

**Minutes of the June 19, 2025 Meeting of the
Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Sawyer County Courthouse/Virtual**



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

Also present: Mike Markgren, Liz Klein, John Pinnow, Gary Elliot, Nicole Clapero

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance— Chair Kinsley called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Roll call was taken; quorum was met.

Certification of Compliance with the open meeting law was met.

Meeting Agenda – Set

Public Comments – Linda Zillmer

Corrected Minutes from the previous meeting dated: April 15, 2025

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

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: May 15, 2025

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Helwig Second by: Mr. Evans
Motion carried without negative vote.

Confirmation of County Administrator Nominee Michael Markgren—

Motion to confirm the appointment of Michael Markgren as Sawyer County Administrator by: Mr. Righeimer
Second by: Ms. Hessel
Motion carried without negative vote.

Appointments--

Motion to appoint Allison Jonjak to the Land Conservation Committee and Sawyer County LWFRC by: Mr. Buckholtz
Second by: Ms. Wilson
Motion carried without negative vote.

Motion to appoint Michael Markgren to the Northwest Wisconsin Regional Economic Development Fund
Administrative Committee by: Mr. Buckholtz Second by: Mr. Hoehne
Motion carried without negative vote.

Zoning Committee --

Mr. Buckholtz reported that the committee has been working on four CUP applications, subdivision plats, an ordinance amendment on camping cabins. The MDD Ad-hoc committee had its 7th meeting. The Zoning Department is busy with building permit applications.

Public Works Committee—

Mr. Helwig reported on Maintenance, Airport and Highway projects that were completed or are currently ongoing.

Public Safety Committee —

Mr. Buckholtz reported that Recovery Court is going well, the Condemnation Commission is being reestablished, and updated the Board on the jail. Code enforcement, child support, and emergency services.

Land, Water and Forest Resources Committee--

Mr. Karianen reported on two events that were approved, timber sales, the Nelson Lake water level, and Billy Boy water level. A resolution to remove restrictions on Bass Lake parcels was approved by the committee.

Parcel Acquisition of Tax ID 44390—

Mr. Markgren explained the request by the owner to gift the underwater parcel left over from a subdivided parcel to Sawyer County. The request was previously approved by LWFRC 3:1. After discussion the Board decided to send it back to LWFRC for legal research before acting.

Bass Lake Parcel Restrictions-

Mr. Markgren explained the history of the Bass Lake parcels. Mr. Evans, also a Bass Lake Supervisor, confirmed and stated the 1973 idea of creating a water treatment facility there is no longer on the table and they would like the restrictions removed so they can sell the parcels to raise money for the fire department.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025- Bass Lake Parcel Restriction Removal by: Mr. Righeimer
Second by: Mr. Magnuson
Motion carried without negative vote.

HHS Report—

Ms. Wilson updated the Board on the HHS Department reports and noted they are watching the out of county juvenile placement costs. The HHS budget is on track currently.

Finance Report -

Mr. Righeimer provided an update of County finances and department budgets.

Public Safety Radio Network Financing—

Motion to approve Resolution 2025- Initial Resolution Authorizing the Borrowing of Not to Exceed \$2,825,000; and Providing for the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Promissory Notes, Series 2025 by: Mr. Helwig

Second by: Mr. Evans

Motion carried without negative vote.

Veterans Tribute- Purchase Property

Mr. Markgren stated that the Town of Hayward offer to donate land for the project was no longer on the table and he was able to negotiate a better price on the former Dairy Queen property as requested, \$99,000. Mr. Markgren recommends a contingency of a clean environmental inspection so the County is not left with any surprise clean up issues. Discussion followed.

Motion to deny the purchase of the property at 15785 US Hwy 63 and look for other options by: Mr. Duffy

Second by: Mr. Magnuson

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Kariainen- no; Ms. Wilson-yes; Ms. Hessel- no; Mr. Neumann- no; Mr. Helwig-no; Mr. Duffy- yes; Mr. Savitski- no; Mr. Evans- no; Mr. Van Etten- no; Mr. Hoehne- no; Mr. Righeimer- no; Mr. Kinsley- no; Mr. Buckholtz- yes; Mr. Magnuson- yes.

Motion failed 10:4.

More discussion.

Motion to approve the purchase of the property at 15785 US Hwy 63 in Hayward for \$99,000 with a clean environmental inspection contingency, for the purpose of constructing a Veterans Tribute by: Mr. Righeimer

Second by: Mr. Van Etten

A roll call vote was taken:

Mr. Kariainen- yes; Ms. Wilson-no; Ms. Hessel- yes; Mr. Neumann- yes; Mr. Helwig-yes; Mr. Duffy- no; Mr. Savitski- yes; Mr. Evans- yes; Mr. Van Etten- yes; Mr. Hoehne- yes; Mr. Righeimer- yes; Mr. Kinsley- yes; Mr. Buckholtz- no; Mr. Magnuson- no.

Motion carried 10:4.

Economic Development and UW Extension Committee—

Mr. Righeimer gave the Economic Development and UW Extension Committee report.

County Administrator Report—

Mr. Markgren provided a written report and updated the Board on personnel ideas, the Airport runway status, completion of ARPA Broadband projects, and stated that Mr. Froemel was doing a great job improving ambulance run times to an average of 10 minutes. Also mentioned were the status of carbon credits and a visit to a housing development in the City of Washburn.

A Resolution to Request Reinstatement of the defunded Building Bridges and Reaching Rural programs was discussed. The county had not spent the grant funds but was planning to add programs and services before the cuts.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025- Building Bridges Reinstatement Resolution was made by: Mr. Helwig

Second by: Mr. Righeimer

Motion carried without negative vote.

Motion to approve Resolution 2025- Reaching Rural Reinstatement Resolution was made by: Mr. Van Etten

Second by: Mr. Evans

Motion carried without negative vote.

Board Appointed Committee Updates—

Mr. Buckholtz updated the Board on the Namekagon Transit meeting; NARCAN dispensers will be installed on the buses and a proposed change of routes is being considered. Transit will have a bus in the Musky Fest parade.

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings-

Mr. Kinsley noted that Musky Fest and the Dairy Breakfast events are happening this weekend and the NWRPC Annual Meeting is June 25th.

Ms. Hessel reported that she attended a Washburn County Forestry tour.

The deadline for Board members to sign up for the annual WCA Conference at Kalahari September 21-23 is tomorrow at 11am.

Future Agenda Items- Tour of County highways

Adjournment – 7:44 pm

Next meeting: Thursday, July 17, 2025 Time: 6:30pm Location Board Room

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk