

**Minutes of the September 11, 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
- ☒ Brian Bisonette

Lynn Fitch
Greg Peterson

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Brian DeVries
Brody Fischer

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 – Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: July 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. Once again transfer fees were down from June's activity but marriages were up.

Events -

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report -

Written reports were provided.

Sawyer County Forestry Department -

Recreational Trails Report –

County Forestry Report – A written report was provided and reviewed by Mr. Peterson summarizing active and inactive timber sales. A lot of sales are getting cleaned up. The fall timber sale BIDs will go out in October. Bayfield County received their first carbon credit revenue payment.

David J Samuel & Annette M Zeman Joint Rev Trust Lake Trade Proposal – Mr. Peterson advised that he was approached by a land owner who's property is next to the Birkie Trail. He proposed to trade his property for County owned land; he will make up the cash value difference for our bigger parcel. A motion was made by Mr. Neumann to seek an appraisal; second by Mr. Kariainen. Motion carried without negative vote.

Temporary Timber Sale Extension Policy Modification – Mr. Peterson is recommending an extension on timber sales that could not be completed due to our unusual winter. It will impact about fifteen sales. A motion was made by Mr. Neuman to allow these contract extensions; second by Mr. Kariainen. Motion carried without negative vote.

DNR Forestry Report – A verbal report was provided, advising that they continue to work on projects with Sawyer County. They had their annual partnership meeting which went very well.

Callahan/Mud Lake Association Petition -

A copy of the petition that the organizers of the group sent to land owners, was included in the packet. They are pursuing the formation of a lake association to try to raise funds to assist in the Callahan Dam repair. A motion was made by Mr. Neuman to table this topic for further review; second by Ms. Wilson. Motion carried without negative vote.

Zoning/Conservation Department -

County Report – A written report was provided showing that the department continues monitoring dam water levels, AIS work remains steady and site visits are ongoing.

USDA Report – No update

LCO Report – Mr. Bisonette reported that they must reroute the ATV trail that comes off CTH K; they continue to work on design of this change. They have had a number of ATV users riding on non-approved roads, and they are awaiting signs to increase awareness of drivers.

Tax Deed/Foreclosure Process -

Mr. Albarado advised we are waiting for more information from the State on the tax deed proceeds process. The WCA is creating a draft resolution.

Consider Remediation Work – AMOCO/ACKLEY Property in Village of Winter

Mr. Albarado provided a review of the Beacon site map. In 2007/08 an assessment was started to determine contamination but did not finish. This is a piece of County property and the DNR wants cleanup performed. New water samplings will be needed to close off the site. A motion was made by Mr. Neuman to move ahead with the proposal to remediate this site; second by Mr. Kariainen. Motion carried without negative vote.

Outside Committee Updates --

Future Agenda Items – Tax Deed/Foreclosure Process

Other Topics for Discussion Only –

Adjournment – 9:10 am

Next Meeting: October 9, 2024

Time: 8:30 am

Location: Board Room

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk