

**Minutes of the March 10th 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
- Brian Bisonette - Virtual
- Marc Helwig
- Kevin Sheptick

Others Present:

Lynn Fitch
Mike Coleson
Jay Kozlowski
Greg Peterson
Don Mrotek
Dan Ploeger
Cindy Parker - Virtual
Linda Zilmer – Virtual
Roy Zubrod – Virtual
Seth Zeiger - Virtual

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 February 10, 2021, meeting; second by Mr. Sheptick. Motion carried without negative vote.

Events – Written reports were provided for the September 9th Chequamegon MTB Festival request. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Buckholtz to approve the event request. Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Treasurer’s Department – An OTC Land Sale in the Town of Ojibwa Parcel ID #020-639-23-5710 was presented. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Bisonette to accept the land sale request and forward to the March County Board for approval. Motion carried without negative vote.

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report – Written reports were provided. Mr. Ploeger advised that real estate transfer requests have been very high this year.

Sawyer County Forestry Department Report – Mr. Mrotek provided a motorized trail report stating that snowmobile season proved strong this past year. ATV season is already opening up and appears to be starting strong, as well.

Mr. Peterson provided written Forestry report and stated that revenue is appearing to be on target for budget. He is preparing grant applications for motorized recreational trail grants that are due by April 15. They are also researching a potential new revenue source for county forest carbon tax credits and will have more information in April.

A request to grant private utility easement for approximately 200 feet of non-county forest was requested by Fred Scheer. Given that the property was originally a donation by Mr. Scheer, the committee agreed to grant the easement without a fee. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Sheptick to approve the easement without an associated cost. Motion carried without negative vote.

A Resolution for Outdoor Recreation Aids was presented for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Sheptick to accept the 2021 Outdoor Recreational Trail Aid Resolution and move it forward to the March County Board meeting for approval. Motion carried without negative vote.

A 5-year Forestry Plan needs to be in place to apply for grant funding. Mr. Peterson presented the draft of the Sawyer County Outdoor Recreation Plan to committee and requested that it be released to the public for 30 days for comment; additional feedback from municipalities will be sought. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Bisonette to approve the Plan for public release then forward it back to Committee and County Board for approval in April. Motion carried without negative vote.

A written DNR Forestry report was provided. Mr. Zubrod provided an overview, stating the highlights of the timber product sales. Kyle Marinoff has been recently hired and is now working out of the Flambeau River State Forest Headquarters.

Zoning/Conservation Department Report – Written reports were provided. Mr. Zeiger reviewed the wildlife damage claims report, showing individuals who experienced losses in 2020. This is a pass-through program, thus budget neutral. A motion was made by Mr. Buckholtz; second by Mr. Sheptick to approve the Wildlife Damage Claim report as provided. Motion carried without negative vote.

A written county conservation update was provided. Mr. Kozlowski advised that they are working on an emergency action plan for the Tiger Cat Dam to receive grant funds of \$24,000. To date conservation staff have had 8 hours of virtual training this year. He stated that nearly all the species of the virtual Spring Tree Sale are sold out and the program will likely be repeated next year in virtual mode. Distribution of trees will take place in April.

USDA Report – Mr. Sheptick provided a review of ongoing USDA programs.

LCO Update – Mr. Bisonette advised that the tribe is getting ready for spring and will put their state-of-the-art hatchery into full operation soon.

Other Topics for Discussion Only -

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee will be Wednesday, April 14, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 am
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk