

June, 2024

Activity	Number of Copies	Total Revenue including amounts to State
Emailed Copies		414.00
Counter Copies		216.75
Birth	54	510.00
Death	188	983.00
Marriage	28	271.00
Divorce		0
Recorded Documents		7,724.92
Transfer Fees		133,914.90
Laredo		4,243.45

General:

Transfer fees doubled over May's transfer fees.



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 7/10/24

Our department performed maintenance and collected GPS coordinates on several corners in the Town of Hunter (T41N R6W) in advance of planned DNR timber sales in the area. We also freshened up several corners in the Town of Meadowbrook (T37N R6W). Work is also ongoing in T37N R4W.

We installed approximately 100 new and replacement fire number signs.

I reviewed 11 Certified Survey Maps in June.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Gregory
Sawyer County Surveyor



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

July 1, 2024

Real Property Lister Report

As I was out of the office for half of the month of June, we have fallen slightly behind with transfers and Certified Survey Maps. We are now working on catching up with the 170 transfers and 11 CSMs that were recorded in June.

Three municipalities have scheduled their Boards of Review to take place within the next several weeks, with three municipalities still unscheduled for 2024. Statements of Assessment and full assessment rolls have been submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue for the other 15 municipalities.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Wendt
GIS Technician and Real Property Lister

715-638-3279

kimberly.wendt@sawyercountygov.org

Forestry Report June 2024

Active Sales

Six sales listed as active in month of June

Sale Date	# of Sales	Acres	Bid Value	Received	Est. Remaining
11/1/19	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5/5/20	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
11/3/20	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5/7/21	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
10/22/21	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5/11/22	2	100	\$214,933.10	\$34,622.92	\$180,310.18
11/1/22	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5/10/23	4	264	\$610,314.10	\$247,261.81	\$354,052.29
11/3/23	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5/7/24	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Totals	6	364	\$816,247.20	\$281,884.73	\$534,362.47

Inactive Sales

Sale Date	# of Sales	Acres	Bid Value	Received	Est. Remaining
11/1/19	1	83	\$83,319.14	\$56,223.74	\$27,095.40
5/5/20	1	193	\$177,313.50	\$271,000.00	\$0*
11/3/20	2	113	\$54,230.00	\$9,000.00	\$45,230.00
5/7/21	9	843	\$518,066.00	\$168,614.84	\$349,451.16
10/22/21	9	725	\$712,924.20	\$525,508.79	\$254,155.45*
5/11/22	11	734	\$603,502.25	\$487,723.99	\$188,691.26*
11/1/22	13	1128	\$668,624.20	\$191,115.44	\$477,508.76
5/10/23	8	555	\$664,517.20	\$46,432.77	\$618,084.43
11/3/23	15	1339	\$664,958.11	\$12,313.25	\$652,644.86
5/7/24	20	1640	\$1,514,701.17	\$17,168.60	\$1,497,532.57
Totals	89	7353	\$5,662,155.77	\$1,785,101.42	\$4,110,393.89

* Sales having overruns

** Sales having underruns

One sale closed out in June.

Timber Sale Value (sold contracts-uncut) on file = **\$4,644,756.36**

<u>Timber Revenue</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Timber Sales	\$300,434.94	\$1,557,313.72
<u>Christmas Trees/Boughs</u>	\$0	\$0
<u>Performance Bond Cashed</u>	\$0	\$4,231.70
<u>Other Revenue</u>		
<u>Camping/Firewood/Access/Hay</u>	\$30	\$140
<u>Park Reservations</u>	\$200	\$700
		<u>Budget</u>
Gross Timber Sale Revenue	\$ 1,557,313.72	\$1,850,000
10% Payment to Towns	\$ 155,731.37	
Net Timber Sale Revenue	\$ 1,401,582.35	
Performance Bonds Drawn	\$ 4,231.70	
Total Other Revenue	\$ 840.00	
Timber Sale Revenue Billed Out	\$ 96,999.26	

Timber Sale Inspections	<u># month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	15	100

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>
	1/18	140/1639	3600

Comments:

Recon Acres Updated	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Annual Goal</u>
	706	3651	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	
<u>June</u>	<u>FY25 Contract</u>
10	207.5
<u>Current Contract:</u> FY25: Approximately 595 hours of timber sale establishment/admin. \$39,647.87	

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 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:
Oak wilt restrictions on timber sales coming off July 15th.

Mountain Bike Trails:
Nothing new to report.

Birkie Trail:
Nothing new to report.

ATV/UTV/Snowmobile Trails:
Trail 31 rehab project, Tuscobia to Rusk County line started. 3.9 miles, grant funded, \$90,552 project cost.
Tuscobia rehab project, Crawford Rd to Uncle Tom's Rd. 7.4 miles, grant funded, \$87,900.
Trail 5 rehab project is still on hold until conditions improve for construction activities. 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.

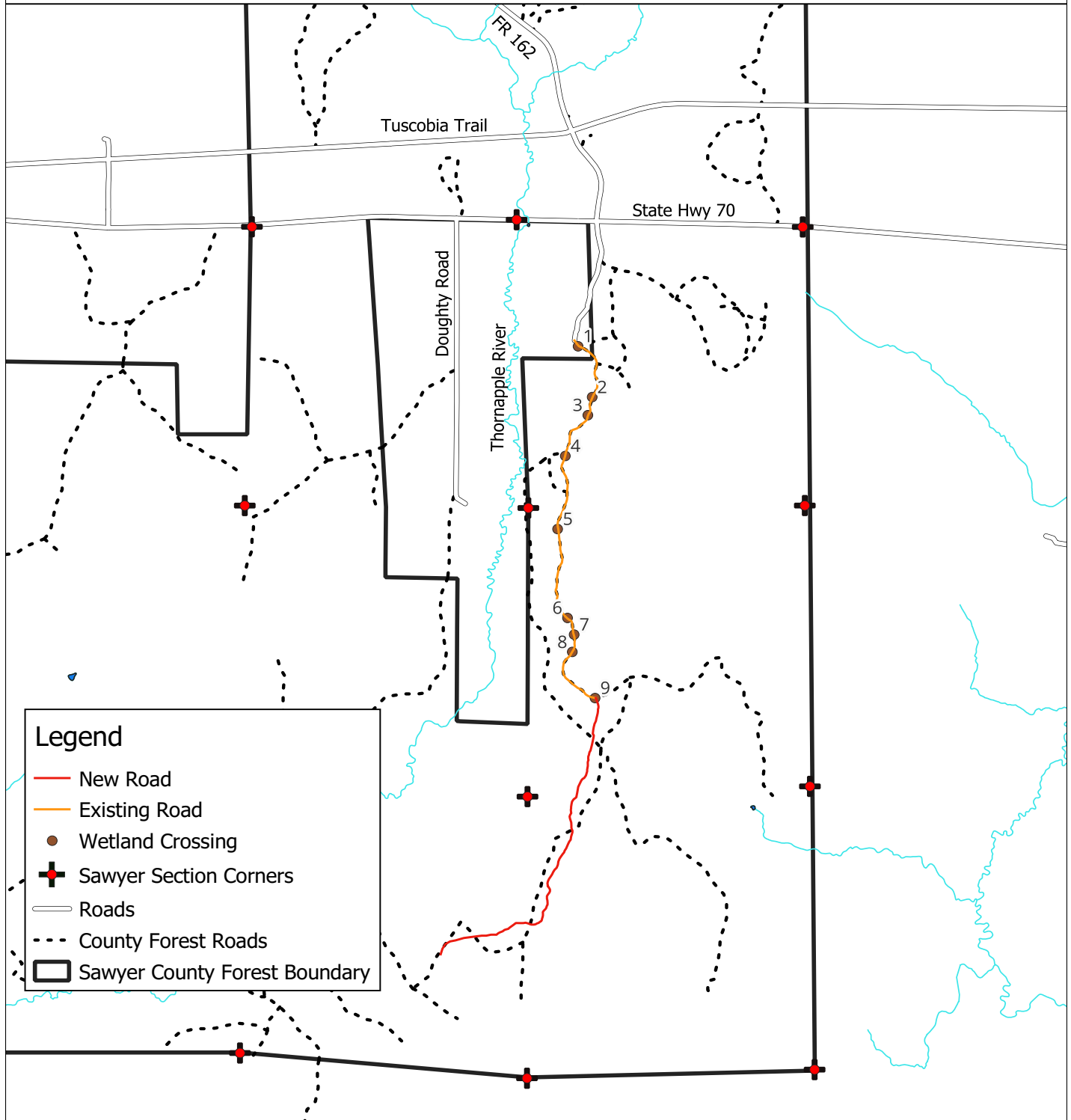
Carbon Credit Project:
Continued working with Anew through the carbon credit verification process. Data requests.



Draper Road Project

First Phase

Sawyer County, WI
Town of Draper
T39N R3W



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
Sustainable Forestry Grant Application
Draper road project

Sawyer county is currently in the process of evaluating for improving and creating a main access road into what we call the “Draper Block” of the county forest. Currently the main haul road doubles as a snowmobile trail and is only used for winter access during frozen periods and limits the access for professionals to implement forest management activities on approximately 1600 acres. Given recent market conditions, any timber sales that require additional technical road access or frozen ground access have become too much of a burden for timber sale contractors to have any interest in bidding on. Not only is access important for forest management, but also improving the existing access to protect the hydrology of the area. With the improvement of the first 1.48 miles of the existing road and the establishment of approximately 1.5 miles of new construction, approximately 2800 acres of county forest will have an improved access for contractors and recreators.

This project has two main phases. First by improving the existing trail by armoring low spots and improving one crossing. The current state of the existing trail only allows access to 850 acres without being frozen. To which point is even impassable with offroad vehicles. Second, constructing new road that would gain exclusive access to approximately 1200 acres that have previously been accessed through frozen only roads or private landowners.

The existing road has 9 key areas that need improvement (see map and attached itemized cost estimate sheet), that will be lifted with pit run and rock for drainage. Additionally, the 1.48-mile section will have 4 inches of pit run applied to it. It is at these locations that the road has become very difficult to access for county forest staff and timber buyers to access for timber sale establishment and purchasing of our forest products.

This access road does cross two private parcels, Sawyer County does have a deeded public access easements through those parcels which provides for “the purpose of snowmobiling, ATV travel, recreational trails use, hunting and logging.”

Tentative approval has been granted by WDNR Forest Hydrologist and we are in the process of receiving a silvicultural exemption permit through the Army Corps of Engineers for wetland fill for road improvements.

Please review the attached materials which include cost estimates and maps which show the parameters of the proposed project. We thank you for your consideration. As previously stated, the primary focus of this project is to improve access to approximately 2800 acres of county forest, 1200 of which accessed by new road construction.

Sawyer County Forestry Department



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10610 Main Street, Suite 100
Hayward, WI 54843
Phone: (715) 634-4846
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Sawyer County Forestry
Sustainable Forestry Grant Application

Grant Needs

We are applying for this grant to fund phase one of the Draper Block Access Road located in Sections 8 and 17 T39N-R3W.

Critical Area	Rock	Pit Run	Description
1	1.5	32	wetland crossing 145ft, 70ft fill with 10ft rock ford
2	1.5	6	wetland crossing 25ft with 10ft rock ford for drainage
3	1.2	6	wetland crossing 25ft with 8ft rock ford for drainage
4	9	20	wetland crossing 90ft, 40ft fill with lift and rock
5	13.5	27	wetland crossing 120ft, 60ft lift and rock
6	4.5	4	20 ft lift and rock
7	31	33	wetland crossing 150ft with 140ft fill to original grade
8	40	67	wetland crossing 180ft, upgrade culvert to 20 inch and rock
9	6.7	7	30ft fill and rock
Total Yards	108.9	202	

Totals

Rock 108.9 yards @ \$35/yard	\$ 3,811.50
Pit Run 202 yards @ \$20/yard	\$ 4,040.00
Shaping 1.48 miles of road (\$5,500/mile)	\$ 8,140.00
4 inches pit run, 1.48 miles, 1160 yards	\$23,200.00
Culvert 20 inches	\$ 300.00

Total Grant Request **\$39,491.50**

Greg Peterson
Sawyer County Forest Administrator

Brody Fischer
WDNR Liaison Forester

CHEQUAMEGON AREA MOUNTAIN BIKE ASSOCIATION

Request to Permit Use of Class 1 E-bikes on Sawyer County Forest Mountain Bike Trails

The Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) has been discussing the potential use of e-bikes on CAMBA managed trails on the Sawyer County Forest for several years and is at this time formally requesting that Class 1 e-bikes be permitted on all mountain bike trails on Sawyer County Forest. It is understood that this will require an amendment to the County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

CAMBA has concluded that this use does not present a threat to the resource and the sustainability of the trails. [Existing research](#) conducted by the Federal Highway Administration supports this conclusion.

CAMBA is also cognizant of potential safety concerns and will monitor and address issues if they arise.

Significant to this request is that **only Class 1 e-bikes** are to be authorized for use on county forest trails. A Class 1 e-bike is a bicycle equipped with an electric motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour. Class 2 and Class 3 e-bikes are capable of greater speeds and are not appropriate for use on natural surface trails.

The popularity of e-bikes has grown significantly and continues to be among the strongest segments of the market. E-bikes assist users with physical challenges and disabilities, allowing them to enjoy an activity in which they would not otherwise be able to participate. E-bikes do not produce harmful emissions when in use. Social acceptance has also grown, not just for those with physical or age-related disabilities or limitations, but in all segments, as simply another way to enjoy cycling. In addition, they can be used during special events by event staff, to provide emergency assistance, and perform trail maintenance.

By the County's authorization of Class 1 e-bike use on the trails, CAMBA would stipulate to the following:

- Singletrack trails would be open to **Class 1 e-bikes only** and use also permitted on any other trail or route open to regular bikes. In the context of this proposal, "Class 1 e-bikes" refers to pedal assist mountain bikes with traditional mountain bike construction and a tire size of no less than two inches in diameter.
- Class 2 and Class 3 e-bikes would not be permitted on singletrack trails.
- CAMBA will post information through its website and social media networks of the permitted use of e-bikes on the CAMBA trails and to encourage all riders to be considerate of e-bike users and to promote safe riding practices.
- CAMBA will post appropriate signage at all designated mountain bike trailheads indicating the permitted use of e-bikes on those trails and encouraging safe riding practices.
- As stewards of the CAMBA trails, CAMBA will continue to maintain all singletrack trails open to Class 1 e-bikes and will be responsible for addressing any impacts as part of its ongoing maintenance efforts.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Sawyer County Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 10th, 2024
DNR Forestry Report**

June marked the end of the annual goals for county forest time standards. As of the 15th of June, WI DNR had committed 2373.25 hours to Sawyer County. This number exceeds the goal of 2217. July starts a new 2217 hour time commitment to the county which will be completed by implementing timber sale establishment, recon, dozer projects and other administrative duties.

A couple projects are underway between Sawyer County Forestry and the DNR to improve access on the forest. One of which, stated earlier, is the start of a new vein within the Draper block of the county forest.

Report Submitted by Brody Fischer, DNR Forester, on July 2nd , 2024



Zoning & Conservation Department Update June 2024 – July 2024

Prepared by Jay Kozlowski, Zoning & Conservation Administrator

- Starting to get plans together for the Fishtrap Lake Dam Replacement Project. Would be looking later this fall for plan approvals with project occurring Fall/Winter of 2025.
- Curly Leaf Pond Weed (CLPW) monitoring on Lake Loretta. County AIS and Conservation Staff are working with DNR for best treatment options.
- Monitoring water levels on the 7 County Owned dams. This year has been extremely busy with the rain amounts we have had.
- Additional site visits conducted and ongoing. Conservation Staff has been assisting property owners with shoreline erosion projects, bufferzone restoration projects, and design work for potential cost share projects.
- Northwest Area Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Association Meeting was June 14th at 10AM in Spooner. Additional handout to Committee.