

**Minutes of the March 12, 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
- ☒ Dale Magnuson

Others Present:

Andy Albarado	Brody Fischer
Liz Klein	Tim Davison
Jay Kozlowski	Nick Basasie
Greg Peterson	Brian DeVries
Brian Lehner	
Rachel Thompson	

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 – David Wegener, Lynne Amundson, Rhonda Eisold, Linda Zillmer, Greg Eisold, Martin Hanson

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: February 12, 2025

Motion to approve made by: Ms. Wilson Second by: Mr. Evans

Motion carried without negative vote.

Callahan and Mud Lake Petition-

Mr. Albarado reviewed the progress of the petition and stated that the report to the County Board was already approved but asked the committee if they would like to make any new recommendations on the district boundaries. After consideration of removing ten properties who requested detachment, the committee moved to keep the original boundary as presented by the Lake District Committee.

Motion to approve the existing boundaries: Ms. Wilson Second by: Mr. Magnuson

Motion carried without negative vote.

Events - No applications received

Register of Deeds Update--

A written report was provided.

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report –

Written reports were provided. Mr. DeVries updated the committee on attending the WLIA conference, preparations to implement Act 235 reforms, and 3" aerial photography that will take place this spring on a five-year cycle, 50% funded by a grant. Written Real Property Lister and County Surveyor reports were reviewed.

Forestry --

County Forestry Report- Written and verbal reports were provided by Mr. Peterson. There are eleven active timber sales; spring timber bids are going out April 1 for approval at the May meeting. ATV/UTV grant applications are due April 15 for trail work. Trail closures were early this year.

Mr. Peterson will meet with the Seeley Trails group and they are revising the original plan to a smaller footprint; a meeting will be held with stakeholders next week and the proposal will come back to the committee in April.

Mr. Albarado reported that carbon credits will be for sale in about three months.

DNR Report- Mr. Fischer reported that DNR is preparing for wild fire season and doing prescribed burns; working on timber sales for spring bid opening.

USFS Report- No report

Recreational Trails Report—

Mr. Davison reported on motorized trails and stated that the work done has greatly improved the county's ATV/UTV trails.

Zoning/Conservation Department -

Mr. Kozlowski gave a written and verbal report. The tree sale is ongoing, non-metallic mining inspections are underway. The county-owned Fishtrap Dam plans have been submitted with a prospective Fall 2026-Spring 2027 work date. The project involves a potential land swap with a private owner that the county will pay for. The estimate is \$671,000, below the estimate of \$800,000, and is 50% funded by a grant. The DNR is allowing a temporary water increase at the Billy Boy Dam after an error was discovered. The Birch Lake Dam needs \$10,000 of repairs in 2025; the county owns 50% of this dam.

USDA Report—

Mr. Basasie reported on Managed Conservation Stewardship and the Environmental Quality Incentive programs between forestry and Ag land farmers. The number of Sawyer participants increased in 2025. The Ladysmith field office which served Sawyer County has limited hours due to retirements of staff. The USDA is working with private land owners on invasive species control of Buckthorn and Honeysuckle.

Tax Deed / Foreclosure Process—

Mr. Albarado presented a draft resolution amending the current Sawyer County tax deed foreclosure process in response to a statewide class action suit. The committee discussed the proposed changes and asked for additional language to formally establish a three year timeline for foreclosure.

Motion to send back for additional clarification by: Ms. Wilson Second by: Mr. Evans

Motion carried without negative vote.

The Resolution will be brought back to committee in April.

Board Appointed Committee Updates -- None

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings – None

Future Agenda Items – Tax Deed Foreclosure Process

Adjournment –9:39 am

Next Meeting: April 9, 2025 Time: 8:30am Location: Board Room
Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk