

**Minutes of the November 5, 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- Absent
- ☒ Kay Wilson
- ☒ Jim Evans
- ☒ Dale Magnuson- virtual

Mike Markgren
Liz Klein
Jay Kozlowski
Greg Peterson
Rachel Thompson

Others Present:

Tim Davison
Tim Seidl
Natalie Erler
Pat Zimmer

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

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: October 8, 2025

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

Motion carried without negative vote.

Events--

No applications were received

Register of Deeds Update--

A written report was provided by Ms. Thompson. Real estate transfers have been high volume since June.

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report –

Land Records—No report

Surveyor—A written surveyor report was provided.

Forestry –

County Forestry Report—

Mr. Peterson reported that 13 sales were active in October. There is approximately \$3.9M in sold-uncut timber on file. Gross timber sales are at \$2.04M YTD. ATV/UTV Trail 3 project is completed; work has started on Tuscobia between Wooddale to Washburn County line. The snowmobile trail reroute on Hwy 77 between Spider Lake Town Hall Rd. and Morgan Rd. is underway.

Wisconsin DNR Report-

Mr. Zimmer reported that 1,112 hours of the 2,217 hour goal have been completed on the Sawyer County Forest. Site prep, oak wilt surveillance, planning for prescribed burns and wildfire staffing were priorities in October. A public comment period for the North Central Forest Regional Master Plan is open through December 7: [DNR Seeking Public Comments On North Central Forest Draft Regional Master Plan | Wisconsin DNR](#)

USFS Report- No report

Motorized Trails Report— Mr. Davison thanked elected officials and county staff for supporting trail projects and updated the committee on the status of a failing bridge on Trail 31; the Association is trying to work with the TGB to keep the trail open. The Tuscobia Trail has 94 culverts in 50 miles of trail that average \$5,000 each to repair. There is a total of 176 miles of groomed ATV and snowmobile trails in Sawyer County.

Non-motorized— No report

Zoning/Conservation Department -

Mr. Kozlowski reviewed the written conservation report. Price Dam work is completed but the gate clutch mechanism is still not working correctly. This year's theme for the school Poster & Speaking contest is "Soils, where it all begins." The DNR (with Whitefish Lake Property Owners) is holding a public information meeting on a proposal to raise Lac Courte Oreilles 6 inches on December 15 from 11am-1pm at the LCO Conference Center.

FWS Fish Passage Project proposal: Funding for a proposed project for routing Lake Sturgeon around the Winter Hydroelectric plant on the East Fork was discussed. The county can apply for a pass-through grant to contribute to the project at no additional cost to the county.

DNR Grant Project Resolution for Surface Water Planning Grant was approved on a motion by: Ms. Wilson
Second by: Mr. Magnuson
Motion carried without negative vote.

LWRMP public input/discussion- Five members of the advisory committee were present for a discussion on the final version of the Land & Water Resource Management Plan. Ms. Zillmer contributed ideas. The committee agreed to add the goal/objective of creating a county-wide wellhead protection ordinance before the public hearing on the plan set for December 10, 2025.

USDA Report- No report

Board Appointed Committee Updates – None

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings -- None

Future Agenda Items – Public Hearing on the LWRMP will be held at the next LWFR meeting on December 10, 2025 at 8:30am.

Adjournment – 9:17am

Next Meeting: December 10, 2025 **Time:** 8:30am **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk