

**Minutes of the December 10, 2025 Meeting of the Sawyer County
Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee
of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Assembly Room, Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members (X) Present:

- ☒ Chair: Steve Kariainen
- ☒ Vice Chair: Randy Neumann
- ☒ Kay Wilson
- ☒ Jim Evans
- ☒ Dale Magnuson (9:05)
- ☒ Allison Jonjak

Others Present:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Mike Markgren | Tim Davison |
| Liz Klein | Tim Seidl |
| Jay Kozlowski | Natalie Erler |
| Greg Peterson | David Todus |
| Rachel Thompson | 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

The Public Hearing for the Land & Water Resource Management Plan was called to order at 8:32 am
Mr. Seidl presented background information on the role of the Conservation Department and stated that each county has unique land uses when establishing priorities for a Land & Water Plan; for example, Sawyer County only has 7 dairy farms. Version 9 of the LWRMP which incorporated the Groundwater Mapping Project and other citizen suggestions was provided.

Public comment- Linda Zillmer asked for a more detailed plan and annual updates, and recommended a groundwater study compiled by the county to analyze county-wide data points from water testing.

The Public Hearing adjourned at 8:41 am on a motion by: Ms. Wilson Second by: Mr. Evans
Motion carried without negative vote.

Discussion/Action- The committee discussed TRH water testing and annual updates once the plan proceeds.

Motion to forward the Land & Water Resource Management Plan 2026-2037 Version 9 to the County Board
by: Mr. Neumann Second by: Mr. Evans
Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Kozlowski stated the LWRMP will be sent to the state first, then come to the County Board on the February agenda.

Public Comments – Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: **November 5, 2025**
Motion to approve made by: Mr. Evans Second by: Mr. Neumann
Motion carried without negative vote.

Events--

Seeley Hills Classic Ski Race was approved on a motion by: Ms. Wilson Second by: Mr. Evans
Motion carried without negative vote.

Birkie Tour was approved on a motion by: Ms. Wilson
Motion carried without negative vote.

Second by: Mr. Neumann

Birkie Week Ski Events was approved on a motion by: Mr. Evans
Motion carried without negative vote.

Second by: Mr. Neumann

Fat Bike Birkie was approved on a motion by: Ms. Wilson
Motion carried without negative vote.

Second by: Mr. Evans

Epic Bike Fest was approved on a motion by: Ms. Wilson
Motion carried without negative vote.

Second by: Mr. Kariainen

Register of Deeds Update--

A written report was provided and reviewed by Ms. Thompson.

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 13 sales were active in November. There is approximately \$4.8M in sold-uncut timber on file. Gross timber sales are at \$2.14 YTD.

Fall 2025 Timber Sale bids were presented; 19/19 tracts received bids.

Motion to award the 2025 Timber Sale Bids to the highest bidders by: Mr. Evans

Second by: Mr. Neuman

Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Peterson presented a request to withdraw 2 acres of County Forest for the purpose of use as a Public Safety Communications site east of Draper.

Motion to approve the withdrawal of 2 Acres for Public Safety Communications Simulcast Radio Site

by: Mr. Neumann

Second by: Mr. Evans

Motion carried without negative vote.

Wisconsin DNR Report-

Mr. Todus presented a written report; ongoing projects include site prep for oak and white pine regeneration and prescribed burns.

USFS Report- No report

Motorized Trails Report— Mr. Davison reported on snowmobile trail damage from the winter storm on November 26-27; clean up is ongoing- they are not grooming yet and no opening date has been set. A portion of Trail 5 has to be rerouted due to closure by a property owner. An Alliance fundraiser called “Give Butter” is online to raise funds. A portion of the state trails aid is retained by Sawyer County to cover maintenance and repair projects. Mr. Peterson stated the amount is \$20,000 out of \$180,000 the Alliance receives in state trail aid.

Mr. Magnuson asked if the Alliance could cut a large stand of mature aspen east of Winter adjacent to the Tuscobia before it falls into the trail. Mr. DeVries asked about private property owner concerns when trail maintenance is performed in the right of ways.

Non-motorized— No report

Zoning/Conservation Department – Mr. Kozlowski reported that one of the two Price Dam Gates is still malfunctioning and could be costly to repair. The plan is to wait until spring to try to lift the gates to determine if the issue is the clutch mechanism or if the stuck gate is pinched in the sidewall of the dam. Concerns were raised about water backing up in a 500 year flood scenario.

The County Tree Sale is active online for its 30th year.

The DNR is holding a public meeting on the Lac Courtes Oreilles water level increase proposal on December 15 from 11-1pm at the Sevenwinds Casino.

Board Appointed Committee Updates – None

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings -- None

Future Agenda Items – None

Adjournment – 9:20 am

Next Meeting: January 7, 2025 Time: 8:30am Location: Board Room

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk