

**Minutes of the November 6, 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- virtual
- ☒ Kay Wilson
- ☐ Randy Neumann- excused
- ☐ Brian Bisonette- absent

Liz Klein
Greg Peterson
Don Mrotek
Jay Kozlowski
Brian DeVries

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Kathy Marks- virtual
Brody Fischer
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 – Set

Petition for creation of Callahan & Mud Lake District- Public Hearing –

Approximately 40 citizens were present. Mr. Albarado outlined the Callahan & Mud Lake District creation process, described the statutory legal requirements for creation of a Lake District, and set forth four Findings of Fact the County must consider as follows: 1) sufficient petition signatures, 2) demonstration of necessity, 3) support that the District promotes the welfare of the public, and 4) a finding that the District will benefit to those within the District.

Dam Committee Chair Lynne Amundson, 10745W Callahan Lake Rd, presented a power point with information about the proposal, petition process, and work the Lake Association and committee have done.

Dam Committee member Holly Robbins, 11090W South Shore Rd, discussed impacts if the dam fails or is removed, explained that the boundary was determined with the help of U.W. Extension based on state standards for the creation of Lake Districts, and stated that the Committee has met the four criteria.

Rhonda Eisold, 11007 W. Chief River Rd, opposed.

Robert Johnson, 11186W Catbird Ln, opposed.

Brenda Lehnen, 10661 W Falcon Ridge, opposed.

Greg Eisold, 11007 W. Chief River Rd, opposed.

Dave Tenner, 10872W Callahan Lake Rd, in favor.

Ronald Frogness, 2304 901/2 St. Cumberland, representing F.V.E. Inc, opposed.

Bonnie Tenner, 10872W Callahan Lake Rd, in favor.

Ray Schnepf, 10896 W. Callahan Lake Rd, in favor.

Carol Olson, 9782N Raven Ln, in favor.

Carolyn Russell, 10996W South Shore Rd, in favor.

John Moes, 11090 W, South Shore Rd, in favor.

Martin Hanson, 11078N Robin Ln, in favor.

Dam Committee member Jake Steinberg, 1154 W Plover Ln, in favor.

Thomas Murray, 10671 Falcon Ridge Rd, opposed.

Dam Committee member Pat Stangl, appearing virtually, in favor.

Mr. Albarado and the LWFRC committee members acknowledged receipt of three emailed citizen statements.

Motion to close the public hearing by: Ms. Wilson Second by: Mr. Suralski

Motion carried without negative vote.

Callahan & Mud Lake District Petition (Discussion & Possible Action)--

Mr. Albarado directed the Clerk to prepare a report on the hearing. No action to be taken at this meeting.

Motion to call a special meeting of the LWFRC committee by: Ms. Wilson Second by: Mr. Suralski

Motion carried without negative vote.

A date will be set within 1-2 weeks once the report is prepared. Public notice will be placed on the Sawyer County website.

Public Comments – Mike Heim

Minutes from the previous meeting dated October 9, 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 showing activity for the month.

Events –

Motion to approve the Hayward Lion Pre-Birkie event made by: Ms. Wilson Second by: Mr. Kariainen

Motion carried without negative vote.

Motion to approve all remaining events on the list by: Ms. Wilson Second by: Mr. Kariainen

Motion carried without negative vote.

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report –

The Surveyor's Report was provided to the committee.

Mr. DeVries reported that Land Records received a 2025 grant to upgrade imagery pixel size.

The Real Property Lister Report was provided to the committee.

Sawyer County Forestry Department -

Recreational Trails Report – Don Mrotek stated that state ATV and Snowmobile funds are down in 2024 and bridge rehabs are needed. He expressed concerns about motorized trails being closed for bicycle events.

County Forestry Report – Mr. Peterson reported 20 active timber sales; the county has received \$2.4M YTD. Trail 11, Tuscobia, Trail 15, and Trail 77 projects are completed; Trail 3 and Trail 5 projects started.

Fall Timber Sales- 16 out of 18 tracts have bids, for a total of \$788,254.00 final sale value (there is a general decline in stumpage values). Mr. Peterson recommends approval of the high bids on the 16 tracts.

Motion to accept the high bids for the timber sales by: Ms. Wilson Second: Mr. Kariainen
Motion carried without negative vote.

DNR Forestry Report – Mr. Fischer reported that recent rains have helped ease wild fire danger. The DNR is on track with projects and will be focusing on a project in the Thornapple Springs area.

Zoning/Conservation Department –

Mr. Kozlowski reported on grants received. The 2025 tree sale will be online shortly. Birch Lake update- Sawyer County owns 50% of the dam which needs replacement.

Motion to appoint Tim Seidl as the county representative to the Wisconsin Land & Water Conservation Board by: Ms. Wilson Second by: Mr. Kariainen
Motion carried without negative vote.

USDA Report – None

LCO Report – None

Tax Deed/Foreclosure Process –

Mr. Albarado introduced the draft resolution for the ordinance, but changes are being made and he recommended tabling the discussion until the December meeting.

Motion to table the resolution until the December committee meeting by: Ms. Wilson Second by: Mr. Kariainen
Motion carried without negative vote.

Board Appointed Committee Updates -- None

Future Agenda Items – None

Other Topics for Discussion Only – The Courthouse elected officials are changing in January- Liz and Lynn are interviewing for a Deputy Clerk, Paula and Rachel appointed a Deputy ROD. A new Real Property Lister is needed.

Adjournment – 10:22 a.m.

Next Meeting: December 11, 2024 Time: 8:30 am Location: Board Room
Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, Elected Officials Deputy