

**Minutes of the October 11th 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 – Virtual
- ☒ Stacey Hessel
- ☐ Brian Bisonette

Others Present:

Tom Hoff
Mike Coleson
Lynn Fitch
Lori Baltrusis
Mike Gardner
Sherry Beckman
Linda Zillmer – Virtual
James Bolen
Ken Pearson
Sheldon Johnson

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 – Linda Zillmer

Minutes from previous meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Duffy to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2021, meeting; second by Ms. Hessel. Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association Report – Ms. Hessel read the fair report stating that the fair board annual meeting is to be held next week, they are working on capital improvement projects on the grounds, and contracts for next year's fair are already underway.

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report – Written documents provided. Ms. Baltrusis reported that only two individuals attended the visioning session; notes from that session are included in the packet. She is moving ahead in crafting the job description and posting the open position.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau Report – Written report provided. Ms. Beckman reported that their annual meeting is to be held next week. The distribution of the new room tax from the Town of Round Lake has been determined and HLVCB will receive 70% of the funds with 10% restricted to marketing the Town of Round Lake. She applied for and is receiving another grant in the amount of \$11,225 for snowmobiling promotions.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission – Mr. Johnson reported on the activities of NWRPC. The Sand Lake food pantry is moving forward, they have awarded two additional Bounce Back grants in Sawyer County, and he has met with LCO on an EDA planning feasibility project. The quarterly revolving loan report will be available next month.

Economic Development Report – Written report provided. Mr. Gardner noted that he has been assisting area businesses in the grant writing process for many of the programs available, the jail's culinary training program resulted in eight graduates receiving various certificates of completion, and he is working on other new business development opportunities such as a potential business incubation. Upcoming events include the Small Community Business Forum on October 26th, co-hosting Business After 5 at Backroads Coffee on October 28th, and the annual meeting on November 11th.

Mr. James Bolen presented an overview of a potential new development project being. A team has been organized to study the feasibility of and potentially developing two destination resort locations, one being in the Cable area and the other near Spider Lake/Clear Lake. If it comes to fruition, it could provide 65 new full-time county jobs and employ 200 construction workers for up to 20 months. They currently have \$16M in private equity secured and \$70M in potential investment funds thus far. They would like to ask the County to be a pass-through agency for potential grant funds that may become available for these projects.

Trail Report – Mr. Duffy provided a written copy of the Birkie/silent sport email from Ben Popp. Mr. Mrotek provided a statistical overview of the impact of motorized sports. While snowmobile demographics have remained fairly unchanged over the past 50 years, the demographics of ATV/UTV riders has changed greatly. There are 250,000 registered snowmobile users in Wisconsin while there are 450,000 ATV/UTV registered users. Sawyer County has a good share of all trail systems in the State of Wisconsin.

Affirmation of Legal Protections from Healthcare Choice Discrimination Resolution – Mr. Boettcher presented a resolution to consider protection for employees against termination based on the vaccine mandate. A motion was made by Mr. Boettcher; second by Ms. Hessel to ask legal counsel to review and move the resolution to the October Administration Committee. The motion carried 3–1 with three “aye” votes (Hessel, Schlender, Boettcher), one “nay” vote (Duffy) and one board member, Brian Bisonette being absent.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee will be Monday, November 1, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:39 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk