



Sawyer County

Agenda

Land, Water, & Forest Resources Committee Meeting
Wednesday, July 7, 2021 @ 8:30 AM
Assembly Room

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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 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. 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. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. At this time, members of the public will be given the opportunity to address the Committee on items not on the agenda. 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. [6.9.21 LWFRM Minutes DRAFT](#)

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7. EVENTS (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

8. SAWYER COUNTY TREASURERS DEPARTMENT

9. LAND RECORDS AND COUNTY SURVEYOR DEPARTMENT REPORT

10. SAWYER COUNTY FORESTRY DEPARTMENT

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- a. Recreational Trails Report
Motorized-
Non-motorized-

10 - 13

- b. County Forestry Report
[June 2021 Forestry Report](#)

- c. DNR Forestry Report
[DNR Forestry Report 7.7.2021](#)

11. ZONING/ CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

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- a. County Report
[Conservation Department Update June-July 2021](#)
- b. USDA report
- c. LCO report

12. POTENTIAL USES OF ARPA FUNDING

13. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

14. CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS, OTHER MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

15. 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 June 9th 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: **Bruce Paulson**
- Ron Buckholtz – Vice Chair
- Jesse Boettcher - Virtual
- Brian Bisonette - Virtual
- Marc Helwig -- Virtual
- Kevin Sheptick

Others Present:

Lynn Fitch
Mike Coleson
Jay Kozlowski – Virtual
Greg Peterson
Don Mrotek
Linda Zilmer – Virtual
Terrel Boettcher - Virtual
Roy Zubrod
Dan Ploegger
Ben Popp

Call to Order – Chair Bruce Paulson 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 – A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2021, meeting; second by Mr. Sheptick. Motion carried without negative vote.

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report – Mr. Ploegger reported that lots of time has been spent on addressing address issues as volume increases. Crew members have recently been working in Draper, Ojibwa and Hayward; one person resigned so they are now short-staffed.

Sawyer County Forestry Department Report – The 2021-05-26 County Forestry Ordinance was presented. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Helwig to approve this ordinance and forward it to the June County Board meeting. Motion carried without negative vote.

Mr. Peterson reported on the ABSF solar panel proposal at the Birkie site. The solar panel system will provide power for all services at the Birkie station and there are no restrictions for solar panels on county land. A motion to approve the proposal was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Sheptick. Motion carried with a 5-1 voice vote, Jesse Boettcher casting the negative vote.

Mr. Peterson advised that he attended two listening sessions for economic development of the forest products industry in Wisconsin. The goal mentioned at these sessions is to establish diversification in the forest industry.

Recreational Trails – Mr. Mrotek stated that volunteers are currently inspecting trails for repairs needed and, in this process, the trail system is being mapped for GPS coordinates. Mr. Popp advised that non-motorized trails are open and being mowed. The recent mountain bike race had 900 bikers. All trail buildings are open and being cleaned weekly.

DNR Forestry Report -- Mr. Zubrod advised that the DNR completed a sampling of forests for infestation of tent caterpillars, and though some evidence was found, they did not think it would result in significant future damage. He

advised that the in-person emergency fire warden duties have been approved to commence. He provided a report on elk mortality.

Zoning/Conservation Department Report -- A written report was provided. Mr. Kozlowski reported that the department is completing a lot of shoreline design projects and it is the busiest season they have ever experienced.

USDA Report – Mr. Sheptick stated that the USDA offices are now operating at 50% staff level and in-person visits remain by appointment only. County committee elections will be held soon.

LCO Report – Mr. Bisonette advised that the tribe is starting to address ATV/UTV trail maintenance. They are currently maintaining the Chippewa Flowage island camp sites, and annual water testing has resumed. They are getting lots of calls on nuisance bears and are starting the gypsy moth trapping program.

Other Topics for Discussion Only -

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee will be Wednesday, July 7, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 am
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

DRAFT

Forestry Report June 2021

Active Sales

7 sales listed as active in month of June

Sale Date	# of Sales	Acres	Bid Value	Received	Est. Remaining
4/13/16	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
11/2/18	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5/3/19	1	102	\$72,078.95	\$52,685.26	\$19,393.69
11/01/19	2	132	\$203,407.10	\$35,789.07	\$167,618.03
5/5/20	1	83	\$79,200.00	\$19,907.40	\$59,292.60
11/3/20	3	156	\$291,711.10	\$37,374.99	\$254,336.11
5/7/21	0	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Totals	7	473	\$646,397.15	\$145,756.72	\$500,640.43

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	\$62,205.33	\$11,970.09*
4/7/17	4	443	\$153,790.00	\$73,725.13	\$89,566.79*
11/3/17	5	546	\$280,426.00	\$27,925.86	\$252,500.14
4/6/18	2	196	\$116,228.00	\$99,240.18	\$50,440.00*
11/2/18	6	446	\$391,779.35	\$351,143.44	\$111,320.93*
5/3/19	10	927	\$394,877.50	\$155,884.46	\$252,440.04*
11/01/19	10	676	\$423,950.54	\$147,088.43	\$287,366.80*
5/5/20	13	976	\$634,614.82	\$151,232.30	\$495,257.76*
11/3/20	10	935	\$789,521.50	\$112,643.44	\$678,878.06
5/7/21	23	1834	\$1,620,829.60	\$0	\$1,620,829.60
Totals	86	7145	\$4,912,627.31	\$1,248,364.42	\$3,815,118.03

* Sales having overruns

** Sales having underruns

3 sale closed out in June.

Timber Sale Value (sold contracts-uncut) on file = \$4,315,758.46

<u>Timber Sale Revenue</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	\$69,372.93	\$1,169,494.63
<u>Christmas Trees/Boughs</u>	\$0	\$0
<u>Performance Bond Cashed</u>	\$0	\$0
<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	\$1,169,494.63	\$1,850,000
10% Payment to Towns	\$116,949.46	
Net Timber Sale Revenue	\$1,052,545.17	
Total Other Revenue	\$0	
Timber Sale Revenue Billed Out	\$181,140.27	

Timber Sale Inspections	<u># month</u>	<u>YTD</u>
	30	135

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>
	4/28	276/2087	3600

Comments:

Recon Acres Updated	<u>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>	<u>Annual Goal</u>
	383	2277	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>June</u>	<u>YTD</u>
4	562
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.	
Submitted partial reimbursement request for DNR FY21 sale administration for contract work performed between 7/1/20 and 12/31/20, totaling \$3,784.93.	
Submitted partial reimbursement request for DNR FY21 Stands for contract work performed between 7/1/20 and 12/31/21, totaling \$7,514.78.	
Preparing contract FY22.	

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:
Nothing new to report.

Mountain Bike Trails:
Nothing new to report.

Birkie Trail:
Nothing new to report.

ATV/UTV/Snowmobile Trails:
Prepared contracts for ATV trail rehab projects.

Parks:
Hatchery Park: Nothing new to report.
Nelson Lake Park: Nothing new to report.

Sawyer County LW&FR Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 7th, 2021

DNR Forestry Report

Follow-up on previous meeting 6.9.2021:

Lake Winter Fish-kill: Due to combined events of fast warm-up conditions early this summer and fish spawning in-progress at the time, these two factors likely contributed to the fish kill as the fish population was under stress. This is not a concern if it was an isolated incident. If problems persist and complaints mount, DNR will investigate. Best management practices to help mitigate these issues are limiting nutrient inputs (lawn fertilizers) and promoting vegetation buffers along shorelines. (Max Wolter, Fisheries Biologist)

Conners Creek Bridge (FRSF): At this time bridge repair is with DNR engineering and getting pushed through for capital funds to be used. The bridge has been placed on the emergency list however the process for approval and contracting a company takes several months. We are pushing this repair and will not know for sure if the bridge will be operational for snowmobiles until early/mid fall. This is the best current information available. (Kyle Marinoff, Recreational Supervisor)

Elk Harvest Quotas: In the first 2 seasons the hunt was tied to an administrative rule the state had to harvest 5% of the total population estimate in a bull season only. The season could not be started until the population reached 200 elk. Therefore 5% of 200 is 10 animals, evenly split between the Tribes and WDNR is 5 and 5. The second year followed suit as the state didn't add in Kentucky elk to the total population. Therefore, a little higher population was considered but in general the same numbers. In late 2019, the 5% rule was removed and the DNR now has flexibility to recommend and approve a number DNR feels is best for the herd and not tied to a static number. As for the cows, a cow hunting season would be implemented when a population goal of 1,400(+/- 20%) in the Northern Elk Management Zone is reached. (Joshua Spiegel, Wildlife Biologist)

Forest Tent Caterpillar: An aerial flight was done in the Birchwood area and Rusk County on Wednesday June 23rd and there was no observable damage from the air that could be mapped regarding forest tent caterpillar. There was a moderate amount of damage (25-40%) observed on basswood caused by Lynden Looper. Most of the damage was observed in Rusk County but it is likely damage extends up into the Sawyer County Forest in the Stoney Hill Road area. (Paul Cigan, Forest Health Specialist)

Customer Service at DNR Facilities:

After July 6th staff working from home will be returning to the office however the Hayward Service Center and Winter Ranger Station will remain closed to the public until further notice. The Flambeau River State Forest Office Headquarters will be open on Monday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00am to 12:00pm beginning July 6th. The office will be closed on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The nearest DNR facility open to the public for counter service is the Spooner Area Headquarters. This office is open M-F from 8:30am to 4:00pm.

Other methods of contact are:

- Phone: 1 (888) 936-7463, available 7:00am to 10:00pm, 7 days a week
- Visit On-line: dnr.wi.gov

Forestry:

Time Standards: On Saturday, June 19th the contract period for DNR time standards ended for DNR fiscal year 2020-2021. On the Sawyer County Forest, DNR personnel exceeded the standard by 173.50 hours. Total hours reported were 2,362.50 compared to base hour standard of 2189.

Contributions came from 8 employees with tasks performed such as: reconnaissance, timber sale establishment, bulldozer work, prescribed burns, cutting notice approvals, timber sale inspections and closeouts. Annual partnership meeting will be scheduled later in the year.

Work Projects on Sawyer County Forest: Painted timber sale boundaries on approximately 67 acres located in the Couderay Block. Of this acreage, 33 acres will be aspen clearcut and 34 acres will be thinned. Marking on the thinning portion will begin soon.

Prescribed Burn: A prescribed burn was attempted in the Seeley Hills but was extinguished as the fire would not carry. Another attempt will be made in the future.

Forestry (continued):

Fire Suppression: Due to lack of rainfall during the month of June, there was some wildland fire activity. A total of five fires were reported burning a total of .038 acres. Causes were powerline and equipment. Statewide there were 137 fires in June amounting to 60.22 acres. This brings the YTD total to 1,941.10 acres.

The state currently has 3 engines serving in Minnesota (requested through GLFFC) due to very high fire danger. Locally, recent rains should help keep fire danger low for now but if dry conditions return that could change. More fires may occur statewide over the 4th of July Holiday due to fireworks if dry conditions persist.

Parks and Recreation (Kyle Marinoff, Recreational Supervisor):

Tuscobia Trail: USDA-APHIS has begun beaver mitigation work on the Tuscobia State Trail in Price and Sawyer Counties. This contract has been paid for by the DNR. They will work this season until October 29th. They are trapping beavers, removing dams and unplugging culverts.

Chippewa Flowage: The Town of Hunter and the Town of Hayward have passed a wake boat ordinance for the Chippewa Flowage. This ordinance essentially limits the size of wake a boat can produce and targets wake boarding boats specifically. The State will not be involved in the enforcement of this ordinance at this time. The Townships can be contacted for specifics of the ordinance.

Fisheries (Max Wolter, Fisheries Biologist):

Mosquito Brook: A survey was recently completed to evaluate the effects of a dam failure on private land in 2020. Investigations concluded there is less available habitat for trout in terms of water temperature and structural habitat. Water temperature was measured at the site of failure (82 degrees), stream crossing at Mosquito Brook Road (70 degrees) and stream crossing at Porky's Road (59 degrees). There is enough ground water and shade along the streambank by the time water currents arrive at the confluence with the Namekagon River there is suitable habitat for trout. For ideal trout habitat, this process should be reversed where there is cold water in the beginning and through the whole stream. Looking at structure in the stream, a lot of the deep holes and habitat structures (half logs) were filled in with sand. DNR staff is working with the landowner on how to address dam abandonment and come to a resolution. Currently, the beavers have built a dam at the site of initial failure.

As far as fish populations, starting at the confluence most fish species are comprised of Brown Trout and some Brook Trout by a margin of 10:1. Further up the stream near the Birkiebeiner

Crossing there are more Brook Trout than Brown Trout by a margin of 2:1. At the Mosquito Brook Road crossing, there is likely few trout present.

Wildlife:

Josh Spiegel, Area Wildlife Manager, will be present at the meeting to address wildlife related topics.

Report written by Roy Zubrod, DNR Forester, on 6/29/2021.

Conservation Department Update June-July 2021

Prepared by Jay Kozlowski, Zoning & Conservation Administrator

- Continuous dam operations and maintenance
- Staff met with DATCP engineer for future projects
- Continuing to send out septic tank pumping reminders
- 11 onsite inspections were conducted by Tim Seidl for compliance checks and discussions on erosion control plans. 2 of these included final inspections on finished cost-share projects.
- Finalized a Shoreline Protection Plan and working on another.
- Additional mitigation compliance checks scheduled for the next few months. These projected would be required with certain zoning Land Use Permits.
- 2 onsite inspections were conducted by Kelly Nechuta for compliance checks and potential shoreline vegetation removal complaints. Kelly Nechuta will also be leaving Sawyer County Conservation after 15 years as she has found employment elsewhere. Currently still working on the office dynamics to how to fill that vacant position.