

**Minutes of the May 7, 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 (9:05 am)

Mike Markgren
Liz Klein
Jay Kozlowski
Greg Peterson
Brian Lehner

Others Present:

Brody Fischer
Tim Davison
Rachel Thompson
Montgomery Mouw

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 – Linda Zillmer, Tim Davison, Jeanine Evenson, Jayne Schroeder, Don Mrotek, Kevin Kroll, Suzann Mouw, Michael Choate, Carolyn Senty, Stanley Walczak

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: April 9, 2025

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

Motion carried without negative vote.

Events – No applications were received

Register of Deeds Update--

A written report was provided by Ms. Thompson.

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report –

Written reports were provided.

Forestry –

Forestry Report—

Mr. Peterson presented the Sawyer County Forestry Report; there are six active sales, five closed out in April, the sold-uncut value is \$3,857,061.33.

David J. Samuel & Annette Zeman Joint Rev Trust Land Trade Proposal—

The county has an opportunity to exchange a county-owned In Rem parcel kept for potential trade for a parcel that has timber harvest value and would return a \$117, 444.66 payment upon exchange. Mr. Peterson recommends the Land Trade as a good value to Sawyer County.

Proposal to trade Sawyer County 80-acre parcel for David J. Samuel & Annette M. Zeman Joint Rev Trust 37.869 acres, with an additional \$117,444.66 to be paid to Sawyer County was approved on a motion by: Mr. Neumann

Second by: Mr. Evans.

Motion carried without negative vote.

Spring Timber Sale Bids--

Mr. Peterson reviewed the bids received for 20 of 22 tracts offered and recommended approval.

Spring Timber Sale Bids were approved on a motion by: Mr. Neumann

Second by: Mr. Evans

Motion carried without negative vote.

Seeley Forest Trail Proposal—

The committee heard public comment on the proposal and further information was provided by Mr. Mouw regarding the proposed Seeley Forest Trail project. Issues including trail crossings, conflicting use by different groups, construction, maintenance, and signage of the trail, and who would be served by the trail were discussed by the committee. Mr. Peterson does not recommend developing the trail in that location due to use density, the terrain, topography, soil composition, Forestry staffing limitations, timber sale conflicts and potential liability to the county if promoted as ADA compliant.

The committee expressed concerns about county liability and ADA compliance.

Motion to pass on to County Board contingent on legal consult regarding liability and ADA compliance by: Mr. Evans Second by: Mr. Magnuson

After clarification that this was approving the proposal, Mr. Evans rescinded his motion.

Motion to approve the proposal and forward to County Board by: Ms. Wilson Second by: Mr. Magnuson

Motion carried with two opposed.

Discussion on obtaining legal consultation prior to County Board review: Ms. Roeker will be consulted.

WI DNR Report- Mr. Fischer reported on drought conditions and high fire danger. A new DNR rep will attend meetings starting in June.

USFS Report- No report

Motorized Trails Report—Mr. Davison updated the committee on grants, ongoing trail maintenance and improvements, and stated that the Alliance has brought \$2 million into Sawyer County.

Non-motorized— No report

Zoning/Conservation Department -

Mr. Kozlowski gave a written and verbal report on training, the tree sale, dam checks, non-metallic mining inspections, and summer camp.

Billy Boy Dam- Whitefish Lake petition was submitted to DNR to raise water level 6", requires public hearing to proceed. Drought is affecting the low water level- the minimum base flow must be maintained, rain is needed.

USDA Report- No report

Tax Deed /Foreclosure Process –

Treasurer's report on In Rem parcels—

Treasurer B. Lehner presented a list of properties the county has in tax foreclosure process; statute requires the first listing to be at the appraised value. If a property fails to sell at the first listed price, a lower price may be set by vote

of the committee. Mr. Lehner provided a spreadsheet with the parcels and Novus values, with suggested prices if they fail to sell in the first round and need to be listed again.

The committee approved the first listing of the parcels at the Novus values on a motion by: Mr. Neumann

Second by: Mr. Evans

Motion carried without negative vote.

Tax ID 44390 was reviewed by the committee; the parcel is underwater and the owner wishes to grant ownership to Sawyer County and pay \$100.00 toward the recording costs.

Motion to approve Sawyer County acquisition of Tax ID 44390 by: Mr. Magnuson Second by: Mr. Neumann

Motion carried without negative vote.

Board Appointed Committee Updates – The Land & Water Resource Management Plan review will start next week

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings -- None

Future Agenda Items – None

Adjournment -- 10:05 am

Next Meeting: June 11, 2025 Time: 8:30am Location: Board Room

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk