

**Minutes of the October 11, 2023 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 @ 8:35 am - virtual
- Kevin Sheptick

Others Present:

Lynn Fitch
Jay Kozlowski
Brody Fischer
Greg Peterson
Brian DeVries - virtual
Seth Zesiger
Andy Albarado

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 at 8:35 am.

Meeting Agenda –

Public Comments –

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: September 13, 2023

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

Register of Deeds Update -

A written report was provided detailing department activity and fees collected. Daniel’s Law – Mr. Albarado reviewed this federal law that protects federal judges and families which requires federal agencies to protect personal information if a written request was made.

Events -

Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report -

Written reports were provided. The department processed approximately 185 transfers and 9 Certified Survey Maps in September. Rachel Thompson successfully planned and attended this year’s Wisconsin Real Property Lister Association Annual State Meeting at Flat Creek Lodge. There was great turnout from across the state. The County Survey Crew is working in Town of Winter. 30 new and replacement address signs were installed in September.

Sawyer County Forestry Department -

Recreational Trails Report – Mr. Peterson stated that clubs are readying trails for the snowmobile season. The busy fall ATV/UTV season is underway; last week 64 units rode to Sawyer County from Webb Lake, spending the evening in our area. An estimated \$30,000 boost to our economy for this event was determined.

County Forestry – A written report was provided. Markets and weather conditions are not currently conducive to harvesting, but we are on target for budget. Timber sale value on file is \$4,654,475.75; sale inspections are on target. They continue work on oak wilt sites. The inventory plots for the carbon credit project are nearly complete.

DNR Forestry – Mr. Fischer provided a verbal report and an update of CWD. As of October 5th, baiting and feeding are not allowed in Sawyer County for at least two years.

Zoning/Conservation Department -

County Report – A written report was provided and detailed by Mr. Kozlowski. Several dam inspections were conducted by an engineer firm. The Fishtrap Dam is earmarked for replacement in the next two years. Zoning Department continues to see above average Land Use Permits.

AIS Grant Resolution -- A Resolution for Sawyer County Aquatic Invasive Species Program was introduced; the resolution is required in order to continue to receive some federal grant funds. A motion was made by Mr. Bisonette; second by Mr. Weaver to approve the Resolution; this does not need to go to full board. Motion carried without negative vote.

Wildlife Damage – 2024 Budget – The representative from APHIS presented the wildlife damage program overview. Participation in this program is due for renewal. There is a slight increase, approximately 3.5%, due to the congressionally mandated cost of living increase. It is pass-through money for damage reimbursements. A motion to approve the 2024 budget as presented was made by Ms. Wilson; second by Mr. Bisonette. Motion carried without negative vote.

5-year Plan of Administration Renewal (2024-2028) – A motion was made by Ms. Wilson; second by Mr. Bisonette to approve the 5-year Plan. Motion carried without negative vote.

2023 Crop Prices – Written reports were provided showing the crop price proposal for Sawyer County. A motion was made by Mr. Weaver; second by Mr. Bisonette to approve the proposed crop prices for 2023. Motion carried without negative vote.

2023 Damage Assessment Deadline – The Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program deadline request was presented. The start of winter, December 20th, is the proposed last date that wildlife crop damage assessments can be requested for the current cropping year. A motion was made by Ms. Wilson to accept the abatement proposed date of December 20th; second by Mr. Bisonette. Motion carried without negative vote.

USDA Report -

LCO Report – A report on fish hatchery operations will be available at the November meeting.

Future Agenda Items -

Other Topics for Discussion Only -

Adjournment – 9:07 am

Next Meeting: November 8, 2023 **Time:** 8:30 am **Location:** Board Room

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk