



Sawyer County

Agenda

Land, Water, & Forest Resources Committee Meeting
Wednesday, March 8, 2023 @ 8:30 AM
Assembly Room

Page

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. 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 at **1-312-626- 6799** with the Webinar ID: 997 1980 7086. Use *9 to Raise/lower hand and *6 to Unmute/mute. If additional assistance is needed please contact the Sawyer County Forestry Office at 715-634-4846 prior to the meeting. This meeting will be recorded and will be available on our website at: <https://sawycountygov.org>. If you are on a computer, click the "Raise Hand" button and wait to be recognized. If you are on a telephone, dial *9 and wait to be recognized.

2. ROLL CALL

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. At this time, members of the public will be given the opportunity to address the Committee. Please adhere to the following when addressing the Committee:
 - Comments will be limited to 3 minutes or less per individual.
 - Comments should be directed to the Committee as a whole and not directed to individual Committee members.
 - The Committee cannot respond to your comments during this time.
 - Please sign in and fill out a public comment sheet if you wish to speak on an item.

6. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. [2.8.23 LWFRM Minutes DRAFT](#)

4 - 5

7. EVENTS (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

8. LAND RECORDS AND COUNTY SURVEYOR DEPARTMENT REPORT

9. SAWYER COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

- a. Recreational Trails Report
Motorized-
Non-motorized-
- 6 - 9 b. County Forestry Report
[Feb 23 forestry report](#)
- 10 c. 2023 Recreational Trail Aids Resolution
[Res 2023- Outdoor Recreational Trail Aids](#)
- 11 - 12 d. DNR Forestry Report
[DNR Forestry Report February 2023](#)

10. ZONING/ CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

- a. County Report
- b. USDA report
- c. LCO report

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

12. CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

13. ADJOURNMENT

DISCLAIMER:

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.

Copy sent via email to: County Clerk and News Media. Note: Any person wishing to attend whom, because of a disability, requires accommodation should call the Sawyer County Clerk's office (715.634.4866) at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.

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 February 8th 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: **Jesse Boettcher**
- Vice Chair – Marc Helwig
- Ed Peters
- Brian Bisonette – virtual
- Jason Weaver
- Kevin Sheptick

Others Present:

- Lynn Fitch
- Jay Kozlowski - virtual
- Tim Seidl
- Seth Zesiger – virtual
- Janeen Abric - virtual
- Tweed Shuman
- Dan Ploeger
- Linda Zillmer – virtual
- Andy Albarado-virtual

Call to Order – Chair Jesse Boettcher 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 –

Public Comments –

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: January 11, 2023

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Peters Second by: Mr. Weaver
Motion carried without negative vote.

Events -

Sawyer County Treasurer’s Office --

Tax Deed Land Sales Parcels List – A list of foreclosed on properties was provided. The list does not include deed or ad fees that the County had expensed over the past five years. Mr. Albarado, Ms. Abric and Mr. Kozlowski had previously met to review the list and they have not yet been offered to the public for sale, as fair market value prices needed to be established. A motion was made by Mr. Peters to approve the fair market value and minimum bid prices listed on pages 1-3 for 2016/17 in rem properties; second by Mr. Boettcher. A voice vote was taken and passed without negative vote.

Current Direct Sale Land List – A written list was provided and posted online. Ms. Abric advised that the Committee had already approved the minimum bid amount, and the list is placed on the auction site. After the close of the auction, the County Board would need to approve any bids submitted in the case parcels did not meet the minimum bid.

Consider demolition of 3693N Clark St., Village of Radisson, 1st Addition Lots 8-11, Block 19 – A quote has been submitted for demolition of the parcel listed; it is listed for \$10,500 on the land sale list. Mr. Albarado advised that the building has become a health hazard and the local municipality is not interested in a swap of the property. A motion was made by Mr. Boettcher to lower the minimum bid amount to \$1; second by Mr. Peters. A roll call vote was taken and passed 5-0

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report -

Mr. Ploeger advised that survey crews are having difficulties moving through much of the area with the snow impediments. He would like to get a more accurate map of the reservation boundaries.

Sawyer County Forestry Department -

Recreational Trails Report – No update

County Forestry – A written report was provided.

DNR Forestry – A written report was provided.

Zoning/Conservation Department -

County Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Siedl reviewed the highlights and advised that the tree sales have been having good activity. The local area poster and speaking contest was held and 29 individuals participated. Local contestants did well and several are heading to the state level. The repairs on the gear mechanism at the Price Dam is in process. Gates are still being fabricated for the Lake Loretta/Upper River Dam project and it is hoped to install them this spring. The Fish Trap Dam is likely to be the next project to review.

2022 Wildlife Damage Claims – A list of damage claims was submitted for the packet. The program for claims maxes out at \$10,000 so the \$29,000 claim will not fully recover and the recovery fees come from the state through licenses sold, etc. There are 12 claims that need action. A motion was made by Mr. Sheptick; second by Mr. Peters to approve the list of claims. A voice vote was held and passed without negative comment.

USDA Report – Mr. Sheptick provided a list of pertinent upcoming due dates.

LCO Report – Mr. Bisonette advised that a segment of their bike path has not been able to be maintained during the heavy snow fall but is now open. Their motorized trails are in good condition.

Future Agenda Items -

Other Topics for Discussion Only -

Adjournment -

Next Meeting: March 8 **Time:** 9:20 am **Location:** Assembly Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

Forestry Report February 2023

Active Sales

15 sales listed as active in month of February

Sale Date	# of Sales	Acres	Bid Value	Received	Est. Remaining
4/6/18	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
11/2/18	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5/3/19	1	80	\$35,630.00	\$10,000.00	\$25,630.00
11/01/19	1	119	\$90,325.00	\$85,622.58	\$4,702.42
5/5/20	3	318	\$277,670.86	\$114,558.16	\$204,556.47*
11/3/20	2	342	\$209,750.00	\$220,654.43	\$26,851.32*
5/7/21	1	88	\$78,450.00	\$62,018.07	\$16,431.93
10/22/21	3	353	\$226,087.20	\$103,385.11	\$122,702.09
5/11/22	4	388	\$221,988.30	\$108,163.93	\$113,824.37
11/1/22	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Totals	15	1688	\$1,139,901.36	\$704,402.28	\$514,698.60

Inactive Sales

Sale Date	# of Sales	Acres	Bid Value	Received	Est. Remaining
4/6/18	1	91	\$50,440.00	\$0	\$50,440.00
11/2/18	4	264	\$116,751.75	\$51,217.39	\$72,315.95*
5/3/19	3	183	\$67,010.00	\$14,877.23	\$52,132.77
11/1/19	2	181	\$125,274.14	\$98,125.60	\$27,148.54
5/5/20	4	143	\$107,739.40	\$58,785.65	\$58,972.04*
11/3/20	4	268	\$275,786.50	\$139,912.24	\$135,874.26
5/7/21	16	1278	\$974,056.60	\$172,749.66	\$816,375.40*
10/22/21	9	618	\$651,417.00	\$0	\$651,417.00
5/11/22	16	950	\$1,013,124.82	\$16,065.31	\$997,059.51
11/1/22	14	1264	\$720,548.30	\$35,209.12	\$685,339.18
Totals	73	5240	\$4,102,148.51	\$586,942.20	\$3,547,074.65

* Sales having overruns

** Sales having underruns

Two sales closed out in February.

Timber Sale Value (sold contracts-uncut) on file = \$4,061,773.25

<u>Timber Revenue</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Timber Sales	\$439,043.55	\$675,205.85
<u>Christmas Trees/Boughs</u>	\$0	\$0
<u>Performance Bond Cashed</u>	\$11,363.00	\$11,363.00
<u>Other Revenue</u>		
<u>Camping/Firewood/Access/Hay</u>	\$0	\$0
<u>Park Reservations</u>	\$0	\$0
		<u>Budget</u>
Gross Timber Sale Revenue	\$675,205.85	\$1,850,000
10% Payment to Towns	\$ 67,685.59	
Net Timber Sale Revenue	\$607,685.27	
Performance Bonds Drawn	\$ 11,363.00	
Total Other Revenue	\$ 0.00	
Timber Sale Revenue Billed Out	\$146,239.74	

Timber Sale Inspections	<u># month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	32	85

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>
	6/8	402/501	3600

Comments:

Recon Acres Updated	<u>February</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Annual Goal</u>
	952	1448	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>February</u>	<u>FY24 Contract</u>	<u>YTD</u>
4.0	10.25	10.25
<u>Current Contract:</u>		
Pending Contract FY24 Stands		
Approximately 600 hours timber sale establishment/admin. \$43,775.10.		
Received final reimbursement for FY22 for \$16,960.06.		

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.

Mountain Bike Trails:
Nothing new to report.

Birkie Trail:
Nothing new to report.

ATV/UTV/Snowmobile Trails:
Preparing grant applications for April 15th trail aids grant deadline.

Parks:
Hatchery Park: Nothing new to report.

Nelson Lake Park: Nothing new to report.

Carbon Credit Project:

Preparing initial project documentation and information request from Anew to begin the implementation of the carbon credit project.

Other:

Forestry staff attended Wisconsin County Forest Association Climate Adaption Workshop February 8th .

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DNR Forestry Report for February 2023

Recreation (Kyle Marinoff, DNR Parks and Recreation Supervisor):

Flambeau River State Forest Ski Trails: Portions of the ski trail system on the Flambeau River State Forest remain closed and will likely not re-open for the remainder of the season. Weather conditions and equipment breakdowns have played a role in the closures. The annual Candlelight Ski Event was able to be held this year with about 150 people in attendance. Trails have not been groomed since this event.

Snowmobile trails are doing well and ice conditions have finally stabilized so there is good use on both.

Forestry (Joseph VandeHey, NR Program Supervisor):

Red Pine Seed Demand: The state nursery at Boscobel will sow the last of the red pine seed in storage this fall. Efforts have been made to increase seed reserves the past 5 years but efforts have been unsuccessful due to lack of good cone crops and a dwindling number of active collectors. This problem is not unique to Wisconsin and is present across the entire upper Midwest. DNR has received inquiries from private and public nurseries from Canada to Mississippi looking for red pine seed.

There is reason for optimism as last year's flower crop and conelet set appeared to be very good. Red Pine takes 2 years for cones to mature. DNR is conducting outreach efforts towards public and private lands to gauge interest in how cones can be harvested.

Methods of seed collection involve targeting timber harvests to be done in late August and September to harvest cones from tree-tops or picking cones in younger plantations with good cone crops low to the ground. Yield amounts vary, but considering a bushel of Red Pine cones usually nets ½ lbs. of viable seed, DNR would need to purchase 120 bushels of cones to satisfy one season worth of planting (at current levels). If DNR were to fill seed reserves to the point of having an 8-year supply of seed (Our stated goal for all conifer seed), DNR will need to purchase 960 bushels. One variable that needs to be factored is red pine's host of seed predators – crossbills, grosbeaks, red squirrels, and seed insects, has a downturn in their population cycle. However, these species, especially the red squirrel, can also assist in seed collection as their habit of storing large caches of cones for later use can make collection efforts more efficient. Inquiries about the seed collection program can be made by visiting the DNR website:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/treeplanting/sellseed>

or by calling Jeremiah Auer, Reforestation Specialist at (715) 424-3700.

Wildlife (Josh Spiegel, DNR Sawyer County Wildlife Biologist):

Wisconsin Conservation Congress: The Wisconsin Conservation Congress and Department of Natural Resources will offer their annual opportunity for the public to provide input on a variety of natural resource related questions and proposed rule changes beginning on April 10, 2023, at noon. The online questionnaire will be available through a link on the DNR webpage from **April 10 at noon through April 13 at noon**. Locally, there will be an open house on **April 3rd from 6-9pm** at the Hayward High School Auditorium. Natural resource professionals will be available to answer questions and provide information.

In addition, the public will have the opportunity to bring forth new conservation issues of a statewide significance to the attention of the Conservation Congress through the citizen resolution process. The WCC will be accepting citizen resolutions **Feb. 15 through March 1**.

Elections for WCC delegates will take place during the **WCC/DNR Open Houses** which will be held **April 3-6** around the state. More information will be forthcoming as plans for these events are finalized.

More information can be found by visiting the website:

<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/about/wcc/springhearing>

Bear Harvest Tags: Applicants who applied for a harvest tag for black bear were notified within the last month of awards.

Spring Bonus Turkey Authorization: Tags go on sale the week of March 20th. For more information, please call the DNR Customer Service Number at 1-888-936-7463. The line is open seven days a week from 7:00am to 10:00pm.

License Expiration/Renewal: As a reminder, new licenses for 2023-24 will go into effect March 1st.

Report written by Roy Zubrod, DNR Forester, submitted on 2/27/2023.