

**Minutes of the March 20, 2025 Meeting of the
Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Sawyer County Courthouse/Virtual**



Voting Committee		Roll Call	
Members Present (X)	District	Wards	
☒ Steve Kariainen	01	T Lenroot W-1, T Hayward W-7, C Hayward W-5	
☒ Kay Wilson-virtual	02	T Lenroot W-2, T Round Lake W-1	
☒ Tweed Shuman	03	T Hayward W-1 & 2	
☒ Stacey Hessel	04	T Hayward W-3 & 4	
☐ Randy Neumann	05	T Hayward W-5 & 6	
☒ Marc D. Helwig	06	C Hayward W-1 & 2	
☒ Thomas W. Duffy	07	C Hayward W-3 & 4	
☒ Marshal Savitski	08	T Bass Lake W-1 & 2	
☒ Jim Evans-virtual	09	T Bass Lake W-3 & 4	
☒ Chuck Van Etten	10	T Sand Lake, T Edgewater W-1	
☒ Jeff Hoehne	11	T Edgewater W-2, T Bass Lake W-5, T Meteor, T Couderay, V Couderay	
☒ John Righeimer	12	T Spider Lake, T Round Lake W-2, T Winter W-1	
☒ Ron Kinsley	13	T Hunter, T Radisson W-1, T-Ojibwa W-1, V Radisson	
☒ Ron Buckholtz	14	T Radisson W-2, T Ojibwa W-2, T Weirgor, V Exeland, T Meadowbrook	
☒ Dale Magnuson	15	T Winter W-2, T Draper, V Winter	

Also present: Andy Albarado, Liz Klein, Jay Kozlowski, Doug Mrotek, Atty. Rebecca Roeker- virtual, Jon Hochkammer-virtual

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance— Chair Kinsley called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Roll call was taken; quorum was met.

Certification of Compliance with the open meeting law was met.

Meeting Agenda – Set

Public Comments – Rhonda Eisold, Dave Tenner, David Wegener, Lynne Amundson, Tom Murray, Stephanie Wegener, Greg Eisold, Natalie Lillyblad, Bart Vitcenda, Linda Zillmer, Martin Hanson

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: February 20, 2025

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Buckholtz Second by: Mr. Duffy

Motion carried without negative vote.

ICAA Presentation—Representatives from ICAA presented information to the board on programs and services provided to individuals in need in six counties, including Sawyer County: a Block Grant, Business Grant, Childcare Development Program, Headstart Program, food pantries, Infant/Parental program, diapers and car seats, the RICE adult vaccination program, Veterans Assistance and Legal Assistance for Victims program. ICAA is funded by federal, state and local grants and contributions.

LWFRC Report—

Mr. Kariainen reported business from the March 12 meeting and stated that the committee moved to keep the boundary as presented by the Lake District Committee with the exception of the County-recommended removal parcel.

Motion to approve the annual Emergency Fire Wardens as presented by the DNR by: Ms. Hessel

Second by: Mr. Shuman

Motion carried without negative vote.

Callahan and Mud Lake District—

Mr. Albarado introduced the agenda items for the board to consider in the creation of Callahan and Mud Lake District. The Map Layout of Requested Removals was updated to include all the parcels of record who had requested removal to date.

Discussion followed. Atty. Roeker was present to provide legal guidance on the required elements needed.

**Motion to remove all properties that have requested removal including Sawyer County parcels from the proposed lake district citing they do not benefit from the Lake District; approve the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Decision to be modified to the extent necessary to reflect the board action, and appoint the Lake District Board of Commissioners as follows: Lynne Amundson, Ray Schnepf, Holly Robbins, and Kay Wilson by: Mr. Righeimer
Second by: Mr. Buckholtz**

A roll call vote was taken: Steve Kariainen yes, Kay Wilson no, Tweed Shuman no, Stacey Hessel yes, Mr. Neumann absent, Marc Helwig no, Thomas Duffy no, Marshal Savitski yes, Jim Evans yes, Chuck Van Etten no, Jeff Hoehne yes, John Righeimer yes, Ron Kinsley yes, Ron Buckholtz yes, Dale Magnuson no.

Total yes votes: 8 Total no votes: 6

Motion carried.

Zoning Committee -

Mr. Buckholtz gave a review of recent zoning committee hearings. The Multi-dwelling Ad-hoc Committee met for the fourth time with more work to do ahead.

Public Works Committee --

Mr. Helwig gave updates on maintenance, the airport, and highway. An MOU agreement with the Town of Radisson for maintenance of Pipestone Tower Rd. has expired and needs to be renewed with no changes.

Motion to approve the Pipestone Tower Rd. MOU with the Town of Radisson by: Mr. Helwig

Second by: Mr. Van Etten

Motion carried without negative vote.

Public Safety Committee --

Mr. Buckholtz shared updates from the Public Safety Committee meeting. The 2024 cost to operate Wisconsin Circuit Courts was \$237 million, of which Wisconsin paid \$28 million, placing a burden on counties statewide. A resolution was introduced by WCCCA and WCA requesting additional state funding to offset the costs to counties.

Motion to approve a Court Funding Resolution by: Mr. Duffy

Second by: Ms. Hessel

Motion carried without negative vote.

Health and Human Services Board --

Chair Report – Mr. Hoehne presented the HHS report covering administration, the ADRC, behavioral health, children and family services, youth justice, economic support public health and a fiscal update.

Finance Report -

Mr. Righeimer provided an update of County finances and department budgets. Mr. Markgren presented a summary of 2024 ending funds and a resolution to designate surplus funds to departments to balance structural deficits and upcoming expenses.

Motion to approve the Resolution Designating Funds by: Ms. Hessel

Second by: Mr. Righeimer

Motion carried without negative vote.

Economic Development and UW Extension Committee—

Mr. Righeimer updated the board on the EDC, Youth in Governance, and proposed contracts with external organizations.

County Administrator Replacement Process—

Mr. Albarado's resignation was received and his last day is April 24th. The Administration committee met to select a firm who will find a replacement administrator. The committee voted to recommend PAA. Mr. Jon Hochkammer from PAA introduced himself and spoke to the board about the prices, process and timeline for replacement if they are hired.

Motion to hire PAA to look for an administrator for Sawyer County by: Mr. Buckholtz

Second by: Mr. Righeimer

Motion carried without negative vote.

County Administrator Report--

Mr. Albarado reported on personnel, Act 207 and Act 216 implementation, a class action lawsuit, records requests, the airport, ambulance, broadband, LCO MOUs, facilities, the Public Safety radio network, carbon credits, lake district formation, the state budget, TRH ordinance implementation, and strategic planning updates.

Board Appointed Committee Updates –

Mr. Shuman reported that transit has 30 employees and 6 new busses; Mr. Buckholtz is the chair and Mr. Helwig is the secretary.

Mr. Kariainen reported that ICAA is working with CLA on finances.

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings- The Administration Committee will hold a special meeting on March 25th.

Future Agenda Items- None

Adjournment – 8:57 pm

Next meeting: Tuesday April 15, 2025 Time: 6:30 PM Location: Board Room

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk