

**Minutes of the August 7th meeting of the Sawyer County
Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Board Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Andy Albarado	Sherry Beckman
Monica Johnson	Cathy LaReau
Lynn Fitch	Linda Zillmer
Molly Lank-Jones	Donna Knuckey
Lori Baltrusis	Ariga Gregoryan
Rick Christiansen – 8:39 am	Jim Ferguson

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 – Linda Zillmer

Minutes from previous meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Righeimer to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023, meeting; second by Ms. Hessel. Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association Report -

The Fair is in two weeks (August 17-19th); lots of renovations on the grounds have been taking place; Mr. Christiansen reviewed the projects.

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report -

A Division of Extension – County Partnership Guidance document dated 8/1/2021 was provided for review. Ms. Gregoryan provided information on the Clean Sweep program to be held on September 13th at the Fairgrounds. She reported that she is working on a community survey with the Town of Spider Lake, and teamed up with UW-Madison Center of Agriculture to establish a partnership with LCO University to learn how to do research in a lab. She was asked to teach grant writing tips to the WTA group, and was asked to update the housing study with a goal of September as to having the data updated. Ms. Baltrusis provided a hand-out from the literacy link. A copy of the Division of Extension – County Partnership Guidance document was shared. The roles of various staff positions is outlined in the document.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau -

A written report was provided identifying 2021/2022 key performance indicators and Hayward, Sawyer County, demographic information. 2022 performance in website page views and Town of Hunter room tax collection were down slightly but all other indicators were up. Sawyer County traveler expenditure exceeded \$95.9 million in 2022, and 72% of travelers are on leisure trips. Ms. Beckman reviewed the highlights; the majority of visitors are coming from other areas of Wisconsin and Illinois is second.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission Report -

Mr. Duffy handed out a copy of a letter from Crystal Rohde, Business Development Specialist, requesting project status updates as well as a 2022-2024 NWRPC committed project list, Sawyer having eight documented projects.

Economic Development Corporation Report -

Ms. Johnson provided an update of activity, including one-on-one consulting projects. After hour learning events have been well-attended. They are working to grow school internship opportunities in the area.

Library Updates -

A written report from the Winter Library was provided; Donna Knuckey presented the new community activities and fundraising that remain for summer. Ms. Lank-Jones handed out her report for the Hayward Weiss Library and provided a review. They continue to show children's movies on Thursdays.

Motorized Trail and Non-Motorized Trail Report -

Ms. LaReau provided a verbal update. They are putting a Ride Safe event at the High School for youth, stressing safety and proper gear for riding. The quarterly NorTac meeting was held and a comprehensive users survey for motorized sports should be ready for a fall launch. The Bayfield County is in the process of opening all county roads for ATV/UTV use; Sawyer and Washburn counties have not yet done so. Discover Wisconsin is coming this week to highlight the Nelson Lake area, including a segment on riding which should launch mid-October. Trail maintenance was completed after flood damage. Mr. Duffy reported that LWC had a successful event and the Birkie trail run is scheduled for

Broadband Update -

Mr. Albarado provided a link to current WISER survey results.

Historical Society -

Mr. Ferguson reported a busy year thus far. They have been working with LCO for the 100th year for the flooding of the Flowage. They have several area historical books for sale.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee will be Monday, September 11th, at 8:30 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:41 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk