

**Minutes of the January 9th meeting of the Sawyer County
Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Assembly Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members Present:

- Chair: Tom Duffy
- VC -- John Righeimer
- Stacey Hessel
- Brian Bisonette - virtual
- Chris Rusk

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Kate Ross-Barido
Lynn Fitch
Donna Knuckey
Lori Baltrusis

Cathy LaReau
Sherry Beckman
Linda Zillmer - Virtual

Call to Order – Chair Duffy called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Certification of Compliance with the open meeting law was met. Roll Call was taken. Quorum was met.

Meeting Agenda --

Public Comments –

Minutes from previous meeting – A motion was made by Ms. Hessel to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2022, meeting; second by Mr. Righeimer. Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association Report – Ms. Hessel advised that grounds improvements will begin in the spring and fair plans continue.

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report – Ms. Baltrusis provided a written quarterly report. She reviewed the highlights on programming and learning opportunities. A pie chart of the food donations was included for the Spooner Ag Station. She is in the midst of partnering for community assessment.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau Report – A written recap of 2022 activities were provided along with new Vacation Guides. Marketing graphs are provided in the report. Top referrals and top stories are identified, as well.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission –

Economic Development Report – Ms. Barido advised they are creating three small business education programs this spring and are starting small business socials with small business speakers. They are partnering to complete a Vibrant Spaces Grant and seeking new memberships for 2023. A meeting has now taken place with Impact Seven and Northwood tech on partnering for a large homes grant, as Hayward is among the four finalist locations for 30 units.

Library Updates -- Written reports were provided. Ms. Knuckey advised they raised funds to pay a portion of the basement project loan. She reviewed the highlights of the report. She just completed two grant applications.

Motorized/Non-Motorized Trail Report – A written report of trail damage was provided. Ms. LaReau advised that the winter storms caused an 11-day trail closure because trails were impassable. A conservative estimate in costs for trail clearing came in at \$130,000 which may double by the time all trail cleanup is completed. Funding sources to pay for cleanup services is yet to be determined.

A written email report from Ben Popp was provided at the meeting.

Historical Society –

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee will be Monday, February 6, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:19 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

DRAFT