

**Minutes of the June 7<sup>th</sup> 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: **James Schlender**
- Tom Duffy
- Jesse Boettcher
- Stacey Hessel
- Brian Bisonette - Virtual

**Others Present:**

Tom Hoff  
Mike Coleson  
Lynn Fitch  
Lori Baltrusis  
Mike Gardner  
Sherry Beckman  
Don Mrotek  
Linda Zilmer - Virtual  
Rebecca Roeker - Virtual

**Call to Order** – Chair James Schlender 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** – Comments by Linda Zillmer

**Minutes from previous meeting** – A motion was made by Ms. Hessel to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021, meeting; second by Mr. Duffy. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association Report** – No report

**University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report** – Ms. Baltrusis advised a report will be available at the July meeting.

**Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau Report** – Written report provided. Ms. Beckman reported that she had applied for numerous grant applications this past year and received approval for each one. They will also receive Covid relief funds. The 2021 fishing opener was held as planned. The summer project at HLVCB will be a review and updating of the website, as well as exploring new options on YouTube.

**Northwest Regional Planning Commission** – A quarterly report should be due in July.

**Economic Development Report** – A written report and an executive summary were provided. Highlights of the reports included the increased broadband efforts, two grant opportunities due in July, a Sawyer County jail culinary arts training program soon to be underway funded by EDC donations, and the 2020 Covid response team efforts that touched 43 local businesses last year in efforts to help navigate the myriad of programs coming from the federal and state governments at that time.

**Motorized and Non-motorized Trail Report** – Mr. Mrotek reported that area snowmobiling began in the 1960's, and in the 1970's the County started applying for and receiving trail grant funds for maintenance. Sawyer County is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest trail system within the state. A review of the bridge on Indian Trail needs to be conducted to determine condition.

American Birkebeiner – A written report was provided. Mr. Duffy stated that the Birkie will be adding a new race day on Wednesday of Birkie week which should bring visitors downtown. Registrations for the 2021 race are ahead of last year and ahead of 2019.

**Letter of Support for LCOOCC** – Mr. Schlender provided a letter of support on behalf of the County Board of Supervisors for Agricultural and Economic Development support of Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe Community College’s University Center Economic Development Program application. A motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Duffy to approve this letter and advance it to the full County Board for consideration in June. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Mission Statement** – At the behest of the County Board, Mr. Schlender re-introduced the committee mission statement. After a legal review and review of the Reporting Relationship functions between this committee and other committees, a motion was made by Ms. Hessel; second by Mr. Duffy to re-introduce this mission statement to the June County Board meeting with the following verbiage added to the end of the Reporting Relationship section. “The Committee shall have the primary responsibility of conferring with and acting as liaison for the following organizations ***for purposes of economic development.***” Motion carried without negative vote.

**Future Agenda Items** – Maintenance of county historical markers

**Meeting Date/Time** – The next meeting of the Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee will be Tuesday, July 5, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 am  
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk