

Minutes of the November 8, 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
- 

**Others Present:**

Lynn Fitch	Andy Albarado
Cathy LaReau	Phil Neis
Brody Fischer	Tim Siegl
Greg Peterson	
Tatyana Kurtzweil	
Kris Treland-Neuman	

**Call to Order** – Chair Ed Peters called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. A moment of silence was held for member Kevin Sheptick.

**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: October 11, 2023**

Motion to approve made by: Ms. Wilson                      Second by: Mr. Helwig

Motion carried without negative vote.

**Register of Deeds Update -**

A written report was provided. WLIA moving forward with legislation to increase the recording fee from \$30 to \$45. Currently the \$30 fee is split \$15-County fund/\$8 Land Records/\$7 DOA; the \$45 would be split \$15-County fund/\$15 Land Records/\$15 DOA. The base budget would be raised from \$100,000 to \$175,000 and the training and education budget would be increase from \$1000 to \$5000.

**Events -**

A written list of 2024 events being requested was provided. Mr. Peterson advised that all have the application and proof of insurance verified. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Ms. Wilson. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Preference to Previous Owner – Tax ID #42994 -**

A real estate property listing for Tax ID #42994 was presented along with the application to purchase County-owned land. Ms. Kurtzweil presented the application for purchase and cash payment to cover delinquent taxes and fees. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Weaver to approve this request. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Land Records and County Surveyor Department Report -**

Written reports were provided by Kimberly Wendt and Chris Gregory. Field work continues in the Town of Winter, Township 37 North Range 5 West.; six CSMs were reviewed in October. The department processed approximately 200 transfers in October. And they are preparing to calculate and print property tax bills.

**Sawyer County Forestry Department -**

Recreational Trails Report – Ms. LaReau provided a verbal update. She advised that some trails close 11/15-12/15 for hunting season. Through NORTAC they have been working on a motorized 10-county user survey that has just been

published. Data from this should help provide information for an economic impact report toward the end of next year. Kris Treland-Neuman was introduced.

County Forestry – A written report was provided; there were 18 sales listed active in the month of September and 64 inactive sales. We will likely surpass our sale revenue goal this year. WDNR conducted Sawyer County Forest Timber Sale Programmatic & Fiscal Review Audit.

Fall Timber Sale Bid Approval – the November 2023 timber sale bid summary was provided along with a list of 2023 fall Sawyer County Timber Sale Bid Results. Mr. Peterson provided a review of the bids. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig; second by Mr. Weaver. Motion carried without negative vote.

DNR Forestry – Mr. Fischer provided a verbal update, advising that they are working toward their County hours and setting up some timber sales in the Winter block.

#### **Legislative Bill (LRB-3518) to Regulate Wakeboarding -**

Mr. Peters presented a resolution on Enhanced Wake Regulations. After this resolution was assembled, the item was removed from the legislature but the concern of resurfacing exists. Mr. Nies provided an update of the lake effects of wakesurfing and wakeboarding and where Sawyer County has been positioned on this topic to date. A motion was made by Mr. Helwig and forward to County Board; second by Mr. Weaver with the removal of the specific bill # or word “bill” and change to legislation in lines 6, 7, 12, 14. A call to approve the change in wording was passed without negative vote. A second call to approve and send the amended resolution to the County Board passed without negative vote.

#### **Zoning/Conservation Department -**

County Report – A written report was provided. Several ordinance amendments are being worked on which includes updating the County Floodplain Ordinance; the 2024 Joint Allocation Plan has been approved. The department is preparing to launch the spring tree sale and information packets were sent to Sawyer County schools for the Conservation Poster and Speaker contest.

USDA Report – Representative Kevin Sheptick recently passed away.

LCO Report – Mr. Bisonette advised that their habitat improvement projects are concluding within the next couple of weeks. They are planning for fiscal 2024 projects now. Campsites closed in mid-October.

#### **Future Agenda Items -**

#### **Other Topics for Discussion Only -**

#### **Adjournment – 9:15 am**

**Next Meeting:** December 13, 2023    **Time:** 8:30 am    **Location:** Board Room  
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk