

**Minutes of the January 15, 2026 Meeting of the  
Sawyer County Board of Supervisors  
Sawyer County Courthouse/Virtual**



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

**Also present:** Mike Markgren, Liz Klein, Jay Kozlowski, Doug Mrotek, Greg Peterson, Sandy Okamoto, Bryan Deyo, Julia Lyons (virtual), Lori Baltrusis (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** – Bryan Deyo formally announced he is running for Sheriff

**Minutes from the previous meeting dated: December 23, 2025**

Motion to approve with attendance corrections by: Mr. Righeimer Second by: Mr. Evans  
Motion carried without negative vote.

**Zoning Committee** –

Mr. Buckholtz reported on Zoning Committee actions on CUPs, rezones and ordinance amendments, including a solar ordinance, and work on a comprehensive ordinance rewrite proposal.

Mr. Kozlowski presented a 2025 permit summary with records dating back to 2006 for comparison. Mr. Kozlowski presented a report on 2025 enforcement statistics. The Department made enforcement a priority in 2025 and added

additional personnel to enforce code violations; 162 Orders for Correction were sent out, of which 74% were corrected and 26% remain open. Aerial imagery from 2025 will be used to identify illegal structures and code violations.

**Public Works Committee—**

Mr. Helwig updated the Board on December meeting reports for Maintenance, Airport and Highway projects.

**Public Safety Committee —**

Mr. Buckholtz reviewed the Jail, Code Enforcement, Emergency Management, Dispatch, Child Support, Code Enforcement and Ambulance reports for the board. Ms. Olson provided a detailed Animal Control report to the committee, explaining all the procedures for animal calls.

**Land, Water and Forest Resources Committee--**

Mr. Kariainen reviewed the Register of Deeds, Land Records, Surveyor, Forestry, Zoning Conservation and Trails reports. Treasurer Brian Lehner provided an update on In Rem foreclosures and current tax collections. The Alliance reported on snowmobile trail storm cleanup and grooming; trails were open for the Christmas season.

The 2026 Annual Partnership minutes were reviewed and the Sawyer County Forest Annual Workplan was presented by Mr. Peterson. The Plan includes set up of approximately 3500 acres of timber sales at an estimated \$2M in projected revenues in 2026, and anticipated carbon credit revenues.

Motion to approve the 2026 SCF Annual Workplan by: Mr. Buckholtz                      Second by: Mr. Kariainen  
Motion carried without negative vote.

The City of Hayward annexed a Town of Hayward commercial property that requires the County to change the Supervisory District 4 boundary, in order to avoid creating a unique voting ward with no residents.

Motion to approve RESOLUTION 2026-1 for Supervisory District Boundary Change by: Mr. Righeimer  
Second by: Mr. Neumann                      Motion carried without negative vote.

**HHS Report—**

Ms. Wilson reported on the January 6 meeting of HHS. The Senior Resource Center appointed Mr. Buckholtz to their board. Behavioral Health reports were reviewed, Children, Youth and Family Services, Youth Justice, Truancy and Diversion, Economic Support, and Public Health updates were provided.

The State of Wisconsin DATCP revised codes, classifications and fees for lodging and water testing in December, necessitating an amendment to the HHS 2026 Fee Schedule going forward; fees were increased to remain budget neutral.

Motion to approve the Resolution to Amend Fees for Water Testing, Issuing Permits, Making Inspections, and Investigations of Certain Types of Establishments by: Mr. Shuman                      Second by: Mr. Savitski  
Motion carried without negative vote.

**Finance Report -**

Mr. Righeimer provided an update on county finances and department budgets. The committee approved the purchase of an investment CD with Frandsen Bank.

**Economic Development and UW Extension Committee—**

Mr. Righeimer gave the Economic Development and UW Extension Committee report. Reporting this month were Weiss and Winter Libraries, HLVCB, the Economic Development Corporation, and the Trail Alliance.

**Administration Report—**

Mr. Kinsley reported that the Administration Committee met and heard reports from the County Clerk, Veterans, IT, and HR departments, and the County Administrator. It was voted to continue posting meetings to YouTube.

Mr. Markgren gave updates on the upcoming staff training day, a meeting with Uniquely Wisconsin, SC LCO EDC, and HLVCB regarding marketing, preparations for the 2025 audit, contracts for service with outside entities (two sent to the libraries are pending), a meeting for Birkie, and the Radio Network.

CJCC met on January 14; Judge Isham resigned from the Chair position and Julia Lyons was appointed Chair. Judge Elaine Smith was appointed Vice Chair. Changes were made to the Bylaws to allow the Circuit Court judges to designate a representative if they are unable to attend.

Mr. Markgren presented the Strategic Plan to the Board and walked through all of the components.

**Board Appointed Committee Updates—** Mr. Buckholtz reported on interviews for the manager position at Namekagon Transit

**Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings-** Ms. Hessel reported that Birkie is looking for volunteers

**Future Agenda Items-** Land and Water Resource Management Plan, Bill Johnson/Johnson Timber Presentation, Technical College Presentation

**Meeting Adjourned at** 7:29 pm

**Next meeting:** Thursday, February 19, 2026 **Time:** 6:30pm **Location:** Board Room

**Minutes recorded by** Liz Klein, County Clerk