

**Minutes of the October 9, 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 - exc

Lynn Fitch
Greg Peterson
Cathy LaReau
Jay Kozlowski
Brian DeVries

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Natalie Ehrler
Brody Fischer
Seth Zesiger

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 – Rhonda Eisold

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: September 10, 2024

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

Register of Deeds Update -

A written report was provided showing activity for the month.

Events -

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report -

Written reports were provided. County surveyors identified area projects completed, including corner maintenance, reviewing one County Plan, one preliminary County Plat, and six CSMs. The Real Property report identifies 160 transfers recorded and 6 CSMS recorded. The Towns of Bass Lake and Meadowbrook have scheduled their Boards of Review in October.

Sawyer County Forestry Department -

Recreational Trails Report – Cathy LaReau advised that trail prep for winter has been ongoing. Most trails are encountering 2,000-3,000 riders a month and peak riding period is 9a-4p. She shared ATV/UTV statistics from a recent state report.

County Forestry Report – A written report was included and reviewed. Timber sales are \$4,083,365.50 and bid openings are scheduled for October 29th. A list of ATV/UTV trail projects was included.

Seeley Forest Trails Proposal – A new trail system was proposed and a slide presentation was shared and included in the packet. Mr. Neuman made a motion to table approval and request Mr. Pederson to work with other user groups to work out concerns; second by Mr. Kariainen. Motion carried without negative vote.

DNR Forestry Report – Mr. Fischer advised there is a concern of fire danger now.

U.S. Forest Service Great Divide Ranger District Update – Mike Martin, District Ranger, provided a verbal update. There are two active sales being harvested now with 30 on the books. He reviewed forest health concerns in the area.

Zoning/Conservation Department -

County Report – A written report was provided and reviewed. The department has been busy with site visits, cost sharing project design work, dam monitoring and getting a better policy in place with law enforcement for the Sawyer County Decontamination Ordinance

Resolution for Authorization – Mr. Kozlowski shared the resolution for Aquatic Invasive Species Program to apply for grant programs. A motion was made to approve the resolution by Mr. Neumann, second by Ms. Wilson. Motion carried without negative vote.

2024 Crop Prices – An overview of the program was provided. A motion was made by Mr. Neuman to accept the prices proposed for crop damage; second by Mr. Kariainen. Motion carried without negative vote.

2024 Damage Assessment Deadline – Mr. Zesiger shared a spreadsheet of the prices and sources as well as a crop price proposal worksheet. A motion was made by Mr. Neuman to set the date of December 20th for the crop damage deadline; second by Ms. Wilson. Motion carried without negative vote.

Wildlife Damage 2025 Budget – A motion was made by Ms. Wilson; second by Mr. Neuman to accept the budget as presented. Motion carried without negative vote.

USDA Report – No update

LCO Report – No update

Tax Deed/Foreclosure Process -

Mr. Albarado advised that we received the template version of this document from WCA so it will be on a future agenda.

Board Appointed Committee Updates --

Future Agenda Items –

Other Topics for Discussion Only –

Adjournment – 9:35 am

Next Meeting: November 6, 2024

Time: 8:30 am

Location: Board Room

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk