



Sawyer County

Agenda

Land, Water, & Forest Resources Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 13, 2021 @ 8:30 AM
Assembly Room

Page

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. The public is strongly encouraged to access the public meeting remotely due to public health and safety concerns. To view or participate in the virtual meeting from a computer, iPad, or Android device please go to <https://zoom.us/j/99719807086> You can also use the dial in number for listening only at 1-312-626-6799 with the Webinar ID: 997 1980 7086. If additional assistance is needed please contact the Sawyer County Forestry Office at 715-634-4846 prior to the meeting.

2. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

5. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

3 - 4

- a. [12-9-20 Minutes](#)

6. EVENTS - DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

5 - 7

- a. Hayward Lions Pre Birkie- February 13th 2021
[HL Pre Birkie](#)

7. NEW FSA REPRESENTATIVE

- a. Introduction to the new Farm Service Representative.

8. SAWYER COUNTY TREASURERS DEPARTMENT

9. LAND RECORDS AND COUNTY SURVEYOR DEPARTMENT REPORT

10. SAWYER COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

- 8 - 21
- a. 2021 Sawyer County Forest Annual Workplan (Action Item)
[2021 work plan](#)
[2020.21 Annual Partnership Meeting Minutes](#)
 - b. 15yr Plan Chapters 1000, 2000 Draft Reviews (Information Only)
 - c. Update on Timber theft Case (Information Only)
 - d. Outdoor Rec. Plan Draft Review (Information Only)
 - e. Recreational Trails Report
Motorized-
Non-motorized-
- 22 - 24
- f. County Forestry Report
[Dec 20 forestry report](#)
 - g. DNR Forestry Report

11. ZONING/ CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

- 25 - 26
- a. County Report
[Conservation Update Jan 2021](#)
 - b. USDA report
 - c. LCO report

12. OTHER TOPICS FOR DISSCUSSION

13. FUTURE TOPICS

14. ADJOURNMENT

A quorum of the County Board of Supervisors or of any of its committees may be present at this meeting to listen and observe. Neither the Board nor any of the committees have established attendance at this meeting as an official function of the Board or committee(s) or otherwise made a determination that attendance at the meeting is necessary to carry out the Board or committee's function. The only purpose for other supervisors attending the meeting is to listen to the information presented. Neither the Board nor any committee (other than the committee providing this notice and agenda) will take any official action with respect to this noticed meeting.

Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee Mission Statement:

"Develop, guide and implement policies that protect and ensure the sustainability of our bio-diverse community."

**Minutes of the December 9th 2020 meeting of the Sawyer County
Land, Water and Forestry Resources
Committee Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Assembly Room; Sawyer County Courthouse**



Committee Members Present:

Bruce Paulsen, Ron Buckholtz, Marc Helwig, Jesse Boettcher

County Personnel Present:

Jay Kozlowski, Greg Peterson, Jessica Kujala, Tom Hoff, Carol Williamson

Also Present:

Don Mrotek, Jim Osteen, Kurt Simatic, Chris Treland, Paul Fritz

Call to Order- Ron Buckholtz Calls meeting to order.

Approval of November 4th Meeting Minutes- Motion by Boettcher, 2nd by Buckholtz to approve minutes. Motion carried.

Sawyer County Treasurers Department-
None

Land Records and County Surveyor Department-
Dan Pleoger Land Records gives a short review of his department's activities. *(Information only)*

Forestry Department

Review of 15yr plan Chapter 800- Forestry Administrator Greg Peterson gives an overview of what is outlined in chapter 800, he seeks permission from the committee to post this chapter online for public review and comments. Motion by Paulsen, 2nd by Boettcher to approve chapter for public review. Motion carried.

Out Door Recreation Plan overview- Peterson speaks to the Committee regarding this plan, he hopes to have the Draft ready for Committee review in January, and available for public review in February. *(Information only)*

Timber sale extension policy- Peterson explains to the Committee that a lot of contractors are requesting an extension without increase due to the circumstances of this year with Covid, poor markets and the Closing of Timber mills in the areas. Peterson is proposing a 1 year extension without increase for all current timber contracts the County has. (see agenda attachments) Motion by Paulsen to approve contingent on the free extension policy lapsing after 12 months. 2nd by Helwig, Motion Carried

Recreational Trails

Motorized- Don Mrotek gives a brief trail report

Non-motorized- None

County Report- Forestry Administrator Greg Peterson gives a review of current activities in the forestry department. *(Information Only)*

DNR report- (see report in packet, Information Only)

Zoning/Conservation Department

Perch Lake High Water Discussion- Zoning Administrator Jay Kozlowski reviews the perch lake high water situation that was talked about last month. The engineer report shows that the high water was not caused by any County activities, but the County is still looking into possible solutions and what the DNR specifications say can be done to correct the problem. The Committee is questioning what is the Counties responsibility, and who will fund the project. Jim Osteen, a member of the PLFA speaks, asking that the County keep in mind that the high water threatens property owners on several lakes, and that action needs to happen fast. Paul Fritz also a member of the Perch Lake Fishing Association speaks, encouraging the County to take action. Tom Hoff, the County Administrator also speaks about the issue, saying that there may be some evidence that this issue could have been caused by a previous land owners attempt at landscaping were we lands were filled in. He reviews that issue at hand and questions if the County tax payers should be

responsible for correcting this problem. The Committee suggests that the Zoning/Conservation department work with the PLFA to put together a work plan, however finances need to be discussed before any type of action is taken. *(Information Only)*

County Report- Kozlowski presents to Committee with a brief report of the Zoning and Conservation department.

Adjourned – meeting adjourned

**SAWYER COUNTY APPLICATION
FOR USE OF BIRKEBEINER SKIING AND HIKING TRAIL**

Application must be submitted to the Sawyer County Forestry Office, P.O. Box 879, Hayward, WI 54843, 60 days prior to the event.

Please include a copy of the entry form and route map with your application.

Date of Application 12/15/2020 Date of Event 2/13/2021

Name of Event HAYWARD LIONS CLUB PRE BIRKE

Type of Event (please describe in detail)

SEE BROCHURE

Responsible Person

Phone Number

HAYWARD LIONS CLUB

715-558-5118

(Tom DANCZYK)

Address

PO Box 306

HAYWARD

WI

54843

Street/Box/Fire Number

City

State

Zip

Fee Schedule: \$1.00 per entrant

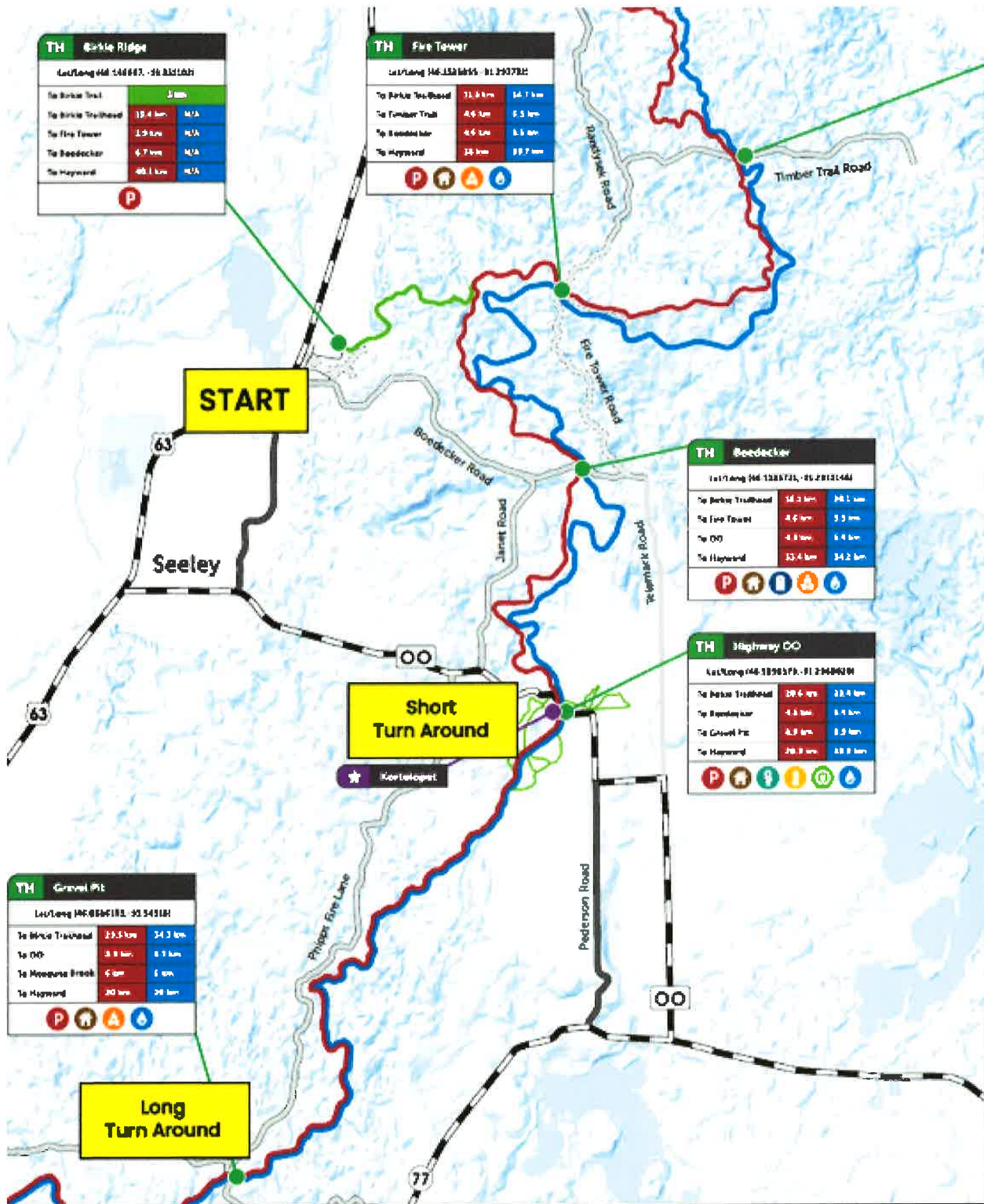
Number of Entrants 600-800

Entry Fee \$60-\$80

Payment is due 10 days after the event. Checks should be made payable to the Sawyer County Treasurer and forward to the Sawyer County Forestry Department, P.O. Box 879, Hayward, WI 54843.

Proof of Insurance must be provided at least 15 days prior to the event. Please note that you will be required to name Sawyer County (and Bayfield County if the event will use Bayfield County's portion of the trail) as co-insured. The American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation should be named co-insured if it is a winter event where grooming is required.

1/2009



26k
 Birkie Ridge – OO – Fire Tower – Birkie Ridge

42k
 Birkie Ridge – Gravel Pit – Fire Tower – Birkie Ridge



CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

DATE (MM/DD/YYYY)
12/15/2020

THIS CERTIFICATE IS ISSUED AS A MATTER OF INFORMATION ONLY AND CONFERS NO RIGHTS UPON THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER. THIS CERTIFICATE DOES NOT AFFIRMATIVELY OR NEGATIVELY AMEND, EXTEND OR ALTER THE COVERAGE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES BELOW. THIS CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE ISSUING INSURER(S), AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OR PRODUCER, AND THE CERTIFICATE HOLDER.

IMPORTANT: If the certificate holder is an ADDITIONAL INSURED, the policy(ies) must be endorsed. If SUBROGATION IS WAIVED, subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, certain policies may require an endorsement. A statement on this certificate does not confer rights to the certificate holder in lieu of such endorsement(s).


PRODUCER DSP Insurance 1900 E. Golf Road, Suite 650 Schaumburg, IL 60173	CONTACT NAME: John Adams PHONE (A/C No, Ext): 1-800-316-6705 FAX (A/C, No): 847-934-6186 E-MAIL ADDRESS: lionsclubs@dspins.com
	INSURER(S) AFFORDING COVERAGE NAIC # INSURER A: ACE American Insurance Company 22667 INSURER B: INSURER C: INSURER D: INSURER E:
INSURED Hayward Lions Club Hayward Wisconsin	

COVERAGES **CERTIFICATE NUMBER:** **REVISION NUMBER:**

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE POLICIES OF INSURANCE LISTED BELOW HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO THE INSURED NAMED ABOVE FOR THE POLICY PERIOD INDICATED. NOTWITHSTANDING ANY REQUIREMENT, TERM OR CONDITION OF ANY CONTRACT OR OTHER DOCUMENT WITH RESPECT TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATE MAY BE ISSUED OR MAY PERTAIN, THE INSURANCE AFFORDED BY THE POLICIES DESCRIBED HEREIN IS SUBJECT TO ALL THE TERMS, EXCLUSIONS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH POLICIES. LIMITS SHOWN MAY HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY PAID CLAIMS

INSR LTR	TYPE OF INSURANCE	ADDL SUBR INSR	WVD	POLICY NUMBER	POLICY EFF (MM/DD/YYYY)	POLICY EXP (MM/DD/YYYY)	LIMITS
A	GENERAL LIABILITY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agg. Per Named Insured is \$2,000,000 GENL AGGREGATE LIMIT APPLIES PER: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLICY <input type="checkbox"/> PERC-RECT <input type="checkbox"/> LOC			HDOG71094972	09/01/2018	09/01/2019	EACH OCCURRENCE \$ 1,000,000 DAMAGE TO RENTED PREMISES (Ea occurrence) \$ 1,000,000 MED EXP (Any one person) \$ 5,000 PERSONAL & ADV INJURY \$ 1,000,000 GENERAL AGGREGATE \$ 10,000,000 PRODUCTS - COMP/OP AGG \$ 2,000,000
A	AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY <input type="checkbox"/> ANY AUTO <input type="checkbox"/> ALL OWNED AUTOS <input type="checkbox"/> SCHEDULED AUTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HIRED AUTOS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NON-OWNED AUTOS			ISAH25159226	09/01/2018	09/01/2019	COMBINED SINGLE LIMIT (Ea accident) \$ 1,000,000 BODILY INJURY (Per person) \$ BODILY INJURY (Per accident) \$ PROPERTY DAMAGE (Per accident) \$ \$
	UMBRELLA LIAB <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUR EXCESS LIAB <input type="checkbox"/> CLAIMS-MADE DED RETENTION \$						EACH OCCURRENCE \$ AGGREGATE \$ \$
	WORKERS COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY ANY PROPRIETOR/PARTNER/EXECUTIVE OFFICER/MEMBER EXCLUDED? <input type="checkbox"/> Y/N N/A (Mandatory in NH) If yes, describe under DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS below						WC STATUTORY LIMITS OTHER E L EACH ACCIDENT \$ E L DISEASE - EA EMPLOYEE \$ E L DISEASE - POLICY LIMIT \$

DESCRIPTION OF OPERATIONS / LOCATIONS / VEHICLES (Attach ACORD 101, Additional Remarks Schedule, if more space is required)
Provisions of the policy apply to the named insured's participation in the following activity during the policy period shown above: Hayward Lions Club Pre-Birkie February 12th and 13th
PROVISIONS OF THE POLICY DO NOT APPLY TO THE SALE OR SERVING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES.

CERTIFICATE HOLDER Town of Lenroot 11702N US HWY 63 Hayward Wisconsin 54843	CANCELLATION SHOULD ANY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POLICIES BE CANCELLED BEFORE THE EXPIRATION DATE THEREOF, NOTICE WILL BE DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE POLICY PROVISIONS. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE 
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Sawyer County Forestry Department



Sawyer County Courthouse
10610 Main Street, Suite 100
Hayward, WI 54843
Phone: (715) 634-4846
Fax: (715) 638-3234



SAWYER COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT ANNUAL WORK PLAN FOR 2021

Following is the proposed Sawyer County Forest work plan for the year 2021. The plan gives direction and meaning to the proposed County Forest budget. The plan further defines and supplements the Sawyer County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan and emphasizes the current needs of the County Forest and Recreational System.

- **FORESTS**

The Sawyer County Forest (SCF) is 115,197 acres in size.

The following list shows the acreage of productive forested land by various timber types on the SCF:

- **Forest Cover:**

Aspen	40,094
Northern Hardwood	24,696
Oak	9,976
Black Spruce	5,410
White Pine	4,655
Swamp Hardwood	3,805
Red Pine	2,124
Tamarack	1,734
Red Maple	1,195
Cedar	887
White Spruce	623
Hemlock	487
Jack Pine	136
Balsam Fir	52
White Birch	45

Total Productive Forested Acres 95,919

**Non-productive/ Non-forested acreage accounts for 19,278 acres*

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I. TIMBER HARVEST

Timber harvests are not only important for the economic well being of Sawyer County, but also for the health and vigor of the forest. This includes all aspects of the forest including wildlife, watershed protection, air quality, recreation, and many other noncommercial values. Professional implementation of proper forest management and harvest techniques is essential. The timber management goal is to produce sustained yields of forest products by scheduling timber sales to achieve the average annual allowable cut. The long-term goal is to develop a regulated harvest in which the same number of acres or same volume of wood could be harvested each year for perpetuity. A regulated harvest can occur when there is a proper balance in age class distribution and uniform growth rates for each forest type. Compartment reconnaissance information from the Wisconsin Forest Inventory & Reporting System (WisFIRS) will be used to determine where timber harvesting is needed. Sawyer County Forest plans to assess approximately 7500 for harvest. From that acreage, SCF plans to offer for sale approximately 3600 acres of timber in accordance with the 2021 Annual Allowable Cut (excluding salvage operations due to unknown occurrences) in the following timber types in 2021:

	<u>Un-Even Aged Harvest/Thinning</u>	<u>Even-Aged Harvest Harvest/Thinning</u>
Northern Hardwoods	1375	60
Aspen	0	900
Oak	40	535
White Pine	0	260
Red Pine	0	205
Swamp Hardwood	15	55
Tamarack	0	20
Red Maple	30	15
White Spruce	0	45
Black Spruce	0	50
	1460	2145

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II. TIMBER SALE ESTABLISHMENT

- A. Set up and offer for sale approximately forty (40) sales totaling approximately 40,000 cords and 1,000 MBF. Two timber sale bid openings will be conducted in 2021. Each bid opening will offer approximately ½ of the annual allowable cut acres.

III. TIMBER SALE INSPECTIONS

- A. Maintain a continual program of inspections on all of the timber sale contracts for the purpose of checking completion status, contract compliance, and to prevent timber theft. Active timber sales will be visited a minimum of once per week. SCF staff with assistance from the DNR Liaison Forester will be responsible for this work.

IV. FOREST REVENUE

- A. Projected 2021 timber sale revenue \$1,850,000

V. FOREST RECONNAISSANCE

- A. Continue to update and maintain SCF recon data. SCF staff will be responsible for updating recon records on their assigned compartments. The Liaison Forester is responsible for updating recon records on DNR assigned compartments. The target for recon updates for 2021 is 6000 acres to be updated in the SCF recon system.

VI. REFORESTATION

- A. Conduct pre-sale scarification on timber sales for red oak, white pine, and white birch regeneration where conditions are advantageous.
- B. Conduct tree planting with Hayward and Winter School Districts.
- C. Evaluate possible sites for future regeneration projects such as pre- and post-sale scarification, possible planting sites.

VII. TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT

There are no non-commercial TSI projects planned.

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VIII. COUNTY FOREST ROADS

The SCF does not have any officially designated county forest roads and does not receive any county forest road aid.

IX. ROADS AND TRAILS

A. Road and Access Plan.

1. Make maps available to the public for all recreational activities on the county forest.
2. Inform public of changes made to access.
3. Continue to maintain signs on roads and trails in accordance with Road and Access Plan.
4. Review road and access plan with Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee for possible changes in road/trail designation.

B. Continue to plan all roads and access.

C. Continue to berm or gate roads and trails as need arises for erosion control to assure BMP issues are addressed or to protect sensitive areas.

D. Enforce seasonal closure period for forest roads and trails during spring break up.

1. Inform public of road closure.

E. Improve trails for timber sale access and roads open to public motor vehicle access with a priority on those areas where damage is occurring due to high public use, or problem areas identified as part of the GPS classification. Permanent secondary trails should also be given a priority.

X. LAND ACQUISITION

A. Follow direction of 15-Year Plan and as approved by Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee:

1. Evaluate land purchases as presented to Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee for possible County Board approval.
2. Evaluate land trades as presented to Land, Water, and Forest Resources Committee for possible County Board approval.
3. Pursue grant funding sources for any approved acquisition project.

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XI. GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)/COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

- A. Continue to operate and maintain currency of GIS system including roads and trails, historical timber sales, and other layers for public information.

XII. SURVEYING

- A. Utilize Trimble GPS unit to locate interior property corners where section corners are available and to establish approximate county forest property boundaries where necessary for tract establishment.
- B. Present to committee problem areas for certified survey or re-monumentation efforts. Surveys generally are needed to prevent timber trespass or to clarify boundaries in order to continue management.

XIII. MISCELLANEOUS FOREST ACTIVITIES

- A. Monitor camping policy on County Forest for possible problems and/or changes to policy that will improve camping opportunities on forest.
- B. Issue and administer firewood, Christmas tree, camping, and bough harvesting permits.
- C. Continue to detect and treat confirmed positive oak wilt sites on County Forest to prevent further spread. Continue to monitor previously detected and treated sites.
- D. Continue to monitor and plan for positive confirmation of Emerald Ash Borer.

XIV. RECREATION TRAILS

- A. Snowmobile Trails
 - 1. Sawyer County will continue to maintain 383.2 miles of state funded snowmobile trails which includes 50.5 miles of Tuscobia State Trail and 68.6 miles of on County Forest. Maintenance is contracted with the Sawyer County Snowmobile/ATV Alliance. Grant funded, \$114,954.00.
 - 2. Apply for grant funding where needed for any trail improvements or bridge repairs/replacement.

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B. ATV/UTV Trails

1. Sawyer County will continue to maintain 150.4 miles of state funded ATV/UTV trails which includes 50.5 miles of Tuscobia State Trail and 50 miles of summer ATV/UTV trails on County Forest. Maintenance is contracted with the Sawyer County Snowmobile/ATV Alliance. Grant funded, \$120,842.00
2. Sawyer County will continue to maintain 149.8 miles of winter state funded ATV trails including 50.5 miles of Tuscobia State Trail and 50 miles of winter ATV trails on the County Forest. Maintenance contracted with the Sawyer County Snowmobile/ATV Alliance. Grant funded \$14,980.
3. Complete Trail 8 Rehab project, "OO" to Boedecker Rd. 1.65 miles, grant funded \$24,750.
4. Complete Trail 8 Rehab project, Camp 38 to Telemark Rd. 0.75 miles, grant funded \$16,062.50.
5. Complete Trail 11 Rehab project, Lost Lake Rd. to Tuscobia Trail. 3.2 miles, grant funded \$86,950.
6. Complete Trail 8 Rehab project, Boedecker Rd. to Seeley Fire Tower Rd. 1.3 miles, grant funded \$36,000.
7. Complete Trail 5 Rehab project, Eagle Lodge north. 9.06 miles, grant funded \$246,200.
8. Complete Trail 5 Rehab project, FR 320. 0.29 miles, grant funded \$7,980.
9. Complete installation of 911 location signs.
10. Apply for grant funding where needed for any trail improvements or enhancements.

C. Ski Trails

1. American Birkebeiner Trail
The American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation (ABSF) maintains and grooms the Birkebeiner Trails including the Birkie, Birkie Classic, and "OO" Loop Trails as a skiing and hiking trail for Sawyer County. Maintenance and grooming costs are largely paid by the Foundation itself.
2. Hatchery Creek Park Trails
ABSF maintains and grooms the Fish Hatchery Park ski trail. Continue cooperation with the ABSF
3. Seeley Trails
The Seeley Trails are maintained and groomed primarily by the Seeley Lions Club.

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- D. Bike Trails
 - 1. Continue to work with Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association (CAMBA) to maintain mountain bike trails both the singletrack trail system and two track trails located on forest roads within the SCF.
 - 2. Continue working with bike groups to provide snow/fat bike opportunities within County Forest.
- E. Hunter Walking Trails
 - 1. Maintain established trails.
 - 2. Mow approximately twenty percent of existing trails; work in conjunction with DNR Wildlife and local conservation groups.
 - 3. Identify new possible trail locations based on need and habitat considerations
- F. Hiking Trails
 - 1. Continue working with Southwest Sawyer County Non-motorized trail group to maintain Green Lake trail, and assist with any further developments of hiking trails.
- G. NoRTAC (Northern Region Trail Advisory Committee)
 - 1. Continue participation in regional trail committee to address trail needs and issues within the region.

XVI. FISH and WILDLIFE

- A. Nickel an Acre

County receives \$5,760/year for Wildlife Management related activities on County Forest. A maximum of three years of funding can be accrued.

Approved Funding Activities

- 1. Prescribed burning and development of oak savanna conversion project located in Town of Winter along Thornapple River.
- 2. Building of berms/ installation of gates on closed access roads. (In accordance with the Access Management Plan).
- 3. Scarification work for red oak regeneration.
- 4. Purchase of grass seed for seeding and stabilizing forest roads after harvest.
- 5. Construction of access roads to facilitate logging operations in isolated areas.

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6. Mowing of hunter walking trails.
7. Wildlife opening maintenance and construction, specifically within the expanded elk range.
8. Purchase of prescribed fire equipment for county staff.

XVII. Parks

- A. Hatchery Creek Park
 1. Continue maintenance and development of park and pavilion building. Continue cooperation with ABSF, CAMBA, and other community groups with park projects and recreational trails.
- B. Eagles Landing
 1. Continue maintenance of park.
- C. Nelson Lake Boat Landing/Park
 1. Continue maintenance and development of park in cooperation with the Town of Lenroot.

XVIII. Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)

Under the federal Good Neighbor Authority, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with states to perform forest management activities on national forest lands. The WDNR has entered into a GNA agreement with the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF). WDNR is authorized to contract with counties to assist with forest management. The focus of the GNA Program is to assist in the implementation of the CNNF Forest Plan, which will provide:

- Forest products to the local economy
- Collaboration between federal, state and county forest managers
- Improved health and resiliency of forestlands and watersheds within Wisconsin.

- A. Continue participation in GNA program.
 1. Complete Sawyer County – FY21 Sale Administration contract. Approximately 263 hours, \$17,858.87 reimbursable through GNA funding.
 2. Complete Sawyer County – FY21 Stands contract. Provide approximately 615 hours of timber sale establishment activities, \$41,328.16, reimbursable through GNA program funding.
 3. Prepare, approve and begin next fiscal year program contracts as available.

Hours provided to the GNA program are in addition to Sawyer County normal work hours.

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Information about timber sale activities or any other Forestry Department program may be obtained by contacting the Sawyer County Forestry Department, Sawyer County Courthouse, 10610 Main Street, Suite 100, Hayward, WI 54843.
Phone: 715-634-4846 FAX: 715-638-3234.

- **REFERENCES:**

1. Annual Integrated Planning Meeting held on October 14th, 2020.
2. Sawyer County Forest Comprehensive Land Use Plan 2021-2035.

2020-21 Sawyer County Forest and Wisconsin DNR Annual Partnership Meeting Minutes

Date: October 14th, 2020
Time: 9:30A.M.
Location: via Skype

Personnel Present:

Greg Peterson, Sawyer County Forest Administrator
Erik Schielke, Forester, Sawyer County
Jeff Steidl, Forester, Sawyer County
Kyle Cummings, Recreational Coordinator/Forester, Sawyer County
James Kujala, DNR Forester
David Todus, DNR Forester
Matt Blaylock, DNR Park Falls Area Supervisor
Patrick Zimmer, DNR Hayward Team Leader
Nichol Martin, DNR Park Falls Forestry Area Staff Specialist
Joshua Spiegel, DNR Wildlife Biologist
Randy Sobraliski, DNR Forest Technician
Roy Zubrod, DNR Forester

Agenda Items:

1. Tuscobia State Trail

Discussion by Roy Zubrod. Talking points gathered from e-mail sent by Dan Yankowiak on 10-12-2020 and face-to-face conversation.

- a) *Parks Superintendent position* (Tuscobia Trail, Chippewa Flowage & Flambeau River State Forest). Dan Yankowiak now serves in public relations and partnership branch of parks and recreation. Interviews have been completed for Park Superintendent position with an announcement to be made soon.
- b) *Winter Depot*. Building project completed and now under DNR ownership and department protocols. Restrooms can and will be open for public use soon and parking area is open making facility a functional trailhead. Currently working with Friends of Tuscobia Trail regarding options to partially open the facility.
- c) *Trail Funding*. Birchwood Bobcats club received \$4,000.0 from DNR to fix culvert at Wooddale Road and Sawyer County received \$4,000.00 from DNR for gravel and beaver trapping.
- d) *Beaver Control*. Progress being made but problems still exist at some wetland and stream crossings.
- e) *Trail surface rehab projects*: Sawyer County completed three projects totaling 13 miles.

2. Fisheries Management

Discussion by Roy Zubrod. Talking points gathered from e-mail sent by Max Wolter, DNR Fisheries Biologist, on 9-2-2020

- a) *Mosquito Brook*. A portion of Mosquito Brook was surveyed downstream from the county forest to assess the impacts from a dam failure on private land upstream. Results indicate there are still trout in the stream, but a lot of the deeper holes and habitat improvement structures filled in with sand. Fisheries staff would like to do some more habitat surveying next year on the portion of Mosquito Brook that runs through the county forest to better understand the extent of what happened.
- b) *Nelson Lake*. There will be a drawdown in 2020 on Nelson Lake for reasons of fisheries habitat manipulation, boat landing repair, culvert repair and dam inspection and repair if needed. DNR plans to survey the lake this fall and again in the spring to understand drawdown impacts on the fish population. DNR has been working closely with Sawyer County Zoning & Conservation, the Lake Association, and have been in contact with GLIFWC for wild rice concerns.

3. Wildlife Management

Discussion by Josh Spiegel.

- a) *CDAC*. Deer harvest and antlerless quotas set by CDAC was discussed. NRB changed the numbers after the process was completed but reversed course and restored the original quotas. As reference the antlerless quota numbers are as follows: 1400 with 80/20 split (80% private, 20% public).
- b) *Elk Season*. Starts this coming Saturday (10/17) and has been expanded to the entire Northern Elk Range.
- c) *Ruffed Grouse*. Would like to try some management strategies on state lands and if successful would like to extend to Sawyer County if interested. Will be pursuing grants in the future as a funding source.
- d) *Openings & Trail Maintenance*. Discussed mowing on Parks Farm and other mowing projects on trails. Would like to create more openings in the future if opportunities exist.
- e) *Wildlife habitat grant*. Current fund balance just over \$11,000.00. 3-year allotment is around \$15,16,000.00. Would like to use funds to purchase new UTV for prescribed burn projects. In the past funding has been spent on gates, berms, seeding and scarification for oak regeneration.

4. Forest Health Update

Discussion by Roy Zubrod. Talking points gathered from e-mail sent by Paul Cigan, Forest Health Specialist, on 9-16-2020 and text message on 10-13-2020.

- a) *Oak Wilt*. No detection flights in 2020 due to Co-Vid 19 pandemic. There were 3 detections on the county forest and all 3 were treated by Sawyer County Forestry Dept. staff. Several other detections were found in other parts of the county and referred to private contractors for treatment. A suspect OW sample was collected in the Town of Meteor, which if determined to be positive, will be the only new township detection this season.
- b) *EAB*. Sawyer County placed 12 traps in various areas of the county and monitored throughout the summer. All traps will be taken down by the end of this week. To date, there were no detections, but concern exists of the potential for breeding populations that are present but are either too remote to be detected or too young to have caused visible tree impact. Strategies to reduce ash stocking on the county forest will be the same as in the past which is to weigh extra reason of risk when marking hardwood stands. Opportunities to diversify forest composition in swamps is limited due to poor hardwood markets.
- c) *Abiotic*. Late spring frost damage was observed but is mostly cleared up now. Top kill in balsam fir was observed in some areas due to a combination of low soil moisture and spring heat.
- d) *Oak issues*: There have been some reports of branch flagging this season in red oaks. This is primarily due to kermes scale and *Botryosphaeria* twig blight.
- e) *Pine/Conifer pulpwood decking*: Language will be incorporated in contracts to address decking of pine/conifer pulpwood.

5. 2020 Forest Certification Discussion

Discussion by Roy Zubrod.

- a) Results of the 2020 county forest external audit were discussed. The audit resulted in 0 Corrective Action Request (CARs) and 0 OFI/OBS for the second year in a row. Sawyer County is dual certified and has been following the criteria set forth by both certification standards. Sawyer County is scheduled for audit in 2023.

6. Forest Management

Discussion by Greg Peterson (Points a, b, i, j), Roy Zubrod (Points c, d, f, g, h, i), James Kujala (Point e), and David Todus (Point k).

- a) *County forest department budget and accounts.* Revenue target is the same as last year at 1.85 million.
- b) *Timber sale establishment goals.* Harvest goal remains unchanged at 3,700 acres.
- c) *DNR time standard.* Now working toward actual goals set forth during the last negotiations – 2189 hours. Last year’s goal was 2297 and was exceeded by 238.25 hours.
- d) *Dozer hours/projects.* Completed oak scarification project for approximately 30 acres and improved road access into Weirgor Lake for approximately 1,065 feet plus construction of 5 water bars. Will explore other opportunities as time allows.
- e) *Prescribed burning.* No burning this year due to Co-Vid 19. Four projects were discussed for next year: Parks Farm grass openings (80 acres), Thornapple Units 1-3 (66 acres), Phipps Oak (36 acres) and Van Doorne Openings (12 acres) for a total of 194 acres.
- f) *Reforestation projects.* No projects planned.
- g) *Recon percentage – acreage update.* Roughly 8400 acres at greater than 20 years, most of this is aspen less than 40 years old. Sawyer County is prioritizing these backlog acres by cover type to get them up to date. A project to assess hardwood/oak cover types to determine future management options was discussed.
- h) *Update on invasive species.* Sawyer County will monitor and address as needed.
- i) *Discussion on any forestry grants.* Sawyer County will pursue Sustainable Forestry Grant and Forest Administrator Grant.
- j) *Recreation.* Sawyer County was awarded 5 grants from the ORV council. 4 projects are for trail rehabilitation on the county forest and 1 new mile for maintenance.
- k) *Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)* Discussed progress made for FY21 and presented future work areas for FY22. Will go into more detail with Greg in a meeting to be determined later.

7. Any Other Items Requiring Attention/Discussion

Discussion by Roy Zubrod.

- a) *Forest Regeneration Metric.* To date, data has been collected on nearly 14,000 plots across the state with the goal being to collect enough plots in targeted cover types (northern hardwoods, oak, pine) to get statistically significant data at the county/ownership/covertime level. Data collection is not complete. At the end of the 3-year cycle, data will be available to the CDAC's for deer harvest planning. Data will be provided to Sawyer County when this point is reached (Talking points provided by Brian Anderson in e-mail sent 9-3-2020).
- b) *15 Year Comprehensive Land Use Plan.* Public comment period is over for chapters 100 and 200. Chapters 400, 500 & 600 are currently available for public review. Chapter 300 will be released in the future. At the next Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee meeting chapters 700, 800 and 900 will be released. The goal is to have the plan done and presented to the DNR for review in December.
- c) *ABSF (American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation) Ground Lease & MOU.* Discussion revolved around ABSF not being allowed to privately own any structures on county owned land enrolled under County Forest Law.
- d) *Timber Sale Closeouts & Cutting Notice Approvals.* When closeout process begins, Sawyer County will fill out all necessary information in data fields. A request was made for written documentation to clear up confusion pertaining to the closeout process. Mentioned policy of direct sales when advertised sales don't sell in bid openings.
- e) *Wood Markets.* Discussed document provided by Logan Wells regarding current market conditions. Due to time constraints, only the highlights were covered, and the rest was reviewing on-your-own. Activity in the hardwood and softwood lumber markets is starting to improve. Improvements in the housing sector will be key to keep these markets moving. Paper markets are still slow and there is an oversupply of hardwood pulpwood on the market. One bright spot concerning paper is in packaging as shipping and on-line ordering has provided some stability to this market (Document sent by Logan Wells in e-mail sent 10-13-2020).

Forestry Report December 2020

Active Sales

12 sales listed as active in month of December

Sale Date	# of Sales	Acres	Bid Value	Received	Est. Remaining
4/13/16	1	97	\$93,280.00	\$51,933.00	\$41,347.00
11/4/16	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4/7/17	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
11/3/17	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
4/6/18	2	119	\$39,700.75	\$21,894.45	\$17,806.30
11/2/18	3	287	\$273,257.80	\$168,675.55	\$104,582.25
5/3/19	2	168	\$91,722.00	\$72,332.18	\$36,607.00*
11/01/19	1	68	\$107,711.10	\$16,156.67	\$91,554.43
5/5/20	2	180	\$82,609.56	\$31,898.24	\$50,711.32
11/3/20	1	150	\$141,392.50	\$0	\$141,392.50
Totals	12	1069	\$829,673.71	\$362,890.09	\$484,000.80

Inactive Sales

Sale Date	# of Sales	Acres	Bid Value	Received	Est. Remaining
4/13/16	1	33	\$37,215.00	\$67,275.85	\$0*
11/4/16	2	133	\$69,395.00	\$7,829.91	\$61,565.09
4/7/17	4	443	\$153,790.00	\$40,890.54	\$112,899.46
11/3/17	7	726	\$446,950.75	\$187,785.71	\$266,123.87*
4/6/18	6	584	\$359,664.75	\$148,798.54	\$236,910.81*
11/2/18	7	478	\$267,879.25	\$113,085.42	\$154,793.83
5/3/19	12	1190	\$608,854.45	\$291,475.22	\$317,379.23
11/01/19	13	842	\$628,104.04	\$215,573.87	\$415,384.43*
5/5/20	17	1119	\$943,197.26	\$290,630.61	\$653,421.86*
11/3/20	13	1091	\$1,081,232.60	\$0	\$1,081,232.60
Totals	82	6639	\$4,596,283.10	\$1,363,345.67	\$3,299,711.18

* Sales having overruns

** Sales having underruns

Four sales closed out in December.

Timber Sale Value (sold contracts-uncut) on file = \$3,783,711.98

<u>Timber Sale Revenue</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	\$336,201.34	\$2,202,277.24
<u>Christmas Trees/Boughs</u>	\$90	\$155
<u>Performance Bond Cashed</u>	\$0	\$0
<u>Other Revenue</u>		
<u>Camping/Firewood/Access/Hay</u>	\$165.00	\$1,661.00
<u>Park Reservations</u>	\$0	\$0
		<u>Budget</u>
Gross Timber Sale Revenue	\$2,202,277.24	\$1,850,000
10% Payment to Towns	\$220,227.72	
Net Timber Sale Revenue	\$1,982,049.52	
Total Other Revenue	\$1,816.00	
Timber Sale Revenue Billed Out	\$92,579.29	

Timber Sale Inspections	<u># month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	20	275

Comments: Goal for timber sale inspections is generally one inspection per week while sale is actively being harvested or wood is being hauled.

Tract Establishment	<u># sales month/ YTD</u>	<u>acres month/YTD</u>	<u>Goal</u>
	1/42	48/3295	3700

Comments:

Recon Acres Updated	<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Annual Goal</u>
	715	5156	6,000 acres

Comments: Recon is the assessment of geographic, structure and compositional attributes of forest stands. Field information is stored in the Wisconsin Forest Inventory & Reporting System (WisFIRS). Basic resource information is collected, stored and updated systematically and continuously. Database is used to analyze existing resources, evaluate management alternatives and assist in the development and implementation of management plans.

<u>Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Hours</u>	
<u>December</u>	<u>YTD</u>
30.5	422
Current Contracts:	
Sawyer County – DNR FY21 Sale Administration Approximately 263 hours timber sale admin. \$17,858.87.	
Sawyer County – DNR FY21 Stands. Approximately 615 hours timber establishment activities \$41,328.16.	

Comments: Under the federal Good Neighbor Authority, the USDA Forest Service is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with states to perform forest management activities on national forest lands. WDNR has entered into a GNA agreement with the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest (CNNF). WDNR is authorized to contract with counties to assist with forest management activities on national forest lands. The focus of the GNA program is to assist in the implementation of the CNNF Forest Plan, which will provide:

- Forest products to the local economy
- Collaboration between federal, state and county forest managers
- Improved health and resiliency of forestlands and watersheds within Wisconsin

Oak Wilt:
Nothing new to report.

Emerald Ash Borer:
Traps collected.

Mountain Bike Trails:
Nothing new to report.

Birkie Trail:
Nothing new to report.

ATV/UTV/Snowmobile Trails:
Nothing new to report.

Parks:
Hatchery Park: Had four dead and dying hazard trees removed around pavilion.

Nelson Lake Park: Nothing new to report.

Conservation Department Update January 2021

Prepared by Jay Kozlowski, Zoning & Conservation Administrator

- Shoreline stabilization outreach program (SSOP) group discussion for conservation staff
- Participation in Soil, Water, & NM training for staff
- Dam file organization
- Tiger Cat Emergency Action Plan (EAP) and Inspection, Operation, and Maintenance Plan (IOMP) revisions
- 4 onsite inspections were conducted by Tim Seidl for compliance checks and discussions on erosion control practices and projects including cost share surveys. Also, Tim has been working on design work for these projects including final product installation inspections.
- 2 onsite inspections were conducted by Kelly Nechuta for shoreline mitigation compliance checks.
- Continuation of surveying/engineer work for dam hazard ratings. Billy Boy & Upper Brunet River
- Cost Share Contract Extensions
- DATCP Staffing Reimbursement Grant
- Youth poster and speaker contest for Land & Water for environmental awareness.
- Working on septic permit history errors within database

Permits issued for December 2020

<u>Item</u>	<u>Month Total</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Last YTD</u>
Soil Test	14	269	208
Sanitary	16	352	309
Land Use	13	476	488