

**Minutes of the May 15, 2025 Meeting of the
Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Sawyer County Courthouse/Virtual**



Voting Committee Members Present (X)	Roll Call	Dis- tric- t	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- Virtual	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, Julia Lyons, John Froemel-virtual, Mike Coleson, John Pinnow, Doug Mrotek, Don Mrotek, Greg Peterson, Cathy LaReau, Derek Leslie-virtual

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 – Susan Mouw, Stan Walczak, Carolyn Senty, Bill Conger, Don Mrotek, Debbie Detzner, Jeanine Evenson, Charlie Evenson, John Mattson, Karen Rosen, Bobbie Huot, Cathy LaReau, Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: April 15, 2025

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Duffy Second by: Mr. Helwig

Motion carried without negative vote.

Zoning Committee—

Mr. Buckholtz gave the Zoning Administrator's Report. There is a hearing on May 16, the Multi-dwelling Ad-hoc Committee is reviewing amendments, the number of building permits is up, and a new staff member has been hired in the zoning department.

Public Works Committee—

Mr. Helwig gave the Public Works Committee report covering Maintenance, Airport, and Highway updates.

Airport—

A lease-holder has requested the transfer of his hangar lease into a revocable trust.

Motion to amend the John D. and Virginia J. McCain Hangar Lease to The McCain Revocable Trust by: Mr. Evans

Second by: Mr. Helwig

Motion carried without negative vote.

ATV Routes—

Mr. Pinnow invited board members on a four-hour tour of county highways, and presented a list of current County ATV routes for approval.

The existing ATV Routes were approved as presented on a motion by: Mr. Buckholtz Second by: Mr. Helwig

Motion carried with one opposed.

Public Safety Report—

Mr. Buckholtz gave the Public Safety Committee Report, updating the board on the courts, Sheriff's Department, Code Enforcement, Emergency Management, Child Support, Emergency Services and CJCC.

LWFRC Report—

Mr. Kariainen gave the LWFRC Committee report and updated the board on Forestry, the Seeley Forest Trail proposal, and the listing of In Rem foreclosure parcels.

Seeley Forest Trail—

Mr. Mouw presented printed information and a PowerPoint proposal for the Seeley Forest Trail.

Discussion followed on support for the project and issues that were raised by the county Forester and ATV club.

Motion to deny the Seeley Forest Trail by: Mr. Righeimer

Second by: Mr. Neumann

Motion carried with three opposed.

Samuel-Zeman Trust Trade Proposal—

Mr. Markgren introduced a proposed parcel trade between the County and the Samuel-Zeman Trust, that would benefit Sawyer County by adding forested land and a cash payment of \$117,444.66. The proposal was approved in the LWFRC committee.

Motion to approve the proposed trade of a county parcel for the Samuel-Zeman Trust parcel by: Mr. Neumann

Second by: Mr. Helwig

Motion carried without negative vote.

The 2025 Timber Sale Bids were presented for information, approved by the LWFR Committee.

Parcel Acquisition Tax ID 44390—

The County has an opportunity to acquire an underwater parcel on Nelson Lake. The item will be presented in June for Board consideration.

Health and Human Services Board --

Ms. Wilson stated that there was no quorum at the HHS meetings on May 6 or May 15.

The HHS Department would like to close at 11:00 am on June 4 for an All-Staff Training Day as they have done in past years.

Motion to approve the request to close HHS at 11:00 am for an All-Staff Training Day on June 4 by: Mr. Buckholtz
Second by: Mr. Van Etten
Motion carried without negative vote.

Finance Report -

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

Economic Development and UW Extension Committee—

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

County Administrator Report—

Mr. Markgren thanked Department Heads for a smooth transition and updated the board on the status of funding for the Public Safety Radio Network project, Airport projects Ambulance reporting data, and gearing up for the 2026 budget cycle starting with HHS and Highway.

A Resolution to Add Defendants to Opioid Litigation sent to the County by legal counsel was discussed.

Motion to approve a Resolution to Add Defendants to Opioid Litigation was made by: Mr. Evans

Second by: Mr. Hoehne

Motion carried without negative vote.

Board Appointed Committee Updates—

Mr. Kinsley stated that there are three finalists for County Administrator- a Meet and Greet will be held at 4:00 pm on Monday, May 19 and the Admin Committee will conduct interviews on May 20: if a finalist is selected, a Special County Board Meeting will be called (eight signatures needed) for May 27 or May 29 to confirm the hire.

Mr. Buckholtz updated the Board on Namekagon Transit ridership, Narcan on busses, and Memorial Day closure. He will inquire if they can host the four-hour highway tour. The Northern Waters Library meeting will be May 17. Mr. Kariainen updated the Board that CEP funding is in jeopardy and ICAA is working on their Community Needs Assessment.

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings- None

Future Agenda Items- Tax ID 44390 parcel acquisition, tour of County highways

Adjournment – 8:14 pm

Next meeting: Thursday, June 19, 2025 Time: 6:30pm Location Board Room

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk