1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
   a. Call to Order and Roll Call
   b. Certification of Compliance with Open Meetings Law
   c. Pledge of Allegiance
   d. Meeting Agenda
   e. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
      SCCPC Minutes June 29, 2020
   f. Public Comment

   Public comments can be taken at the time of any open meeting or detailed comments can be expressed through written format and distributed to the Sawyer County Zoning & Conservation Administrator at:

   Jay Kozlowski
   10610 Main Street, Suite 49
   Hayward, WI 54843
   jay.kozlowski@sawyercountygov.org

2. ISSUES IDENTIFICATION EXERCISE
   a. Identification of non-listed items (Discussion Only)
      Issues Identification Update Working List
   b. Consolidate existing items and eliminate complaint or trivial issues from Letters H-M (Discussion Only)
      SCCPDC Issues - Combined Results updated from June 29, 2020 meeting

3. EVALUATION OF CURRENT PLAN GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
   a. Review each statement in attached Current Goals and
Objectives. Should these be carried forward in the plan update? Should statements be revised based on current or anticipated conditions in the county? (Discussion/Possible Action)

Current Goals and Objectives

b. Considerations (Discussion/Possible Action)
   · Has the goal or objective been accomplished?
   · Does it remain realistic given resources available?
   · Based on what you know today, do the goals and objectives address current and anticipated conditions, or needs, in Sawyer County? If not, what language would you propose?

Goal statements are intended to be broad, overarching expressions of desired future conditions. Objective statements are intended to be measurable responses to the question “What has to be done, or what is needed in order to achieve the stated goal?”

Once stated objectives have been fulfilled, the goal should be reached or achieved.

4. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND DATES (DISCUSSION ONLY)

5. ADJOURNMENT

a. 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.
Minutes
Sawyer County Comprehensive Plan Development Committee
June 29, 2020 6:00 p.m.

Voting members present: Steve Kelsey, Mark Olson, Phil Nies, Linda Zillmer, Troy Morgan, Nita Kemp, Kay Wilson.
Voting members not present: Marc Helwig, Elaine Nyberg, Ron Buckholtz, Jason Weaver.
Others present: Jay Kozlowski, Sawyer County.

Chair Mark Olson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Motion to approve agenda by Phil. Seconded by Linda. Motion carried.

Motion by Phil to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Kay. Motion carried.

Motion by Phil to amend agenda to move item 3 before item 2. Seconded by Linda. Motion carried.

Phil suggested that we take the pick list and go through one by one to decide if they are still applicable. The committee then reviewed all of the suggested bulleted points in each of the 13 sections presented at the February meeting. The review process consisted of consolidating existing items and eliminating trivial issues. The committee completed sections A-D.

At 7:21 the committee took a short break. Meeting resumed at 7:30.

The committee continued on with section E-G. Motion by Linda to postpone reviewing sections H-M until the next meeting. Seconded by Phil. Motion carried.

Motion by Troy to postpone agenda item 2 to the next meeting. Seconded by Kay. Motion carried.

Jay reviewed the public participation plan. We will discuss further at the next meeting.

Committees of jurisdiction - do we want to bring this to other committees of jurisdiction before it is finalized? Discussion followed. Motion by Phil to wait for the working product to be completed and then solicit comments from department heads. Seconded by Linda. After clarification of the motion Linda withdrew her second. Mark seconded clarified motion. Motion passed 6-1.

Next meeting is Wednesday July 15th at 6:00 pm in the Assembly Room of the Sawyer County Courthouse. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Troy Morgan
Secretary
Sawyer County Comprehensive Plan Update - Issues Identification Working List

- Countywide gaps with extreme highs and lows in age cohorts, housing, jobs, income, etc.
- Lack of senior housing and assisted living opportunities
- Deterioration of existing housing
- Lack of larger apartment complexes
- Disparities between lake homes and homes in outlying areas
- Rent increases due to more demand than supply
- Currently no large manufacturing jobs
- Potential for bringing in light industrial work
- Potential to host large public events/festivals to bring in tourism and revenue
- Lack of cohesive thinking – landscape ties everyone together, but is everyone invested in maintaining it?
- Forest fragmentation
- Balance maintaining northwoods character and the need for infrastructure and economic diversification to attract people to come to and stay in the area
- Lack of broadband infrastructure and need to expand it
- Hayward school does include some skilled trades curriculum (welding and construction)
- Expand public safety services in healthcare, emergency services, fire, etc.
- Need to identify the types of tourism the county wants to attract
- Deterioration of transportation system, particularly at Town level
- Revenue disparities amongst communities
- Drug epidemic and its relationship to housing, education, poverty, etc.
- Need for an addiction treatment facility
- Groundwater protection (public water systems and private household wells)
SCCPDC - ISSUES IDENTIFICATION EXERCISE

(A) **County Character:**
- Though the County is split geographically, economically, and socially, the one unifying feature is our natural resources. It appears generally accepted that all are proud of our clean lakes, rivers, streams, flowages, and forests.
- The “woods & water” of Sawyer County has defined the rural character of our county. From Native American History, the logging industry, early tourism, farming, and fishing - to Sawyer County’s now world renowned events – this county is known for relaxation with a purpose. Skiers, bikers, snowmobiles, musky fishermen are just a few of the types of people drawn to the county or do call Sawyer County home.
- The Native American school, college, clinic, and government center show growth and caring in our Native American population.
- The availability of public recreational and forestry lands. The forests the clean lakes, rivers, and air.
- Diverse school system with lifelong educational opportunities.
- Strength of volunteerism and sense of place from the people and the community as a whole.

(B) **Transportation Issues:**
- Bike lanes on major roads
- Expand recreational trails for all users/keeping separate trails for motorized and non motorized trail users
- Aging infrastructure due to lack of funding to the County and Towns for the overall repair and maintenance of our highway/road system, bridges, and culverts.
- Transportation Issues have improved in Sawyer County with the LCO/Sawyer County Transit system. Education of the population who could utilize the transit may be necessary.
- Improve public/private transit for people to get to medical appointments, etc.
- Parking, signs, and dealing with the seasonal traffic
- Support improvement of “County” airport
- Smart growth of transportation system including electronic charging stations
- Deterioration of roads with heavier vehicles

(C) **Housing Issues:**
- Regulation of Short Term Rentals
- Lack of middle and low range affordable housing, and/or rental properties for all County residents
- Many marginal habitable properties in the County
- Lack of grant funds for rehabilitation.
Shortage of service people for maintenance and repairs and skilled laborers
- Shortage of assisted living and transitional type housing
- Municipal water and sewer issues as well as private wells and private onsite sewage treatment systems
- Balanced housing need with natural resource protection

**Utilities & Community Facilities Issues:**
- Coordinate planning with land use, transportation and natural resources. Promote use of existing facilities and encourage development of public facilities, such as parks, public access, and walking trails.
- Future planning for public utilities - sewer districts -should be created around highly populated lakes to stop water quality degradation.
- Desire to bury all overhead powerlines
- Cell phone towers and broadband access County wide
- There seems to be a need for more public safety coverage for areas in the County
- Need a countywide sewage treatment facility to eliminate land spreading of septage on agricultural field

**Agriculture, Cultural and Natural Resource Issues:**
- We need to protect, conserve, and manage our wetland, lakes, and renewable resources.
- maintain large blocks of land for agriculture and forestry-
- Encourage the continuation of small family farms.
- Keeping and promoting quality culture-library, theater, festivals
- Should honor LCO requests for protection of culturally sensitive areas
- Rural, farm, forest, character of county must be protected
- In Sawyer County you will find almost every small community with some form of history collected, whether it is through the tribe, a town, a historical society, or museum.
- Making sure that our water and air quality remain good or are improved. Insisting on sustainable management of the forest resources. Protecting the historic resources of the County for future generations.
- Sawyer County forest need to be managed more effectively to insure a balance between production and biodiversity
- Insufficient focus on groundwater protection

**Natural & scenic features:**
- Scenic areas not developed, small remaining lakes, county forest without large trail networks, small non-motorized campgrounds (Federal Forest Land), rice producing areas, area flowages and rivers (Namakegon, Chippewa, St. Croix).
- Rich flora and fauna
- Large old growth forest in small plots
- Keeping forest natural looking
Forest, lakes, streams, and open space

The Chippewa Flowage, as well as lakes, ponds, rivers & streams are exceptional features of Sawyer County. Forests, maintained as Federal, state, county forest and even private landowners who share their land with the public through WI-DNR programs, are incredible features available to the public in Sawyer County.

Chippewa River, Federal/National Forest, State Forest, County Forest, Town Forest, and "open recreation" timberland

National Forests, Rivers and Lakes

The forests, lakes and rivers with their wildlife and diverse communities of plants and animals.

Chippewa and Flambeau Blue Hills overlooks

Trails (walking, snowmobiling, cross country)

(G) Cultural or historic resources:

- Identify and preserve historic, cultural, people, and scenic places.
- LCO tribal history including Kinnamon Cultural Center and Honor the Earth Pow-Wow,
- Native American culture; fishing resources; public land; events such as the Fat Tire Race, Birkie Ski Race, World Championship Lumberjack Show, County Fair, etc all contribute to the culture and resources of Sawyer County, fishing Hall of Fame, Musky hall of fame, historical museums, markers, and exhibits.
- The lumber history and logging history, and old historic camps
- Elderly citizens, although there are very few left
- Mary Ellen Bakers
- Park Theater
- Libraries
- Schools

(H) Land Use Issues:

- Coordinate a development pattern consistent with our commercial, industrial, and residential uses.
- Fragmentation of large blocks of Agricultural and Forestry land are a growing concern. Continued development of secondary homes by non-resident owners who often behave differently with a lack of respect for the people who actually live in the County. Conflicting land uses abound within the County often tied to money / profits of outside developers. (Not in the best interest of residence who live here)
- Towns and adjoining communities are beginning to see that cooperation (trail systems, zone districts, transportation layout, etc. are going to be important in the future. Pace of develop has been overwhelming within the County within the past 10 years.
- Growth within surrounding counties does not appear to be having a direct impact on Sawyer County’s growth.
Growth needs to be defined, is growth more second homes, more fast food restaurants or more permanent residence, or some combination of multiple factors. If you are going to look at growth and plan for it must be concretely defined.

The pace of development is moving so rapidly that regulations are not drafted and enacted fast enough to preserve the character of the community and its environment.

Sawyer County needs to encourage more small light industrial / manufacturing jobs. The area has an abundance of low wage service sector jobs but few living wage jobs. At the same time we lack professionals in the medical fields (doctors, nurses etc.) Tourism has a wide economic impact on the county being one of the driving economic forces within the county. Tourism planning needs to be addressed (what type of tourism should the area promote) just like land use planning. Also how can wages be increased in the tourism area. We need to address how to keep young people in the area though education and advanced learning opportunities.

Lake property (lots) that should not be represented as lake lots
Development of marginal lakeshore property and small lakes. The new Wilderness category of lakes will help for decades to come
The problem is with the land speculators and developers who, after completing a project (subdivisions, condominiums, etc.) leave the area and don’t have to live with the results. The price of land (shoreland) is being driven by part-time residents who have no sense of ownership in the community.

Mind-set is an issue. Personal agendas are a problem.
Land use planning perhaps will always be an issue. It is very difficult to stay with a land use plan when zone district changes are always taking place. The towns and the county have to stay with it. Sawyer County is still on a fast pace for development.

I believe the DNR and County have too much control over certain people’s private property.

Since the county apparently had lax land use and construction policies until recently, I think that the older residents are resistant to the new ordinances, but with more people and more development we are going to lose the quality of our resources if we don’t protect them from depletion and pollution.

All small farms are forced out and large corporate farms won’t pay much
Division of land into small parcels not consistent with surrounding land use.
Protecting agricultural and forest lands
Cranberry bogs
Spreading of septage on agricultural fields
To find a balance between the rights of land owner and the rights of all
**Economic Development Issues:**

- Attract and retain quality business and industry to improve employment and personal income. Tourism is a huge impact, bringing more local development and jobs. They just need to be higher paying jobs, to help retain a better local workforce.
- Sawyer County needs to encourage more small light industrial / manufacturing jobs. The area has an abundance of low wage service sector jobs but few living wage jobs. At the same time we lack professionals in the medical fields (doctors, nurses etc.) Tourism has a wide economic impact on the county being one of the driving economic forces within the county. Tourism planning needs to be addressed (what type of tourism should the area promote) just like land use planning. Also how can wages are increased in the tourism area. We need to address how to keep young people in the area though education and advanced learning opportunities.
- Year round economy
- Tourism is very important to the County
- A “big box” store, like Menard’s, Lowe’s, or Home Depot would be nice. Not only do I refuse to pay 5 times as much for materials, many of the local vendors have made an opulent living from gouging their friends and neighbors.
- Paying residents a decent living wage should not be that far-fetched. Many of our “retirees” are in their second home. The thought that they don’t want to pay local employees, officials, teachers, etc. as much as wherever they came from is unbelievable.
- Economic development is not necessarily a good thing. It is a double edge sword that appears to be progress, but can result in increased population. This results in higher taxes for support services (i.e. police, fire, school, road, etc.)
- There are not enough adequate local jobs for Sawyer County residents.
- Manufacturing/industry type jobs would be an asset.
- I do not know what the county strengths, challenges & difficulties are in attracting new business.
- Economic development is important. Perhaps there could be more promotion of wood working industries (cabinet making, outdoor furniture, etc). Give tax incentives for these industries to get started. Tourism is the big industry now
- Convince motels, we need more people to do grant writing, this would help employ people.
- Year around industry for permanent jobs, tourism is too unpredictable.
- We need the regular incomes of permanent jobs, but we need the infrastructure and educational opportunities to attract employees to settle here or stay here. Again this is circular (one depends on the other) We need to support the tourism industry, but we need to encourage the expansion of other opportunities that don’t kill what we already have.
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- Old people dying off, young people have no jobs to keep them around here
- Sawyer County’s current economic sectors can be categorized in two major categories, Forestry and Tourism. Each can be further broken into divisions such as logging, pallet manufacturing, wood products production under the Forestry heading and lodging, food service, and retail services on the tourism side. The demographic studies have shown that Sawyer County’s largest employment sector is retail trade while manufacturing accounted for 9.2% in 2006. Other studies and surveys have shown that the majority of full time and second home owners have selected the Sawyer County area to live in for the “Up North” atmosphere and appeal. It seems that any increase in industry in the area must be balanced with this in mind. Due to lack of population (labor force) and other logistics it is unlikely that “heavy industry” would choose to locate in the county nor would it necessarily be welcomed. But “light” industry would be welcomed and promoted. Included could be increased manufacturing surrounding the forest products industry such as pallet manufacturing, hard wood milling, wood pellet manufacturing and furniture making to name a few. Also the service areas could be promoted such as phone centers and order facilities that are currently outsourced to other countries. Sawyer County government has been proactive in its support of economic development through support of the Sawyer County Development Corporation and the Hayward Lakes Visitor and Convention Bureau. Both organizations appear to be active in the pursuit of growth in each ones particular sector, SCDC in affordable housing and business development and HLVCB in their tourism promotion. Job availability seems to be greatest in the Hayward area as it is the largest community in the county. In other locations well paying jobs are scarce with limited availability of jobs in technical areas, health care, management, and other professional fields. Sawyer County needs to provide ease of access for businesses and industries that would consider locating in our area. Good roads, rapid transportation (air-rail) and services (water, sewer, phone, internet) are essential for promoting future development.
- We need more health care availability – more nursing homes, therapy, assisted living and/or home health care services. We need some small businesses – light industry – that can pay decent wages and provide benefits to employees. We need to keep these people working in the smaller communities so they will spend a larger share of their income there for goods and services.
- Non-polluting industries are needed
- Develop this land use plan and try to stick to it’s recommendations
- We need to attract businesses that have head of household jobs
- County needs to fight for these jobs

(J) Desired Businesses:
- Forestry, recreation, and service industry
• Additional secondary educational facilities
• Computer/ Research facilities
• Expanded Health care facilities
• Bio-fuel production
• Low impact manufacturing on the environment
• Sawyer County has historically been in the tourist industry. The cost of an average family to visit the area is increasing to a point that it is not economically realistic to spend any time in the area.
• Affordable resorts and campgrounds (not de facto trailer parks) that permanent sites are not allowed.
• Heavier industries like Louisiana Pacific and the new wood pellet plant. Industries with a stable product base.
• Medium and light manufacturing
• Only in areas zoned industrial
• Wood working, recreation, encourage broader farming in ag areas.
• Wood shops, convenience, gift shops
• More convenience stores, motels in the southern part of the County.
• Car repair shops
• We need to add diversity to our “industrial” base. Provide opportunities for people who want the quality of life that we have here who can work from their homes or small facilities with electronic access to the rest of the world.
• Small factories – wasted pellets?
• Health care
• Modular housing.
• Non-polluting
• Tourism related
• Green
• Businesses with head of household jobs
• Year round jobs
• Jobs with insurance

(K) Strengths in attracting new business:
• It’s natural resources
• Good public school system
• The natural resources that attract people to this area
• Lots of timber
• New power line
• Rail
• Good highways
• Cheap labor costs compared to say, New Jersey
• Really good schools
• Recreational opportunities
• Trained labor force, depending on the job
• Maybe we don’t have any at this time
• So far the industry is wood and wood products
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- Access to water and wildland based recreation
- Clean water and air.
- Wood resources for small cottage industries.
- People with ideas.
- Employees want to live away from cities and the noise and dirt and heavy population. We have a good workforce here. Unfortunately, most of them are now working in Ladysmith, Phillips, Park Falls, Birchwood, etc.
- Renewable natural resources
- Great place to live
- Natural resources
- Schools

(L) Challenges/difficulties in attracting/retaining business:
- Ensure future commercial and industry development are compatible with Sawyer County’s character
- Lack of educated, motivated workforce
- Lack of infrastructure.
- Lack of varied and reliable telecommunications
- Lack of workforce
- Quality factory labor
- Other cities and counties offering tax exemptions and incentives
- Cities with higher unemployment
- Dependable labor. This is in part due to the many retired people in the area.
- State and County help in providing information on how to get started.
- General support.
- Dependable, trained labor. Educational opportunities especially away from Hayward.
- Dissention among the ranks. The minute there’s any kind of change in a procedure or proposed improvement, half the population decided it’s not a good idea, and that’s before they’ve bothered to ask questions and/or done any research on the time in question.
- Cold winters
- Mosquitoes and deer ticks
- Lack of highly trained and well educated work force
- Expensive taxes
- Lack of water and sewer
- Lack of trained labor force

(M) Intergovernmental Cooperation Issues:
- Coordinate and develop formal agreements. Share facilities when possible.
- Local units of government often feel trumped on and over overruled by county government. Sharing of municipal services between
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intergovernmental units could occur more if parties were educated as to cost saving and would be willing to relinquish territorialism.

- The county for the most part has good working relationships with tribal government. Not sure about adjacent counties.
- Key to this is good community representation at the county level
- Numerous complaints about level of punishment for local crime—often sentences are light and stayed
- The Townships have from time to time problems on building permits
- Conditional use permits and variance
- The LCO band should play a larger role in the County government. There is an obvious majority use of some services including law enforcement, social services, etc. A larger portion of the tax burden should fall on LCO and they should have an automatic seat on the County Board
- Generally they respect the local towns wishes, however the local towns cannot override the county board
- Over the last ten plus years, I have seen Intergovernmental cooperation strengthen and grow.
- Communication is pretty limited or non-existent.
- There seems to be very little interest for the towns to work together. This may be the result of the very independent nature of the people who live here. This can only be alleviated by building trust and it may fall to new residents taking an interest in Town politics.
- I have a good deal of communication with the county offices and feel Town of Winter has a good working relationship with those offices. In most cases our opinions are considered and honored where possible. The problem I see is lack of communication between the departments in the courthouse.
- Improving working relationship with LCO tribe
- Need to work more with Native Americans
  - Casino, unfair competition, land signs
1. Housing Goal
An adequate supply of housing for individuals of all income levels, including a range of choices that meet the needs of all age groups and persons with special needs, while protecting the quality of the natural environment and maintaining the rural character of Sawyer County.

Objective 1: Eliminate substandard housing through blight control or housing rehabilitation and repair.

Objective 2: Encourage housing in areas that will not result in property or environmental damage.

Objective 3: Support housing options for ALL individuals.

2. Transportation Goal
A safe and efficient multi-modal transportation network providing a range of modal choices for all persons.

Objective 1: Develop, maintain and improve roads to meet the county’s future transportation needs.

Objective 2: Continue the overall development of motorized and non-motorized trails.

Objective 3: Support the continued operation and expansion of transit options to all persons.

Objective 4: Encourage safety improvements to local railroad crossings and airports.

3. Utilities & Community Facilities Goal
Maintain and enhance applicable county facilities and services, which contribute to the overall quality of life, while supporting other public and private sector organizations that are responsible for providing many of the utilities and community related facilities available within the County.

Objective 1: Encourage coordinated planning and development of utilities and community facilities as defined within the comprehensive planning legislation.

Objective 2: Improve and expand telecommunication services and coverage related to cellular and Internet throughout the county.

Objective 3: Protect the natural environment and property owners in all public and private development projects.

Objective 4: Provide law enforcement and emergency/rescue services to residents and visitors.
4. **Natural Resources Goal**
Promote the sustainable use and management of the county’s environmental diversity, natural resources and related quality of life.

**Objective 1:** Identify and enhance the protection and conservation of environmentally sensitive and vulnerable resources.

**Objective 2:** Protect area lakes, rivers, streams, shorelands and wetlands.

**Objective 3:** Protect, manage and enhance the sustainable use of forest and land resources whether public or privately owned.

5. **Agricultural Resource Goal**
Preserve and enhance agricultural activities throughout the county as they support the local, state and national agricultural industry.

**Objective 1:** Preserve agricultural land for farming.

6. **Cultural Resources Goal**
Preserve and enhance cultural and heritage resources throughout the county.

**Objective 1:** Expand the collection and identification of cultural and heritage resources.

7. **Economic Development Goal**
To create an environment that promotes jobs creation and retention through the management of planned growth in a manner that enhances the quality of life for current and future residents.

**Objective 1:** Recruit and retain businesses

**Objective 2:** Encourage planned commercial development.

**Objective 3:** Encourage sustainable forest management and all businesses that follow these practices.

**Objective 4:** Develop economic development policies, which are reflective of the results of the 2008 Sawyer County Comprehensive Plan Survey.
8. Intergovernmental Cooperation Goal
Establish mutually beneficial cooperative relationships with adjacent and overlapping jurisdictions, including but not limited to area school districts, state and federal agencies, Lac Courte Oreilles, town, village, city governments and others.

Objective 1: Develop methods to address existing and potential conflicts between parties.

Objective 2: Share community facilities and services whenever possible.

Objective 3: Strengthen the relationship between Lac Courte Oreilles and Sawyer County.

9. Land Use Goal
A coordinated, planned development pattern consistent with the rural character of Sawyer County.

Objective 1: Develop short and long range initiatives that seek collaborative efforts between local, tribal, state and federal agencies and programs.

Objective 2: Development patterns and activities that protect and enhance the natural resources of Sawyer County.