

**Minutes of the September 10, 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- virtual

Mike Markgren
Liz Klein
Jay Kozlowski
Greg Peterson
Rachel Thompson
Brian Lehner

Others Present:

Jane Schroeder
Mike Martin
Craig Morris
Brian DeVries

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 – None

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: **August 13, 2025**

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

Motion carried without negative vote.

Events--

No applications

Headwater Rivers Forest Project- No update

Register of Deeds Update--

A written report was provided and reviewed by Ms. Thompson; August revenues were high, with numerous real estate and vital records transactions.

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report –

Land Records—A written RPL report was provided.

Surveyor—A written surveyor report was provided.

Forestry –

County Forestry Report—

Mr. Peterson reported that 10 sales were active in August. There is approximately \$4.3M in sold-uncut timber on file. Gross timber sales are at \$1.65M YTD.

Oak wilt- Treatment of infected trees continues.

Carbon credits were presented to a potential buyer last month and the program appears to be moving along.

Revenue is expected by the end of 2026.

Wisconsin DNR Report- Mr. Morris reported that 531 of 2217 county hours for sale establishment and recon have been completed in 2025 to date. The DNR is doing site preparation for white pine and oak regeneration. The fall county partnership meeting is next week.

USFS Report- Mr. Martin gave a quarterly report on Great Divide timber sales and projects. Day Lake will be drawn down in late 2026 for dam repair. The Western Zone Aspen and Fir Project is being planned to manage aging stands in an area from Bayfield to Medford. The Department is reconstructing eleven miles of FR 164, managing oak wilt, and preparing trails for the change of seasonal use.

Motorized Trails Report—Ms. Schroeder reported that Sawyer County has had big turnouts for organized rides and high off-road trail activity, and trails are expected to stay busy for fall color rides. The Association is aware of speed complaints in some areas and is cooperating with Law Enforcement to maintain safety.

Non-motorized— No report

Zoning/Conservation Department -

Mr. Kozlowski reviewed a zoning and conservation written report. The Town of Winter has approved funding for the Price Dam repairs and preliminary work is underway.

USDA Report- No report

Fish Trap Dam--Mr. Kozlowski presented a proposal for a land swap needed to repair the Fish Trap Dam. The county would trade an upstream parcel for a similar parcel on the downstream side to allow for a better design plan.

Motion to approve the land swap for consideration by the County Board by: Mr. Evans

Second by: Mr. Magnuson

Motion carried without negative vote.

Treasurer's Update— Mr. Lehner updated the committee on the status of sold and unsold In Rem parcels, and stated that the county had acquired seven additional properties on the 2020 judgment date. Two are occupied; the owners have 90 days to pay the taxes or eviction will proceed.

Board Appointed Committee Updates – None

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings -- None

Future Agenda Items – None

Adjournment – 8:55 am

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

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk