

**Minutes of the January 8, 2025 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: Steve Kariainen
- ☒ Vice Chair: Randy Neumann
- ☒ Kay Wilson
- ☒ Jim Evans
- ☐ Vacant

Others Present:

Andy Albarado	Liz Klein
Jay Kozlowski	Kimberly Wendt- Virtual
Brian DeVries	Atty. Rebecca Roeker- Virtual
Pat Zimmer	Montgomery Mouw
Greg Peterson	15 Citizens
Rachel Thompson	5 Citizens- Virtual

Call to Order – Chair Kariainen 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

Public Comments – Dave Tenner, Greg Eisold, Rhonda Eisold, Thomas Murray, Ray Schnepf, Lynne Amundson, Kent Lehen

Elect LWFR Chair and Vice Chair –

Mr. Neumann nominated Steve Kariainen for LWFR Chair. No other nominations. Motion to elect Mr. Kariainen as Chair of LWFR by Mr. Neumann, second Mr. Evans. Motion carried without negative vote.

Ms. Wilson nominated Randy Neumann for LWFR Vice Chair. No other nominations. Motion to elect Mr. Neumann Vice Chair of LWFR by Ms. Wilson, second Mr. Evans. Motion carried without negative vote

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: December 20, 2024

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Neumann Second by: Mr. Evans

Motion carried without negative vote.

Register of Deeds Update --

A written report was provided. ROD Rachel Thompson introduced herself to the committee.

Events - No applications received

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report –

Written reports were provided. Mr. DeVries discussed the impact of Personal Property Tax being eliminated in 2024. Ms. Wendt discussed equalized ratios in relation to reassessments and demonstrated that it requires a 70% increase in valuation for tax to increase.

Sawyer County Forestry Department --

County Forestry Report- A written report was provided by Mr. Peterson on timber sales: gross YTD revenue is \$2.5M with another \$4.4M in uncut sold contracts on file. The Trail 5 Project has been completed.

Motion to approve the Sawyer County Forestry 2025 Workplan by: Mr. Neumann Second by: Mr. Kariainen

Motion carried without negative vote.

Motion to approve the September 10, 2024 Sawyer County Partnership Meeting minutes by: Ms. Wilson
Second by: Mr. Neumann. Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Mouw of the Seeley Trails Foundation presented information on the Seeley Forest Trail proposal. After discussion the committee had concerns and would like more input from existing trail groups and a proposed MOU before pursuing development.

Motion to table until there is a consensus/MOU between parties by: Mr. Neumann Second by: Ms. Wilson
Motion carried without negative vote.

USFS Report- Not present

DNR Forestry Report- Mr. Zimmer updated the committee on Brody Fischer taking a new position and will fill in when available.

Zoning/Conservation Department -

Mr. Kozlowski presented a written report on December staff activity and a year end summary report: invasive species surveying and monitoring, soil nutrient management, and site visits were detailed.

Callahan/Mud Lake District Petition --

Mr. Albarado reviewed the contents of the report and shared the updated map with two signer parcels added and one removal request indicated.

Atty. Roeker explained the process and legal requirements for the LWFR Committee's evaluation, options and possible next steps..

Atty. Roeker advised that the LWFR Committee make a recommendation to the County Board regarding the creation of the Lake District.

Discussion and questions followed.

Motion to remove the Armsbury parcel from the Lake District boundary and amend the report with this exclusion by: Ms. Wilson Second by: Mr. Evans Motion carried without negative vote.

Motion to approve the report by: Ms. Wilson Second by: Mr. Neumann.
Motion carried without negative vote.

Atty. Roeker presented the draft of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Decision to the LWFR Committee.

Atty Roeker presented the Conclusions of Law based on the Findings of Fact, and a Draft Decision Document which will be amended to reflect the removal of the Armsbury parcel.

There were no further questions.

Motion to accept the Decision with modifications to point 2, the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and forward to the Sawyer County Board by: Ms. Wilson Second by: Mr. Neumann.
Motion carried without negative vote.

Board Appointed Committee Updates -- None

Future Agenda Items - None

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings -- None

Adjournment –10:20 am

Next Meeting: February 12, 2025 **Time:** 8:30am **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk