

**Minutes of the January 16, 2025 Meeting of the
Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Sawyer County Courthouse/Virtual**



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

Also present: Andy Albarado, Liz Klein, Jay Kozlowski, John Froemel, Jim Onarheim, Doug Mrotek, Atty. Rebecca Roeker- virtual, Greg Peterson- virtual; 25 citizens, 15 citizens virtual.

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance– Chair Kinsley called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm with a moment of silence observed for the passing of Mr. Hoehne’s wife, Patricia. Roll call was taken; quorum was met.

Certification of Compliance with the open meeting law was met.

Meeting Agenda – Set

Public Comments – Kent Lehnem, Carolyn Russell, Lynne Amundson, James Mead, Kimberly Kayler, Stephen McIntosh, Dave Tenner, Ray Schnepf, Jake Steinberg, Greg Eisold, Thomas Murray, Natalie Lillyblad, Rhonda Eisold, Linda Zillmer, Letter from Jeffrey Merriman and Susan Shingler read into record.

Mr. Froemel presented a Service Award to Jim Onarheim for his dedication to the ambulance service.

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: December 19, 2024

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Duffy Second by: Ms. Hessel
Motion carried without negative vote.

Zoning Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz presented a review of the January Zoning and Multi-dwelling Ad-hoc Committee meetings.

Mr. Kozlowski presented a request for Case #24-014, owner Mary Slisz-Chucka for a rezone approximately 24.32 acres from Residential/Recreational-Two (RR2) to Agricultural 1 (A-1).

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Shuman Second by: Ms Wilson Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Kozlowski presented a request for Case #24-015, owner James Mead, to rezone approximately 9.66 acres from Forestry-One (F-1) to Residential/Recreational-Two (RR-2).

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Buckholtz Second by: Mr. Savitski Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Kozlowski presented a request for Case #24-016, owner William Kehoe, to rezone approximately 54.39 acres from Residential/Recreational-Two (RR-2) to Agricultural 1 (A-1).

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Shuman Second by: Mr. Kariainen Motion carried without negative vote.

Public Works Committee --

Mr. Helwig gave a verbal report on the January 8, 2025 Public Works meeting with updates on maintenance, the airport and the highway department.

Public Safety Committee --

Chair Report – Mr. Buckholtz reported that the joint meeting with Public Safety and Economic Development was not as productive as expected. Mr. Buckholtz shared updates from the judges, court, emergency management, code enforcement and child support departments.

Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee -

Chair Report – Mr. Kariainen reported on the January 8, 2025 election of Chair (Mr. Kariainen) and Vice Chair (Mr. Neumann) and updated the board on timber sales and the 2025 County Forest Workplan.

SC Forestry Dept.-

The 2025 Annual Workplan was approved on a motion by: Mr. Evans Second by: Mr. Shuman

Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Partnership Meeting minutes were approved on a motion by: Mr. Evans Second by Mr. Buckholtz

Motion carried without negative vote.

Callahan and Mud Lake District Petition-

Mr. Albarado summarized the LWFRS January 8, 2025 meeting and presented the exhibits that the board will consider.

Mr. Shuman requested time to review the documents. Mr. Evans made a motion to table further consideration until the board can view an upcoming webinar on the creation of lake districts, with consideration at the next meeting.

Second by M. Shuman. Discussion followed. Atty. Roeker recommended the board adopt the LWFRS Report as required by statute before proceeding.

Mr. Shuman rescinded his second, Mr. Evans rescinded his motion to table.

Motion to accept the report as presented by the LWFRS committee by: Mr. Shuman Second by: Mr. Evans

Motion carried without negative vote.

Discussion on boundaries. Motion to table discussion to next board meeting by: Mr. Evans Second by: Ms. Hessel

Motion carried without negative vote.

Discussion on dams in Sawyer County, funding, removal of objectors, and keyholing followed; Ms. Hessel called for point of order citing motion was carried to table discussion on the topic.

Health and Human Services Board --

Chair Report – Ms. Wilson provided a report of the January 7, 2025 HHS meeting and noted that Influenza cases are on the rise with only 27% of the county vaccinated. Ms. Wilson commended HHS staff member Michelle Carlson for providing excellent customer service to a citizen.

Finance Report -

Ms. Hessel provided an update of the January 9, 2025 Finance Committee meeting, sharing highlights that investment interest revenues are high, while reaching the ambulance billing goal of 50% payment continues to be a challenge.

Economic Development & UW Extension Committee –

Ms. Hessel reported on the January 6, 2025 Economic Development meeting, stating that the lack of snow continues to lower tourism revenues, and LCO continues to work on the small business incubator program. The committee heard discussion by GenComm and Bug Tussel at the joint meeting on January 2, 2025.

BEAD Endorsement – Mr. Albarado presented a Resolution to grant an endorsement to Norvado so that they may apply for funding. This would involve no County funding outlay.

A motion to adopt the Resolution to endorse Norvado was made by: Mr. Karianen Second by: Mr. Neumann
Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Van Etten asked if the county is tracking or regulating the right of way installations of fiber and expressed concern that too many companies are placing their utilities with no plan or oversight by the county.

Mr. Albarado stated that it is part of the Broadband Forward plan to allow the providers to place fiber in the right of ways without a permit fee.

Administration Committee -

Mr. Kinsley stated that the January 9, 2025 minutes are attached to the agenda and moved to the County Administrator report.

County Administrator Report -

A written report was provided and reviewed by Mr. Albarado, covering ambulance, broadband, state mental health initiatives, the TRH Ordinance implementation, and noted that adjoining counties who were ahead of Sawyer in pursuing carbon credits have started to see revenues coming in.

Board Appointed Committee Updates –

Mr. Shuman reported that LCO transit is staffed and lowered fares seem to have increased ridership. There is a logo contest going on.

Mr. Savitski reported that the Senior Resource Center served over 30,000 meals in 2024, and is holding their “Raise the Roof” fundraiser on Saturday at the Veterans’ Center.

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings- None

Ms. Hessel shared that 1990 HHS graduate Sean Duffy has been nominated by President Trump to serve on his cabinet as Secretary of Transportation.

Future Agenda Items- Lake District

Adjournment – 8:18 pm

Next Meeting: February 20, 2025 **Time:** 6:30 pm **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk