

**Minutes of the February 9, 2026 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: John Righeimer
- ☒ Vice Chair: Stacey Hessel
- ☐ Tom Duffy
- ☒ Steve Kariainen
- ☒ Randy Neumann

Mike Markgren
Laura Bruce
Lori Baltrusis
Tawonga Zakeyu

Others Present:

Mindy Simons
Ariga Grigoryan

Call to Order – Chair Righeimer 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 -- Set

Public Comments – None

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: January 5, 2025

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Neumann Second by: Mr. Kariainen

Motion carried without negative vote.

Library—

UW Extension—Ms. Baltrusis reported on the vision statement and County goals. Ms. Zakeyu, the new Regional Agriculture Educator, was introduced. Ms. Grigoryan discussed the results from the Town of Draper’s community survey. Mr. Righeimer requested information on other township participation in similar surveys.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau Report—

Ms. Simons reported on search engine optimization, which includes Google and YouTube ads, publication ads and social media engagement, and how it impacts Sawyer County. She spoke regarding the excellent winter conditions as it relates to outdoor recreation and sports and the positive impact it has on the community.

NWRPC Report— None

SC/LCO Economic Development Corporation Report— Ms. Hessel read an email report from Mr. Lamoureaux. She reported on the Talent Recruitment and Thrive Grants. Mr. Righeimer requested an update on a proposal for commercial EV charging station.

Trail Reports--

Mr. Neumann reported for the Sawyer County Snowmobile Alliance on motorized trails; the report included updates on the current trail conditions, local business updates, snowmobile safety classes, and fundraisers. There was no report for Non-Motorized trails .

Board Appointed Committee Updates –

No reports

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences— Ms. Hessel reported the Biofuel bill will be voted on this week.

Future Agenda Items – None

Adjournment – 8:57 am

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee will be Monday, March 9, 2026 at 8:30 am in the Board Room.

Minutes recorded by Laura Bruce, Elected Official Deputy Clerk