

**Minutes of the November 6, 2023 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
- Chris Rusk

Andy Albarado
Lynn Fitch
Donna Knuckey
Lori Baltrusis
Ann Larson

Others Present:

Sherry Beckman
Jim Ferguson
Cathy LaReau
Rick

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 Mr. Righeimer to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2023, meeting; second by Ms. Hessel. Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association Report -

Mr. Christians provided a verbal update stating that numbers for the 2023 fair were up about 1,000 people. They will be adding more handicap seating for next year. The continue to work on grounds maintenance projects.

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report -

Lori Baltrusis provided a verbal update of department activities including looking at an AmeriCorps position that would help supplement staffing for 4-H. Education programs in the schools are ongoing.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau -

A written report was provided highlighting the bureau's southern Sawyer County marketing benefits. Sherry Beckman highlighted other Bureau activities including their annual dinner. During major events in Hayward, they work with non-member lodging establishments to assist visitors in finding lodging.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission Report -

No update

Economic Development Corporation Report -

There is a meeting on Thursday of this week; they are interviewing for the director position.

Library Updates -

Weiss Library provided a written report of activities and was reviewed by Ms. Larson. The calendar of events is included. One activity will help teach good manners to children and another on teaching letter writing. Ms. Knuckey provided a verbal update on the Winter Library. Last year they had 9,044 items circulated and this year they are at 8,311 items, expecting to surpass last year. Attendance at activities has also increased. Homespun Holidays in Winter is the Saturday after Thanksgiving and the Library has a booth to sell raffle tickets at this event. Ms. Knuckey attended a conference on rural library functions; paid for by grant funds.

Motorized Trail and Non-Motorized Trail Report -

Ms. LaReau provided a verbal update. She attended the AWSC conference this past month for snowmobile clubs. Last year's snowmobile trail pass sales brought in \$4,239,000. Mr. Duffy provided a copy of Ben Popp's email reporting on the silent sport trails. Birkie Winter Trail kids is now full with over 150 kids as well as most of the other Birkie events; lights have been repaired at CTH 00 and Hatchery for winter trail skiing.

Broadband Update -

Mr. Albarado advised that the current round of applications for projects ends November 7th. We are providing letters of support for some of these requests.

LCO Update

Concrete footings are in and construction will start soon, as they are on schedule. Opening is scheduled for May 2025.

Historical Society -

Mr. Ferguson advised that winter hours are in place for the office, open on Thursdays 10a – 2p and by appointment. Their quarterly meeting was held and approximately 70 people attended.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk