



# Sawyer County

## Agenda

Land, Water, & Forest Resources Committee Meeting

Wednesday, June 7, 2023 @ 8:30 AM

Sawyer County Board Room

Revised: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 10:46 AM

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://sawyercountygov.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. [5.10.23 LWFRC Minutes DRAFT](#)

4 - 5

**7. EVENTS (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)**

- a. Epic Bike Fest 6 /10-6/11/23
- Chequamegon 100 6/17/23
- CAMBA Women’s Weekend Clinic 6/24-6/25/23
- Stubborn Mule Adventure Race 6/24-6/25/23

**8. WISCONSIN SURPLUS AUCTION - COUNTY LAND SALE (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)**

- 6 a. [County Land Sale - Worksheet](#)

**9. ACT 216 TAX DEED RESOLUTION (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)**

- 7 - 8 a. [Act 216 Tax Deed Resolution](#)

**10. REGISTER OF DEEDS UPDATE**

- 9 - 10 a. [ROD Monthly Report](#)

**11. LAND RECORDS AND COUNTY SURVEYOR DEPARTMENT REPORT**

- 11 - 12 a. [1\) LWFRRC June 2023](#)  
[2\) Land Records Report June 2023](#)

**12. SAWYER COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT**

- 13 - 16 a. Recreational Trails Report  
Motorized-  
Non-motorized-
- b. County Forestry Report  
[May 23 forestry report](#)
- c. Town of Round Lake Handicap Access at the Boat Landing
- 17 d. DNR Forestry Report  
[DNR Report June 7th 2023](#)

**13. ZONING/ CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT**

- 18 a. County Report  
[Conservation Department Update June 2023](#)
- b. USDA report
- c. LCO report

**14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**15. CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS**

**16. 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 May 10<sup>th</sup> 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: Ed Peters
- Brian Bisonette - Virtual
- Vice Chair: Marc Helwig @ 8:44 am
- Kay Wilson
- Jason Weaver
- Kevin Sheptick

**Others Present:**

- Lynn Fitch
- Jay Kozlowski
- Cathy LaReau
- Brody Fischer
- Greg Peterson
- Andy Albarado
- Brian DeVries

**Call to Order** – County Clerk Fitch called the meeting to order at 8:34 am.

**Certification of Compliance** with the open meeting law was met. Roll Call was taken; a quorum was met.

**Election of Committee Chair** – Ms. Wilson nominated Ed Peters for position of Chair; Mr. Peters nominated Mr. Bisonette for position of Chair; Mr. Bisonette declined the nomination. A unanimous call for the vote for Mr. Peters as Chair was cast and passed without negative vote. Mr. Helwig will remain as Vice Chair of the Committee.

**Meeting Agenda –**

**Public Comments –**

**Minutes from the previous meeting dated: April 12, 2023**  
Motion to approve made by: Mr. Sheptick                      Second by: Mr. Bisonette  
Motion carried without negative vote.

**Events -**

**Interim Appointments -**  
Mr. Albarado reviewed the new division of responsibilities of the department and the staff who are taking those duties. Interim appointments of County Surveyor is Chris Gregory, Land Information Officer/GIS Specialist is Brian DeVries and GIS Tech/Real Property Lister is Kimberly Wendt. This list of appointments will be presented to the County Board for approval.

**Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report -**

Mr. DeVries advised that the department traffic is increasing for summer activity. Annual letters to towns have been sent out requesting notice of road repairs and the office has been setting up the backlog of signage that has been waiting for spring.

**Sawyer County Forestry Department -**

**Recreational Trails Report** – Ms. LaReau advised that all the trails and routes that were recently approved will be opening in the next week. Residual storm damage remains for cleanup.

**County Forestry** – A written report was provided. Mr. Peterson reviewed the highlights; sale revenue in April was approximately \$182,000 and the department remains on target for budget projections. Recon is also on target. Grant applications were due on April 15<sup>th</sup> and have been submitted. The spring timber sale bid was held, and they sold 17 of the 22 bids available; a list was provided. Every high bid on the list is with a known contractor that we have used

before. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Sheptick to approve the sales as presented. Motion carried without negative vote.

DNR Forestry – Brody Fischer, the new Sawyer County liaison, was introduced.

**Zoning/Conservation Department -**

County Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Kozlowski advised that the tree sale and pickup concluded last weekend, and the Clean Boats/Clean Waters initiative is underway. The Upper Brunett Dam repair is complete; restocking should occur this fall. Permit numbers are even higher than last year at this point in time.

USDA Report – Mr. Sheptick reported on May deadlines and dates. Farmers are in the fields now; crop reporting is due by July 15<sup>th</sup>.

LCO Report – Mr. Bisonette reported on a busy spring start. There are six camping sites open on the Chippewa Flowage. They have started receiving bear complaints, and they are looking forward to another successful year in the fish restocking program.

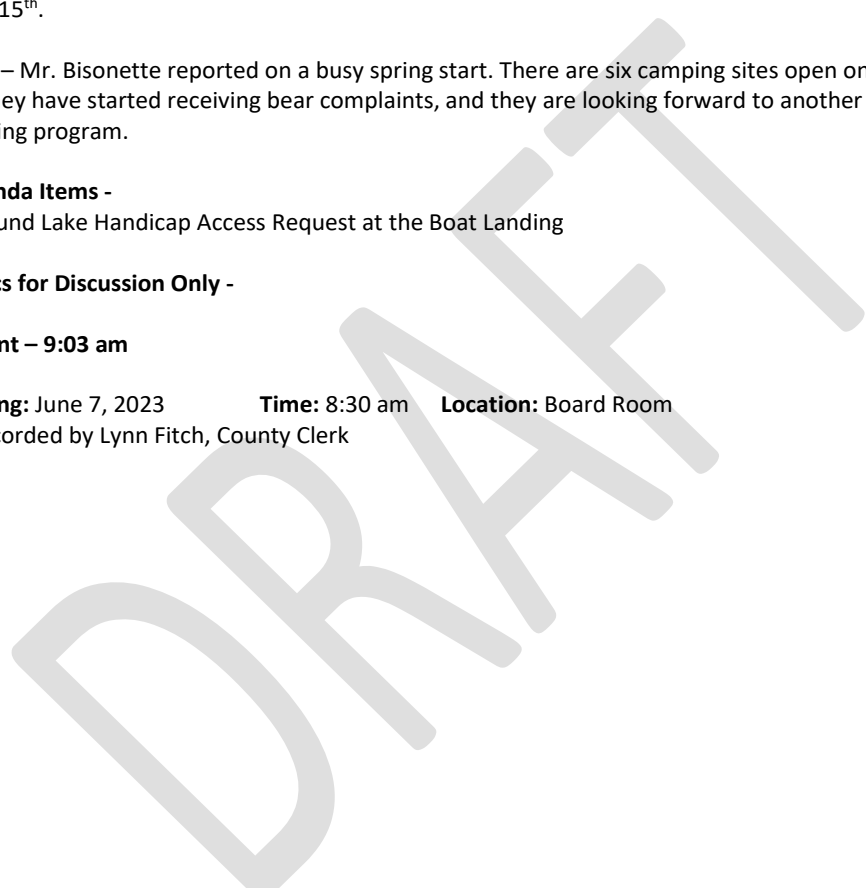
**Future Agenda Items -**

Town of Round Lake Handicap Access Request at the Boat Landing

**Other Topics for Discussion Only -**

**Adjournment – 9:03 am**

**Next Meeting:** June 7, 2023      **Time:** 8:30 am      **Location:** Board Room  
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk



**Wisconsin Surplus Auction - County Land Sale Bid Results**  
2015 and Prior In Rem Property

Parcel Number	Legacy Parcel Identification Number	Tax ID Number	Abbreviated Legal Description	Municipality	Section Town Range	Approximate Acreage	Minimum Approved Amount	Auction Bid Amount	Date Acquired	Certificate Amount	Fees	Additional Costs	Total Expenses	JHK prior notes/recommendations
29	002-940-08-4403	3007	Part SE ¼ SE ¼	Town of Bass Lake	8.40.9	2.76	\$ 31,600.00	\$ 25,250.00	08/08/17	\$ 2,171.36	\$ 100.00	\$ 12,850.00	\$ 15,121.36	Dilapidated structure on property. MBA should be reduced to assessed land value only.
36	028-642-20-1417	30188	Part SE ¼ NE ¼	Town of Spider Lake	20.42.6	0.98	\$ 10,200.00	\$ 7,175.00	08/08/17	\$ 1,532.51	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 1,632.51	Wetland/swamp. No buildable area without variance from Town of Spider Lake. Consider reducing MBA by 10-20%
37	030-190-02-1300	31488	Village of Weirgor, Prt Lots 13-15, Blk 2	Town of Weirgor	17.37.7	0.469	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 788.00	07/30/20	\$ 281.34	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 381.34	Wetland/swamp. Consider reducing MBA by 10-20%
41	121-737-21-4305	36965	Part SW ¼ SE ¼	Village of Exeland	21.37.1	0.16	\$ 25,300.00	\$ 1,130.00	08/14/19	\$ 3,176.42	\$ 100.00	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 11,776.42	Structures on property. Unknown condition of buildings. MBA seems acceptable
44	190-142-00-2800	37298	Lot 28 Kinsley's Addition to the Village of Winter	Village of Winter	33.39.5	0.35	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 1,376.00	08/16/18	\$ 770.78	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 870.78	Village property. Unknown setbacks or buildable area. Consider reducing MBA by 10-20% if doesn't sell in 2023.
45	190-190-05-1000	37376	Lot 10, Block 5, Village of Winter, Original Plat	Village of Winter	32.39.5	0.18	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 1,025.00	08/14/19	\$ 1,688.13	\$ 100.00	\$ 7,100.00	\$ 8,888.13	Structures on property. Unknown condition of buildings. Consider lowering MBA to "total value" shown on tax listing in 2020 for \$25,100.
46	190-539-32-1204	37430	Prt NW ¼ NE ¼, Lot 3, CSM 4/348 #854	Village of Winter	32.39.5	0.33	\$ 14,600.00	\$ 1,607.00	07/30/20	\$ 9,294.72	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 9,394.72	Village property. Unknown setbacks or buildable area. Old foundation observable on aerial photos. Similar vacant lot immediately to the East is valued at \$5,800. Consider reducing MBA by 10-20% or even more as to similar lot to the East.

**Northwoods Beach Subdivision**

Parcel Number	Legacy Parcel Identification Number	Tax ID Number	Abbreviated Legal Description	Municipality	Section Town Range	Approximate Acreage	Minimum Approved Amount	Auction Bid Amount	Date Acquired	Certificate Amount	Fees	Additional Costs	Total Expenses	JHK prior notes/recommendations
01	002-103-13-2000	98	Abendpost Beach Subdivision, Lot 20, Block 13	Town of Bass Lake	30.40.8	0.069	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,550.00	09/16/15	\$ 9.40	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 109.40	Sell NW Beach lots as is this year or keep of tax sale as to potentially gain additional lots. Non-buildable as-is
04	002-106-09-0700	262	Abendpost Beach Subdivision, 1st Addition, Lot 7, Block 9	Town of Bass Lake	31.40.8	0.236	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 415.00	08/16/18	\$ 65.47	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 165.47	Sell NW Beach lots as is this year or keep of tax sale as to potentially gain additional lots. Non-buildable as-is
05	002-109-02-1900	385	Abendpost Beach Subdivision, 2nd Addition, Lots 19-28, Incl, Block 2	Town of Bass Lake	31.40.8	0.689	\$ 9,600.00	\$ 1,725.00	08/12/16	\$ 584.16	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 684.16	Buildable lot but no improved access to property. Check with Town of Bass Lake

\$ 128,200.00    \$ 42,041.00

Resolution 2023 - \_\_\_\_\_

**Request the State of Wisconsin to Address Concerns of Act 216, Relating to Distributing the Proceeds from the Sale of Tax Delinquent Property to the Former Owner**

**WHEREAS**, under the previous State law addressing sale of tax delinquent property, counties retained the net proceeds from the sale unless the property was the homestead of the former owner(s) and the former owner(s) requested such payment; and

**WHEREAS**, before a tax delinquent property is foreclosed upon, the property must be delinquent for a minimum of three years; and

**WHEREAS**, before a tax delinquent property is foreclosed upon, the owner receives notice of the pending action and is given the opportunity to pay the back taxes, including the potential for a payment plan; and

**WHEREAS**, if the sale of the tax delinquent property does not cover the past due taxes, other associated costs and costs of processing the foreclosure, the county taxpayers are ultimately responsible to absorb the loss; and

**WHEREAS**, Act 216 purportedly requires a county to pay the net proceeds of the sale of tax delinquent property to any former owner, regardless of whether the former owner requests the payment and regardless of whether the former owner used the property as his or her homestead, and hold such proceeds for five years if the former owner does not request payment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act further attempts to require a county to pay off any lien placed on the property at the time of the foreclosure sale, notwithstanding the fact that all liens are discharged at the time of the foreclosure judgment, causing confusion for counties and courts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Act is further imprudent for the following reasons:

1. most often in tax foreclosure cases, property owners are not responsive;
2. it shifts the risk of loss onto the county causing the county to have an incentive to NOT exercise its authority to foreclosure, leading to many blighted properties throughout the county;
3. the Act purported to cause counties to act as realtors for private parties;
4. the Act requires treasurers to make complex ownership decisions between parties, tenants-in-common; LLCs, corporations and decedents' estates.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors urges the Legislature to repeal the changes implemented by Act 216, or, in the alternative, to modify the law to take away the risk to counties and consider a provision to place any proceeds from the sale of tax delinquent properties in a segregated account established by the county to be used for clean-up of blighted properties; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Tony Evers, Legislators representing Sawyer County, the Wisconsin Counties Association and all Wisconsin Counties.

---

This Resolution is recommended for adoption by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors at its meeting on June 15, 2023, by this Sawyer County Land, Water, and Forestry Committee, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023:

53  
54  
55  
56  
57  
58  
59  
60  
61  
62  
63  
64  
65  
66  
67

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ed Peters, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Bisonette

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jason Weaver

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marc Helwig, Vice-Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kay Wilson

\_\_\_\_\_  
This Resolution is hereby adopted by the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors this 15<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tweed Shuman, Sawyer County Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lynn Fitch, Sawyer County Clerk

DRAFT



## ROD Monthly Report

May, 2023

Activity	Number of Copies	Total Revenue including amounts to State
Emailed Copies		422.00
Counter Copies	36	194.50
Birth	59	740.00
Death	127	695.00
Marriage	13	158.00
Divorce	1	20.00
Recorded Documents	448	7,721.21
Transfer Fees		47,159.10
Laredo		3,454.85

### **General:**

WCA continues to spearhead the 50/50 transfer fee split with the Department of Revenue. Several counties have passed resolutions in support. Currently the fee is 3.00 per 1,000. The Realtor Association is proposing dropping the fee to 2.00 per 1,000 which will be a huge loss in revenue to the county. (See attached transfer fee chart.)

Continue to back index and verify old documents. Everything back to February, 1931 is complete.





**Sawyer County Land Records**  
10610 Main Street, Suite 54  
Hayward, Wisconsin 54843-0248  
Telephone 715-634-3564 Fax 715-634-3546  
<https://sawyercountygov.org/>

June 1, 2023

Real Property Lister Report

Getting busier this month, we had approximately 173 transfers and 5 Certified Survey Maps to process in May.

Seven Boards of Review are left for this year and they should be spread out through the next several months, given that four of those municipalities are getting revaluations this year.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Wendt  
*GIS Technician and Real Property Lister*

715-638-3279

[kimberly.wendt@sawyercountygov.org](mailto:kimberly.wendt@sawyercountygov.org)

### Land Records Report June 2023

We have started working with ATT on a project to move over to their ESInet for 911 services. We are involved with providing GIS data pertaining to response and address locations. That data will need to be fixed when necessary to meet the standards of the project. The land records office contracts with a website provider for our interactive mapping site. That provider has sold that segment of their business to another entity. We will be meeting with this new company and will work towards the release of a new interactive mapping website sometime later this year.

Active Sales

Eight sales listed as active in month of May

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	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
11/01/19	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5/5/20	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
11/3/20	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5/7/21	3	161	\$111,682.60	\$70,203.20	\$41,479.40
10/22/21	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5/11/22	3	193	\$212,450.50	\$52,144.75	\$160,305.75
11/1/22	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5/10/23	2	86	\$215,340.00	\$54,795.50	\$160,544.50
Totals	8	440	\$539,473.10	\$177,143.45	\$362,329.65

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	3	158	\$80,491.75	\$8,175.80	\$72,315.95
5/3/19	2	106	\$46,520.00	\$0	\$46,520.00
11/1/19	1	83	\$83,319.14	\$56,223.74	\$27,095.40
5/5/20	4	274	\$250,313.50	\$270,027.96	\$58,972.04*
11/3/20	4	268	\$275,786.50	\$142,256.28	\$133,530.22
5/7/21	11	991	\$738,801.00	\$0	\$738,801.00
10/22/21	10	793	\$788,584.20	\$66,908.02	\$721,676.18
5/11/22	15	968	\$953,921.72	\$75,204.18	\$878,717.54
11/1/22	13	1128	\$668,624.20	\$9,840.15	\$658,784.05
5/10/23	15	974	\$1,416,693.48	\$0	\$1,416,693.48
Totals	79	5834	\$5,353,495.49	\$628,636.13	\$4,803,545.86

\* Sales having overruns

\*\* Sales having underruns

Five sales closed out in May.

**Timber Sale Value (sold contracts-uncut) on file = \$5,165,875.51**

<u>Timber Revenue</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Timber Sales	\$118,913.33	\$1,340,554.27
<u>Christmas Trees/Boughs</u>	\$0	\$0
<u>Performance Bond Cashed</u>	\$0	\$16,947.94
<u>Other Revenue</u>		
<u>Camping/Firewood/Access/Hay</u>	\$80	\$90
<u>Park Reservations</u>	\$150	\$360
		<u>Budget</u>
Gross Timber Sale Revenue	\$1,340,554.27	\$1,850,000
10% Payment to Towns	\$ 134,055.43	
Net Timber Sale Revenue	\$1,206,498.84	
Performance Bonds Drawn	\$ 16,947.94	
Total Other Revenue	\$ 450.00	
Timber Sale Revenue Billed Out	\$ 797.78	

Timber Sale Inspections	<u># month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	20	121

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>
	1/13	56/937	3600

Comments:

Recon Acres Updated	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Annual Goal</u>
	33	2526	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.

Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Hours

<u>May</u>	<u>FY24 Contract</u>	<u>YTD</u>
40	82	82

Current Contract:

Pending Contract FY24 Stands

Approximately 600 hours timber sale establishment/admin. \$43,775.10.

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:

Currently in oak wilt restriction period April 15<sup>th</sup> – July 15<sup>th</sup> , no harvesting, brushing, or road building activities within oak areas.

Mountain Bike Trails:

Trails opened Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Birkie Trail:

Nothing new to report.

ATV/UTV/Snowmobile Trails:

Trails opened Saturday May 13<sup>th</sup>.

Seven trail rehab projects out for bid, bid deadline Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Parks:

Hatchery Park: One pavilion reservation submitted.

Nelson Lake Park: Nothing new to report.

Carbon Credit Project:

Continued working on second level data request.



**Sawyer County Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**DNR Forestry Report for May 2023**

For the month of May, timber sale establishment has been the main focus. Since the aspen acreage goal has almost been met for the year, the emphasis has been on northern hardwood and pine management. Good progress is being made on a few stands, however it has become slower going in the woods due to low visibility from green-up.

Within the past few weeks there has been an uptick in fire activity in the county, and rain is needed in the region. Due to the little precipitation that we have received, the fire season has been longer than expected.

As for county forest time standards we are on pace to reach the hour goal of 2217 by the deadline of June 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Report Submitted by Brody Fischer, DNR Forester, on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**



## **Zoning & Conservation Department Update May 2023 – June 2023**

Prepared by Jay Kozlowski, Zoning & Conservation Administrator

- Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator attended the annual AIS Partnership Meeting. First time Natalie was able to meet other Regional and State staff in this field. Received knowledge on a variety of different training topics including passing the Aquatic Invasive Species Verifier Test.
- Continuing to grow Purple Loosestrife Beetles which I used to control the spread of Purple Loosestrife in high concentration areas throughout the County. Also conducting other Clean Boats / Clean Waters Training.
- Several other presentations are planned throughout the summer for Zoning & Conservation Topics including a short presentation on Zoning issues to Round Lake Property Owners and a Spider Lake presentation for the importance of native plants along shorelines.
- Annual Gravel Pit inspections will be conducted over the next several weeks. Pit owners have received notification. These inspections are conducted to verify compliance with the “plan of operation”, open acreage, reclamation certification, drainage/erosion, and non-permissible materials within the pit.