

Minutes of the June 7th meeting of the Sawyer County
Land, Water & Forest Resources Committee
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Board Room; Sawyer County



Voting Committee Members (X) Present:

- Chair: Ed Peters
- Vice Chair – Marc Helwig
- Kay Wilson
- Brian Bisonette – virtual
- Jason Weaver - virtual
- Kevin Sheptick

Others Present:

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| Lynn Fitch | Andy Albarado |
| Jay Kozlowski | Janeen Aibric |
| Cathy LaReau | |
| Brody Fischer | |
| Brian Devries | |
| Greg Peterson | |

Call to Order – Chair Ed Peters 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: May 10, 2023

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Helwig Second by: Ms. Wilson
Motion carried without negative vote.

Events -

The following events were presented for approval - Epic Bike Fest (6 /10-6/11/23), Chequamegon 100 (6/17/23), CAMBA Women’s Weekend Clinic (6/24-6/25/23), and Stubborn Mule Adventure Race (6/24-6/25/23). Mr. Peterson advised that all appropriate insurance policies are in place. A motion was made by Ms. Wilson; second by Mr. Helwig to approve the events as presented. Motion carried without negative vote.

Wisconsin Surplus Auction – County Land Sale

Ms. Aibric presented the list of properties that had been offered on the Wisconsin County Land Auction; results and notes regarding specific properties were included. One parcel in the Northwoods Beach Subdivision a higher-than-minimum bid offered. Accepting a bid below the minimum posted is acceptable. The following parcels were presented for consideration:

Parcel #29 – A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Ms. Wilson to approve the acceptance of the auction bid of \$25,250. A voice vote was taken and passed without negative vote.

Parcel #36 – A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Sheptick to approve the acceptance of the auction bid of \$7,175. A voice vote was taken and passed without negative vote.

Parcel #37 – A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Sheptick to approve the acceptance of the auction bid of \$788. A voice vote was taken and passed without negative vote.

Parcel #41 – A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Ms. Wilson to deny the auction bid of \$1,025. A voice vote was taken and passed without negative vote. A motion was then made by Ms. Wilson; second by Mr. Helwig to set a new minimum bid amount of \$12,000 and repost it on the auction. Motion passed without negative vote.

Parcel #44 – A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Sheptick to approve the acceptance of the auction bid of \$1,376. A voice vote was taken and passed without negative vote.

Parcel #45 – A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Sheptick to approve the acceptance of the auction bid of \$1,025. A voice vote was taken and passed without negative vote.

Parcel #46 – A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Ms. Wilson to approve the acceptance of the auction bid of \$1,067. A voice vote was taken and passed without negative vote.

There was no motion on parcel #1, as the minimum bid was met.

Parcel #04 – A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Sheptick to approve the acceptance of the auction bid of \$415. A voice vote was taken and passed without negative vote.

Parcel #05 – A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Sheptick to approve the acceptance of the auction bid of \$ 1,725. A voice vote was taken and passed without negative vote.

Act 216 Tax Deed Resolution -

A resolution requesting the State of Wisconsin to address concerns of Act 216, relating to distributing the proceeds from the sale of tax delinquent properties to former owners was presented by Mr. Albarado. This resolution is at the WCA level asking the state to reimburse counties for the loss of funds that must now go back to the property owner under Act 216 on properties they get back for delinquent taxes. A motion was made Mr. Helwig to approve the Resolution with the correction of the date to June 7th; second by Ms. Wilson. An electronic vote was cast and passed 6 – 0.

Register of Deeds Update -

A written report was provided identifying the May activity of the Register of Deeds office. WCA continues to spearhead the 50/50 transfer fee split with the Department of Revenue, and 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.

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report -

Written reports were provided. There were approximately 173 transfers and 5 CSMs to process in May. GIS staff have started working with ATT on a project to move over to their ESInet for 911 services to provide a more statewide connection. Chris Gregory has been working in the Town of Winter this month.

Sawyer County Forestry Department -

Recreational Trails Report – Ms. LaReau advised that the summer ATV season is off to a fast start; one re-route on Trail #7 is in place until maintenance is completed on that route. Wisconsin is reported to be the #1 ATV user in the country.

County Forestry – A written report was provided; there were eight active sales in May and timber sale value on file is \$5,165,875.51 which is on target for budget. The mosquito population is making work difficult. The county is currently in oak wilt restriction period April 15th – July 15th, no harvesting, brushing, or road building activities are allowed within oak areas; mountain bike trails and ATV/UTV trails opened on May 13th. Seven trail rehab projects were out for bid and several bids are being reviewed at this time

Town of Round Lake Handicap Access at the Boat Landing – Mr. Albarado advised the project has been signed off on and no further action is required.

DNR Forestry – A written report was provided. For the month of May, timber sale establishment has been the main focus. Within the past few weeks there has been an uptick in fire activity in the county, and rain is needed in the

region. As for county forest time standards, they are on pace to reach the hour goal of 2217 by the deadline of June 17th. Several staff are moving functions to the area of fire prevention due to the dry conditions.

Zoning/Conservation Department -

County Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Kozlowski advised that staff attended the annual AIS Partnership meeting for training on various topics including passing the Aquatic Invasive Species Verifier Test. They continue to grow Purple Loosestrife Beetles which are used to control the spread of Purple Loosestrife in high concentration areas throughout the County. Annual gravel pit inspections will continue to take place over the next several weeks. He provided an update on the BillyBoy water level that was dropped approximately 12” based on the DNR request. The drop in water levels has not been received well by area residents, so the County has been in discussion with the DNR to offer a compromise and are awaiting a response.

USDA Report – Mr. Sheptick provided a list of upcoming dates. The State is requesting a change in Local Administration Areas for town boundaries which has been completed. The new boundaries were shared.

LCO Report – Mr. Bisonette advised that they received notice of a grant approval to address Chippewa Flowage milfoil. The project goals were shared.

Future Agenda Items -

Other Topics for Discussion Only -

Adjournment – 9:26 am

Next Meeting: July 12, 2023 **Time:** 8:30 am **Location:** Board Room
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk