



Sawyer County

Agenda

Economic Development & UW Extension Committee Meeting

Monday, January 9, 2023 @ 8:30 AM

Assembly Room/Virtual Meeting

Revised: Monday, January 9, 2023 9:41 AM

Page

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. To view or participate in the **virtual meeting** from a computer, iPad, or Android device please go to <https://zoom.us/j/97642007840>. You can also use the dial in at 1-312-626-6799 with the Webinar ID: 976 4200 7840. Use *9 to Raise/lower hand and *6 to Unmute/mute. If additional assistance is needed please contact the County Clerk's Office at 715-634-4866 prior to the meeting. If you are on a computer, click the "Raise Hand" button and wait to be recognized. If you are on a telephone, dial *9 and wait to be recognized.

2. ROLL CALL

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW

5. MEETING AGENDA

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a. At this time, members of the public will be given the opportunity to address the Committee. Please adhere to the following when addressing the Committee:
 - Comments will be limited to 3 minutes or less per individual.
 - Comments should be directed to the Committee as a whole and not directed to individual Committee members.
 - The Committee cannot respond to your comments during this time.
 - Please sign in and fill out a public comment sheet if you wish to speak on an item.

7. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

4 - 5	a.	12.5.22 Econ.UWEX Minutes DRAFT
	8.	SAWYER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FAIR ASSOCIATION REPORT
	9.	UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION DEPARTMENT REPORT
6 - 17	a.	UWEX Report
	10.	HAYWARD LAKES VISITORS & CONVENTION BUREAU
18 - 19	a.	Hayward Lakes Marketing Activity Report 2022
	11.	NORTHWEST REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT
	12.	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REPORT
	a.	Northwood Technical College Workforce Training Facility & Housing Development
	13.	LIBRARY UPDATES
20 - 22	a.	1) Winter Library Director's Report 12.27.2022 2) Hayward Director's Report for 1-9-23 Economic Dev Comm Mtg
	14.	MOTORIZED TRAIL AND NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL REPORT
23 - 28	a.	Jan4.2023Report Non motorized trail report
	15.	BROADBAND UPDATE
	a.	National Broadband Map Review
	b.	Support of Broadband Projects & Grant Applications
	16.	HOUSING
	17.	HISTORICAL SOCIETY
	18.	FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
	19.	CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS
		DISCLAIMER:

A quorum of the County Board of Supervisors or of any of its committees may be present at this meeting to listen and observe. Neither the Board nor any of the committees have established attendance at this meeting as an official function of the Board or committee(s) or otherwise made a determination that attendance at the meeting is necessary to carry out the Board or committee's function. The only purpose for other supervisors attending the meeting is to listen to the information presented. Neither the Board nor any committee (other than the committee providing this notice and agenda) will take any official action with respect to this noticed meeting.

Copy sent via email to: County Clerk and News Media. Note: Any person wishing to attend whom, because of a disability, requires accommodation should call the Sawyer County Clerk's Office (715.634.4866) at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting so appropriate arrangements can be made.

Mission Statement: Provide the leadership for implementation of the Education and Economic Development for Sawyer County. To provide leadership in monitoring outcomes, reviewing, and recommending for the County Board all policies related to educational and economic development initiatives of Sawyer County.

**Minutes of the December 5th 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: Tom Duffy
- ☒ VC -- John Righeimer
- ☒ Stacey Hessel
- ☒ Brian Bisonette - virtual
- ☒ Chris Rusk - virtual

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Kate Ross-Barido
Lynn Fitch
Molly Lank-Jones

Cathy LaReau
Sherry Beckman - virtual

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 Ms. Hessel to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2022, meeting; second by Mr. Righeimer. Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association Report –

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report –

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau Report – A written report was provided. Ms. Beckman advised that this month's report was on ATV/UTV activity. 67.9% of online searches are finding what they need in our county without HLVCB having to pay for the search results. Approximately 3,000 ATV/UTV/snowmobile trail maps are distributed annually at the Information Center and sport shows. A separate City of Hayward map is also available.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission – Mr. Pearson provided a review of NWRPC activities. The annual meeting is scheduled on December 7th at Flat Creek; several Bounceback recipients will be speaking. This program is wrapping up by December 27th. They have had ten inquiries since September regarding the revolving loan fund program. Ken is working with one Hayward business on the façade update program.

Economic Development Report – Ms. Barido-Ross provided a report of activities for SCLCO-EDC. They are continuing to improve the website. They had a placemaking event at LCO and had about 12 people in attendance. Jordan St. Germaine at LCO will now take over any projects that came out of the event. She welcomed Andy Albarado as a new member at large for their board of directors. She reported that there will be some grant funds available for entrepreneurs in the county; a newspaper notice will be in the paper this week.

Library Updates -- Written reports were provided. Ms. Lank-Jones provided a calendar of events for December and advised that the library is applying for new grant funds for specific projects. They are sending out a holiday fundraising letter.

Motorized/Non-Motorized Trail Report – Ms. LaReau reported they are transitioning into snowmobile season so they have been moving the data counters to new locations. She intends to put an article in the newspaper regarding some of the more unfamiliar laws regarding snowmobiling.

Historical Society –

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

DRAFT



Purpose: We teach, learn, lead and serve, connecting people with the University of Wisconsin, and engaging with them in transforming lives and communities.

Vision: To be a thriving, well-known, and sought-out education resource that reflects the rich diversity of the state.

Values: Community, Discovery, Inclusiveness, Relationships, and Respect



FoodWise
Bridget Rongner –
Burnett/Sawyer/Washburn
Coordinator
bridget.rongner@wisc.edu
715-635-4444



Kimberly Clark
– Educator
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Programming with Lac Courte Oreilles

- **Around the Table** is a 6-week nutrition education series for older students at Lac Courte Oreilles St. Francis Solanus, where students receive trauma-sensitive facilitation of nutrition and cooking activities, resulting in teens' greater acceptance of healthy foods and increased cooking skills.
- **Discover MyPlate** is a 6-week nutrition education series for younger students at Lac Courte Oreilles St. Francis Solanus, where students will learn about MyPlate, the five food groups, and try new fruits and vegetables. The goal of the series is for students to learn about being physically active and help them to be healthier in school and at home.
- **Bingocize** continues with Lac Courte Oreilles ADRC where Elders engage in an evidence-based health promotion program that strategically combines the game of bingo, health education and exercise. The goal is to increase functional fitness, healthy eating and social engagement.
- A monthly series of 11 nutrition lessons at the Lac Courte Oreilles **Elder Meal Site** to help Elders overcome barriers to eating healthy. The goal of the series is eating more fruits and vegetables, replacing refined grains with whole grains, reducing intake of sugar-sweetened beverages, and practicing food budgeting techniques to improve food security and availability of healthy foods.

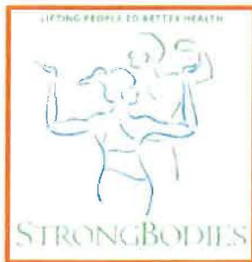
BiNGOCIZE!



Programming at the Phoenix Villa Low-Income Apartments

A six-week pilot program (**Walk With Ease**) where middle-aged and older adults engage in physical activity by walking safely and comfortably and receive nutrition education. The goal is to increase functional fitness, healthy eating, and social engagement.

- A series of lessons from **Seniors Eating Well** intended to improve the nutrition and health status for middle and older adults. The goal of the lessons focused on meal planning, decision making, food preparation, social relationships, diet, health, and the prevention of chronic disease.



FoodWise offered two **StrongBodies** programs in the late fall and early winter to Sawyer County seniors, including an in-person option in partnership with LCO Elder center and a virtual option with Winter Public Library through a collaboration with our FoodWise colleagues in NW Wisconsin. StrongBodies is a physical activity program for middle and older adults where participants improve strength, balance, and flexibility, and receive nutrition and health education. The goal of this effort is for participants to stay healthy, prevent injury, and to socially connect.

Bridget also completed a new professional development opportunity called **Systems Approaches for Healthy Communities**. This is a program that promotes the integration of policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) change approaches with educational strategies. It was designed for professionals whose work focuses on health promotion to help build skills to expand work across many levels to impact policies, systems, and environments. Bridget plans to use the strategies and tools gained from this training to develop a plan for PSE work in Sawyer County that authentically reflects engagement and an understanding of factors that influence whether our community members of all ages and situations can easily make healthy choices.



4-H Program/Community Youth Development Educator

Donna Knuckey,
Donna.knuckey@wisc.edu
715-638-3294



Heart of the North
BARRON RUSK SAWYER WASHBURN

The Heart of the North (HON) legislative group is comprised of individuals from Barron, Rusk, Sawyer and Washburn Counties. This is the 11th year of HON bringing issues important to our region to the attention of elected officials and State Agencies in Madison. The group typically meets with State Legislatures and department personnel to explain and advocate for issues that are specific to our counties in Northwest Wisconsin. Donna Knuckey, Sawyer County 4-H and PYD Educator, is the co-chair for the youth component of HON. There is a youth training that will be held on January 10th at Birchwood School. The training is for the youth delegates that are part of the Heart of the North delegation. The training consists of expectations and responsibilities as well as how to be active participants with the delegation team. The whole group of youth and adult delegation team will be meeting January 19th to prepare further for the **February 2nd meeting with Legislation in Madison.**

Additional Learning Opportunities

Collaborative work has increased opportunities for members and families in Barron, Burnett, Rusk, Sawyer and Washburn counties! Participants have indicated that they value these programs and would like them to continue. During the months of January, February, and March we will offer global programming for K-2 grade (Cloverbuds), all ages and 5-8 grade.

PUTTING THE ART IN STEM
All ages and older

GLOBAL REACH
All ages and older

GLOBAL FOODS
All ages and older

ANIMAL SCIENCE
All ages and older



2023 LEADERSHIP DAY

Join youth and adults from Barron, Burnett, Rusk, Sawyer, and Washburn Counties to learn leadership skills that you can implement today!

Who: Youth and Adult Leaders
(Youth leaders: 5th grade and older; younger club officers are welcome)

When: Saturday, January 14
9AM-5PM

Where: Hunt Hill,
N2384 Hunt Hill Rd, Sarona, WI 54870

Cost: Free
snacks provided, you will need to bring a big lunch



Register Today!

wi4honline.com

Registration deadline: December 19

SESSIONS

Feedback is the Breakfast of Leaders

Running Effective Meetings

Icebreakers & Activities that you can use today

Are you Trending as a Youth Leader?

SPARKS - Thriving Model

Winter Fun



Significant planning for a multi-county educational event for older 4-H youth, adult volunteers, and club officers, where they participate in hands-on learning about components of a club meeting, being a leader, being active participants with youth-adult partnerships and youth voice. The secondary outcome of this event is for youth and adults to meet likeminded people from throughout our five-county area and engage in outdoor winter recreation like sledding, snowshoeing, and snowman building at an environmental education center.

A series of virtual and interactive hands-on activities for youth and families are planned where they can explore project areas in 4-H in order to practice their skills or to learn something new. The goal is to ensure youth have opportunities to explore and learn and connect with people, learn new skills, and have a sense of belonging.



Discovering 4-H Series Grades K-2

JOIN US VIA ZOOM!

6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
Scan QR code to register!
Register by Jan. 6



- January 17- Head- Straw Rockets
- January 31- Heart- "The Day You Begin" Book
- February 14 -Hands - Lava Mug Cake
- February 28- Health- Happy minds and bodies

EXPLORE 4-H

Together we will explore what 4-H means and explain the Head, Heart, Hands, and Health with fun activities! Receive a box with supplies, a supply list, and connect information for the interactive zooms!

For questions, contact: Your Local Extension Office

An EEO/AA employer, University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title VI, Title IX, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act requirements.



Discovering 4-H Series Grades 3-6

Let's Celebrate!

- January 24: Making Paper Art
- February 7: Mixing Food, Science, and Art
- February 21: Adding Wellness to your Routine
- January 24-February 21 (ongoing) Goosechase app interactive experience



EXPLORE 4-H

When you join 4-H, you are part of the nation's largest youth development organization, and that's SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE!

JOIN US VIA ZOOM!

Jan. 24, Feb. 7, Feb. 21
6:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.
Scan QR code to register!
Open until Jan. 6



Questions? Contact Donna Knuckey, donna.knuckey@wisc.edu

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Agriculture Development Educator

Kevin Schoessow

Kevin.schoessow@wisc.edu

715-635-3506/1-800-528-1914

Kevin continues with a series of personal conversations, direct teachings, emails, and telephone consultations with FoodWise Educators, High School Family and Consumer Education Teachers and students, Tribal elders and community members, Aging & Disability Resource Center Nutrition Directors, and Food Shelves staff and volunteers to help them learn and understand the benefits of eating healthy local foods, and how local foods can be grown in community or home gardens to supplement food purchases and provide needed accesses to fresh nutritious vegetables.

The **Northwest Wisconsin Graziers Network** is a group of farmers and agribusiness that promotes livestock production through managed grazing and encourages farmer-to-farmer networking and sponsors on-farm educational events and conferences. With assistance from Extension, this organization conducted an all-day educational event on November 5, 2022 for new farmers, part-time and full-time



operators, low-income startups, graziers and non-graziers featuring guest speakers, farmer/local resources panel, commercial and agency exhibitors, and farmer-to-farmer networking. Participants learned about grazing fundamentals, cattle stockmanship and handling facilities, wildlife and grazing ecology and future grazing opportunities and programs. This conference has been held biannually for many years. For additional information see [https://grasslandag.org/blog/grazing-network-thriving-in-](https://grasslandag.org/blog/grazing-network-thriving-in-northwest-wisconsin/)

[northwest-wisconsin/](https://grasslandag.org/blog/grazing-network-thriving-in-northwest-wisconsin/)The next conference is **March 4, 2023 in Shell Lake.**

The **Teaching and Display Garden** <https://spooner.ars.wisc.edu/demonstration-garden/> located at the Spooner Ag Research Station is an award-winning garden featuring annual flowers and vegetables and various perennial displays. It is open to the public and hosts workshops, field days, and guided tours. This fall NorthStar Charter School students spent over 3 hours in the garden learning about a range of garden topics including the value of pollinators and pollinator habitat, vegetable and flower varieties, the importance of soil and composting, and how horticulture research is conducted. The goal is to expand students' understanding of food production and how to connect with their food through gardening while providing experiences for students to learn about and taste new vegetables.

A community event for Barron Electric coop members, friends, and families was held in October where dozens of participants learned about horticulture information and educational opportunities offered through UW-Madison Division of Extension through displays and demonstration. The goal is for

participants to learn more about horticulture programs associated with the Teaching & Display Gardens located at the Spooner Ag Research Station, to answer their questions about growing vegetables, and to learn about organic vegetable variety research being conducted through the Seed to Kitchen Collaborative at the Spooner Ag Research Station.

Produce donations from the Spooner Agriculture Research Station in 2022.

The Spooner Agriculture Research Station in partnership with UW-Madison researchers and UW-Madison Division of Extension staff **host several horticulture research and demonstrations projects.** These projects include the Seed to Kitchen Collaborative (SKC) organic vegetable variety research project, the Organic Seed Potato research project and the Teaching and Display Garden (TDG). The primary objective of these projects is to collect research data and to show-case how various organically grown vegetables perform in short-season growing conditions of NW Wisconsin. A secondary benefit or by-product of these projects is the production of healthy and nutritious fresh organic produce that can be donated and used for various outreach efforts.

Produce donations were coordinated by Extension and distributed to over 20 organizations in the regions. These organizations represent public, tribal and non-profit organizations. Some use the produce to teach people about gardening, cooking and food preservations, others incorporate the food directly into meals for constituents, and others distribute the produce through food shelves or other free community donation sites.

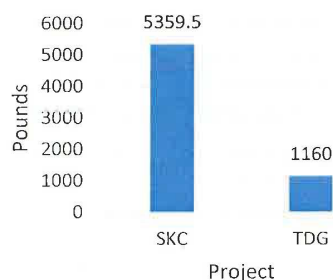
Once research data is collected the produce is 'released' for donation and outreach purposes. Produce is sorted, graded, and placed in paper lined boxes for distribution. Prior to donations being picked and delivered to organizations, all produce boxes are weighed and recorded, noting the date, type of produce, and recipient organization.

Organizations whose primary mission is education and outreach were given priority, followed by tribal communities, senior and elder nutrition sites, and lastly food shelves. Effort was made to evenly distribute produce across Burnett, Sawyer, and Washburn Counties, however, due to access to volunteer drivers or other logistics, this was not always possible.



Foodwise participants enjoy receiving produce donations

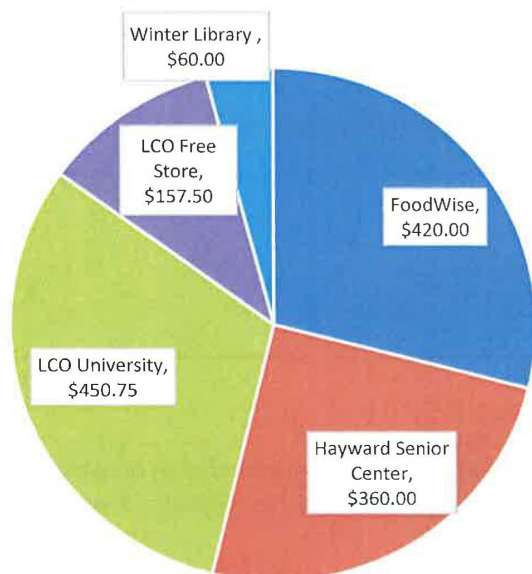
Total pounds of produce donated by Project in 2022





Also note, the Seed to Kitchen Project transported over 2,500 lbs. of winter squash back to Madison where it was placed in a controlled storage environment, to document storage characteristics. In the past some of this storage winter squash was donated to local organizations.

Dollar value (\$1.50/lb) of produce donated
by organization: Sawyer Co. 2022



In 2022 over 6,500 lbs. of produce were donated with an estimated value of \$9,799.25 using an average value of \$1.50/lbs. Sorted by county Burnett Co. organizations received 2,499 lbs. or 38% of the total, Sawyer Co. received 965 lbs. or 15% of the total, and Washburn Co. received 2,575 lbs. or 40% of the total. Barron Co. (Paul's Soup Kitchen) received 479 lbs. or 7% of the total donations.

The five organizations that received the largest amount of produce donations were Extension FoodWise educators, St. Croix Tribe, Washburn Co ADRC, Washburn Co Food Shelf, and LCO Tribe.

Referenced values of produced were chosen based on an informal survey of wholesale pricing from colleagues and from nutrition meal site staff.

DATCP Released 1.6 Million in Grants

DATCP has released funding for a statewide Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Grant Program (aka NOPP). This funding makes \$1.6 million available in grants to farmers across Wisconsin for on-farm research related to Nitrogen fertilizer management. Producers can receive up to \$50,000 each to fund a relevant project idea they have. The primary project structures aim to determine optimum Nitrogen fertilizer application rates for crops and how management practices may affect the optimum rate. The goal of this funding is to acquire research-based data.





The most successful projects might be ones that collaborate with gov't agencies, multiple farms, and/or industry partners. A project could be as simple as identifying optimum Nitrogen rates for a crop to as complex as looking at the interaction between management techniques like reduced tillage or grazing and their effects on optimum Nitrogen rates (or as creative as someone wants to be, as long as it still fits with the purpose of the grant money).

Extension will cooperate as a UW collaborator, support the application process, help answer producer questions, and help navigate UW contacts for those interested in applying for this grant money or grant recipients.

DATCP Grant applications are due January 31st, 2023.



Extension Director

Lori Baltrusis

Email: lori.baltrusis@wisc.edu

Phone 715-295-4112

In January, Lori will have conversations with county partners to gather information on what is valued about Extension and what directions Extension should take within the next 5 years. If you'd like to engage in a conversation, let Lori know!

Extension receives federal funding from USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and other sources. As a result, we are accountable for compliance with specific federal non-discrimination laws and policies. In October, the Sawyer County team helped host the Director and Compliance Coordinator/Equity Strategist of the UW Office of Access, Inclusion and Compliance. We presented our story of engagement with all audiences and how we work with the underserved populations of Sawyer County.

Sawyer County Educators attended the Extension All-Colleague Conference in Madison at the beginning of December. The theme of the conference was "Extension Reconnected," and it was an engaging and impactful opportunity to reconnect with colleagues across the state and to attend learning sessions about different programs and initiatives spearheaded by Extension. This conference sparked excitement and ideas for new programs and partnerships that would be a great fit for Sawyer County. We look forward to exploring these potential opportunities and bringing some new initiatives to our area in 2023.



Community Resources and Development Educator

Ariga Grigoryan
Ariga.grigoryan@wis.edu
715-638-3295



Grant writing Course with Lac Courte Oreilles University. In March and November of 2022, two grant writing courses were offered. Each session was attended by a variety of audiences including multiple counties from the State of Wisconsin and nationwide including MI, IA, PA. The course was a 16-hour course, divided by 4-hour sessions. In this course participants learn how to research for grants, the structure of grants including federal, state and private; how to build relationships with funders; and how to build a

funding strategy for the organizations to become more financially sustainable. A session of the November grant course was taught by a colleague Patrick Nehring, from Brown & Kewaunee Counties. Patrick elaborated on 990 forms that help research grant providers to build a funding strategy for local organizations and accomplish their mission. The November course was attended by 15 participants, who completed the course successfully and shared positive feedback on the course. Some of the comments include:

"The clarity and certainty of the topics as presented was done in a way that helped me feel confident as well as peaceful. The "try again" if the grant isn't accepted was part of the peace given."

"Amber and Ariga are experts in federal grants. My work is funded by the private sector and, minimally, state grants. If the class description had said the focus would be federal grants, I might have not taken the course. I definitely learned things and am glad I took the class, however!"

Ariga continues offering Grant Writing guidance to local organizations including non-profits, local governments and private individuals who need assistance for funds. Grant co-authoring was offered various times to a local non-profit that received funding for their organization including \$7,500 and a \$15,000 funding has been applied for. Ariga also partnered with Matt Kures, the Community Economic Development Specialist with the Community Development Institute, UW-Madison Division of Extension to provide demographic and statistical data for a local organization to apply for a significant amount of funding.

UW-Madison, Division of Extension is also able to provide assistance for evaluations as part of grant proposals and lead the organizations through the evaluation journey. Evaluations can be part of grant programs and also a fee burden for local organizations to contract with third part entities for evaluation assistance. This is a resource that UW-Madison, Division of Extension in Sawyer County and LCO tribe can provide free of charge to local organizations.



A two-hour Grant Writing Workshop was offered on October 18th, with Resource Development colleagues from Outagamie & Winnebago Counties, Eau Claire, Chippewa and Dunn Counties as well as Brown & Kewaunee. Over 90 participants signed up from across the state of Wisconsin to learn about grant writing. The second workshop was offered on November 10th, which was a bilingual workshop in English with interpretation into Spanish. More than 135 participants signed up for the second session. Currently, we are planning to offer another workshop to be held on February 15th, from 10am-12pm. Registration information will be shared within the county and online.

Grant Writing Basics Virtual Workshop

Tuesday October 18th, 10:00am - 12:00pm

Participants will learn:

The outline of a common grant proposal.
Where to look for funding for your organization.
The most common grant writing mistakes.
And **MORE!**

Experienced Extension Educators will co-lead the workshop to make it informative, fun, and interactive!



Extension
UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN-MADISON



Real Colors was offered to Sawyer County employees in November, 2022. Various departments from Sawyer County participated in learning and gaining knowledge about their own temperament, and the importance of knowing themselves and their teams while working together.

The **Real Colors** training is a tool that is being utilized by various organizations to boost collegiality, provide organizational development and build effective teams. Effective teams usually boost productivity and efficiency and lead to successful project completions.

The offered session received very positive feedback from all 11 participants who attended the workshop. Some

departments expressed their interest in continuing as a professional development opportunity for their departments. Based on these results, we will continue offering Real Colors Temperament Assessment Training to the Sawyer County employees. Some comments from our evaluations included:

"Excellent two hours flew by. Really learned how to identify characteristics. Would like to see more trainings like this."

"I learned more about who I am. I will look at co-workers differently and know everyone is different. I think it was great! Would love to attend more workshops."

Other Ways Extension is Serving Sawyer County:

Lauren Larsen – Regional Natural Resources Educator (Forestry Focus)

Dr. Larsen offered a series of two field days for woodland owners in Barron, Rusk, Sawyer and Washburn counties where participants learned about ongoing and new forest health threats by visiting several sites with current or past forest health issues to discuss management options. Through this, landowners can better manage their woodlands having learned about how a changing climate enhances forest health issues, how to identify local forest health concerns on their property, and management options for woodlands that have forest pests or pathogens.

"It was great! Nice to learn about and be aware of new things in the woods."
- Participant from Sawyer County



Forest Health Specialist
(Paul Cigan)

- There is more planning statewide and local activities for consumer audiences (home gardeners) for **National Pollinator Week 2023**. The goal of this effort is to increase knowledge and awareness of pollinators, pollinator habitat, and adopt practices that increase habitat and mitigate pollinator decline.



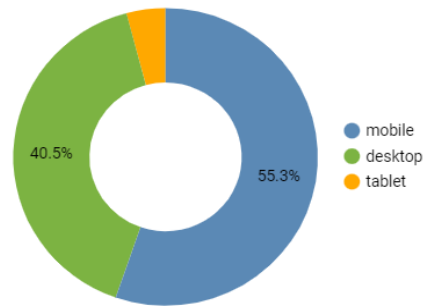
An evening health and wellness program (6 classes) for adults across the state where eleven mental health skills were learned. These skills help participants connect with their positive emotions in order to improve their ability to manage stress, increase their use of healthy coping skills, experience more positive emotions, and improve their mental health.



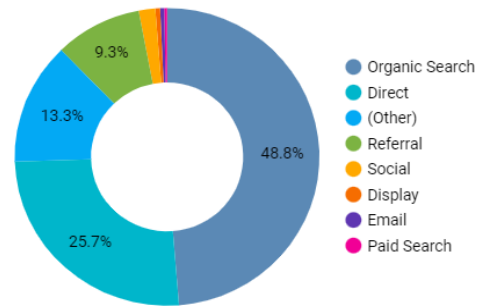
General Website Traffic Summary

Users	Sessions	Pageviews	Pages / Session
103,685	169,097	544,576	3.22

Mobile / Desktop



Channels



Top Referrals

Source / Medium	Sessions
google / organic	75,702
(direct) / (none)	46,025
madden / googlepc	11,886
namekagontransit.com / referral	5,835
bing / organic	4,710
travelwisconsin.com / referral	4,558
adampg / Targeted Display	2,617
yahoo / organic	2,368
facebook / paidsocial	1,757
sawyercountyalliance.com / referral	1,623

Top States (Traffic)

Region	Users	New Users	Sessions
Wisconsin	31,027	29,703	49,911
Illinois	18,386	17,290	32,672
Minnesota	17,987	17,004	25,176
Washington	7,084	6,425	9,743
Iowa	2,950	2,803	5,165
(not set)	4,267	4,122	4,439
Florida	1,507	1,405	4,203
Virginia	3,521	3,482	3,701
California	2,854	2,773	3,530
Texas	1,918	1,693	3,237

Top Performing Pages

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Home page | 6. Outdoor Report |
| 2. Web Cam | 7. Events |
| 3. Activities | 8. Fall Color Tour |
| 4. Places to Stay | 9. Contact Us |
| 5. Snowmobile | 10. Fishing |

Top Activity Pages

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Snowmobile | 6. Bike |
| 2. Fishing | 7. Swimming |
| 3. Skiing | 8. Hiking |
| 4. ATV | 9. Canoe/kayak |
| 5. Golf | 10. Shopping |

Social Media Performance

Facebook Likes

4,920

Instagram Followers

2,497

Top Posts Facebook

1. Snap a selfie January 18, 2022
2. Snap a selfie January 24, 2022
3. Musky July 25, 2022
4. Snap A selfie January 27, 2022
5. Happy Halloween October 31, 2022

Top Posts Instagram

1. April 17th Musky HOF With Bunny Ears Easter
2. July 25th Musky Fishing
3. Oct 31st Happy Halloween Musky HOF w/Hat
4. Dec 25th Musky HOF with Christmas Hat
5. Oct 12th Fall Color

YouTube Performance

Views

3,246

Avg Watch Time

00:00:38

Website Form Performance

Map Requests

Map

ATV/Snowmobile Map for Sawyer County

ATV/Snowmobile NW WI Corridor Map

Explore Map Hayward/Sawyer County

Birchwood Bobcat Riders ATV/Snow Map

Shop & Dine

Lake Chippewa Flowage Map

Calendar of Events

Hiking, Biking and XC Ski Trails Map

Quiet Lakes

Nelson Lake Map

Namekagon River Map

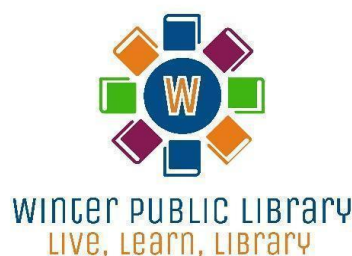
Birchwood Area Vacation Guide

Road Bike Map

Winter Area Vacation Guide

Mountain Biking Trail Map CAMBA

Lac Courte Oreilles Tribal Government



WINTER PUBLIC LIBRARY

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

By Donna Knuckey

winter.wislib@gmail.com

Mission Statement: The mission of the Winter Public Library is to provide quality materials and services which fulfill the education, information, cultural and recreational needs of the entire community in an atmosphere that is welcoming, respectful and businesslike.

Library Calendar of Events:

(This list changes as more programs and/or events are being planned throughout each month)

January

3rd- Story Hour @ 4:00 p.m.
9th-UW-EX and Econ Committee @ 8:30 a.m.
9th-Library Board Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
10th-Story Hour @ 4:00 p.m.
17th- Story Hour @ 4:00 p.m.
19th-Director Network Meeting @ 3:00p.m.
24th- Story Hour @ 4:00 p.m.
25th-26th- 11th Annual Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference
31st- Story Hour @ 4:00 p.m.

February

6th-UW-EX and Econ Committee @ 8:30 a.m.
6th-Library Board Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
7th-Story Hour @ 4:00 p.m.
14th- Story Hour @ 4:00 p.m.

Book Giving Tree

The Book Giving Tree program was started 11 years ago by me as a way to get books into youth's hands for Christmas. Each year, the library organizes, raises funds through donations, orders books and distributes them for this program. All proceeds to the Book Giving Tree Program stay with this program and are fully funded by donations. **This year we had**

109 requests from local youth for a free book of their choosing. Thank you to all of the community members and organizations that donated to this program.

Fundraising

Fall Raffle Fundraiser-We held our Fall Raffle during Homespun Holidays in Winter on November 26th. All prizes were donated to the library so there was no cost for the fundraiser. The library raised \$891.00 which will be used towards the loan for the basement project.

January Book Sale-We have an annual mid-winter book sale that is popular. We have books on sale all year long but this mid-winter sale is popular and begins January 9th-February 4th. The funds from the book sales are used towards funding youth and adult programs in the library.

2023 Holiday Closing Schedule

May 29th-Memorial Day

July 4th

September 4th-Labor Day

November 23rd-Thanksgiving Day

December 25th-Christmas Day

11th Annual

Wild Wisconsin Winter Web Conference

Two day virtual conference with several session tracks that are designed to assist library directors and staff with current issues, topics and trends in public libraries. This is free to staff to register for.

Some sessions I registered to attend are:

- The “Marketing Funnel” Approach to Customer Engagement
- Climate Justice: The Interdependence of Sustainability and Equity and How Librarians Can Act as Hubs for Both
- 5 Ways Partnerships Can Improve Your Marketing
- Challenges and Successes in the Post Pandemic Library

The conference is sponsored by the library systems in Wisconsin (including Northern Waters Library Service), Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.



**From the Winter Public Library staff,
Board, and Patrons!**



SHERMAN & RUTH WEISS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

DIRECTOR'S REPORT BY MOLLY LANK-JONES

January 9, 2023

LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

The members of the Sherman & Ruth Weiss Community Library Board of Trustees are as follows:

Officers

President: Vacancy—Matt Ostrander to be elected in Jan./City Rep

Vice President: Ann Schleeter, Town Rep

Secretary: Matt Ostrander, then vacancy—to be elected in Jan. or Feb., City Rep

Treasurer, Kathy McCoy, Town Rep

Members

Jesse Boettcher, County Board Rep

Linda Hand, City Council Rep/City Rep

Ray Moeller, City Rep

Katie Pritchett, School/Town Rep

Donna Yackel, City Rep

JANUARY IS NATIONAL...

World Introvert Day (Jan. 2)

Meat Month

Soup Month

Be Kind to Food Servers Month

Hot Tea Month

Oatmeal Month

Sunday Supper Month

Blood Donor Month

Thank You Month

Hobby Month

Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

Teen Driving Awareness Month

Braille Literacy Month

Children Impacted by a Parent's Cancer Month



JANUARY ACTIVITIES & EVENTS TO DATE

Here are the upcoming library programs, events for the public and library staff that we have planned so far for January. The programs are free and open to everyone.

- **Jan.** Take 'N' Make: Winter Village. Ann.
- **Jan.** Scavenger Hunt TBA. Ann.
- **1/3, 1/10, 1/17, 1/24, 1/31**, 10 a.m. Storytime with Nina of Northwest Connection Family Resources.
- **1/5, 1/12, 1/19, 1/26**. 10 a.m. 12 noon. In Gauge Crafters Club. Meet in Children's Room or Meeting Room.
- **1/5**. New Boggle Board. Ann.
- **1/9**, 8:30 a.m. Economic Development/UW Extension Committee Meeting. Molly.
- **1/10**, 8:30 a.m. Assistant Director Ann Larson on WHSM.
- **1/10**, 5:15 p.m. Library Board Meeting. Molly.
- **1/10**, 6- 7 p.m. Lego Club in Children's Room. Ann.
- **1/11**, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Youth Services Workshop in Superior. Ann.
- **1/15-3/31**. Community Winter Read, title TBA. Ann.
- **1/17**, 8:30-10:30 a.m. Northern WI ILS Consortium Exploration (NICE) Committee Meeting. Molly.
- **1/17**, 5 p.m. Hayward Library Foundation Meeting. Molly & Ann.
- **1/19**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Northern Waters Library Service NWLN Consortium Meeting & Library Directors' Meeting online. Molly & Ann.
- **1/24**, 3-6 p.m. Tweens & Teens Anime' Art Club. Agnes.
- **1/13**, 5:15 p.m. Library Board Meeting. Molly.
- **1/13**, 6:30 p.m. Lego Club. Ann.
- **1/31**, 3-6:30 p.m. Winterfest & Stuffies Sleepover #2.

Pending programs TBA:

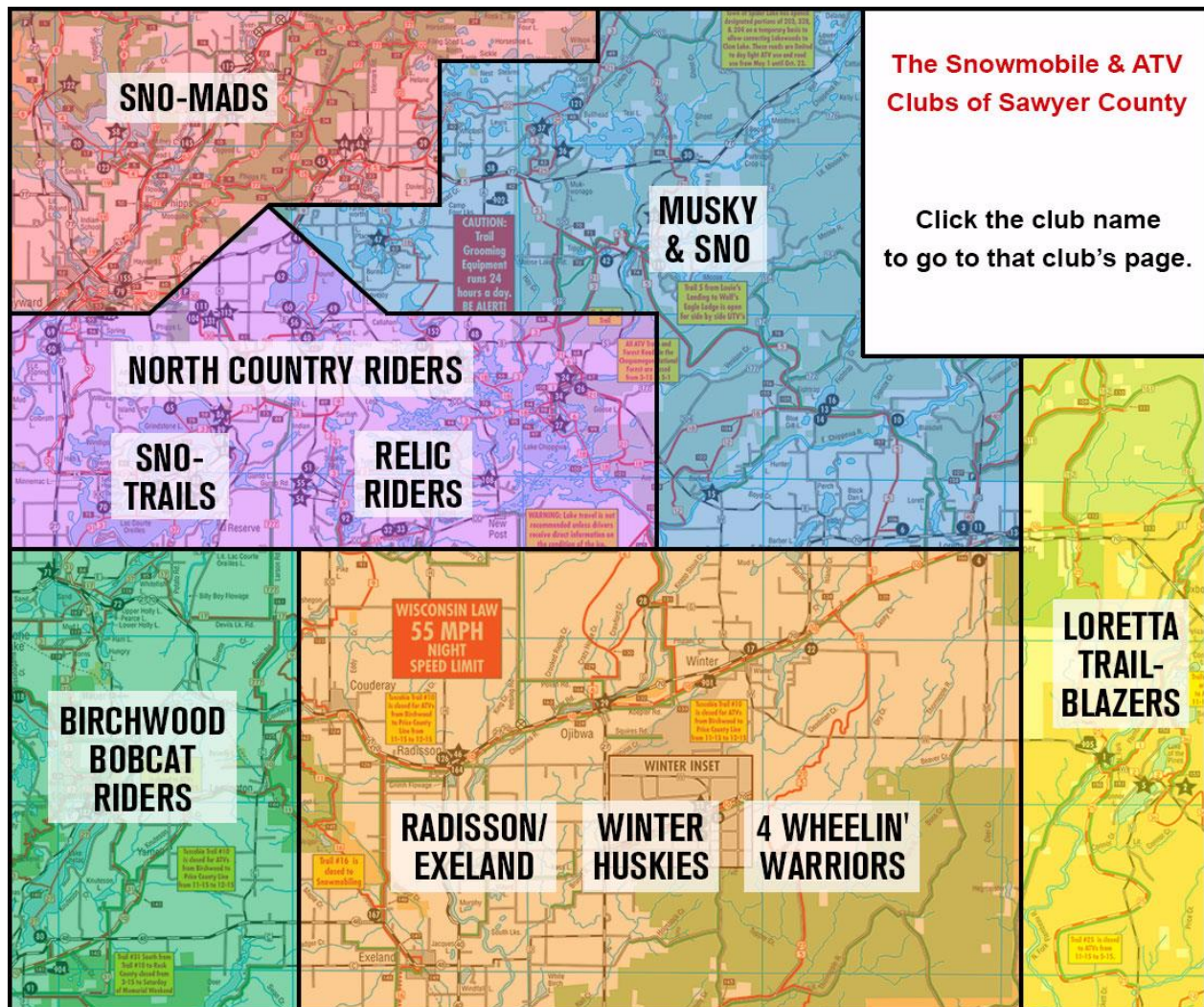
- Healing with Salt Therapy & Other Natural Remedies, featuring River & Rain Apothecary on 3rd St. in Hayward.

Cathy LaReau | Sawyer County Snowmobile & ATV Alliance | AWSC Director for Sawyer County
December 2022 Storm Damage Report as of Jan 5, 2023.

TRAILS CLOSED ON 12/18/22. TRAILS OPENED ON 12/29/22 'WITH CAUTION'

- **INITIAL STORM.** The December 15th, 2022, storm dumped between 11 and 15 inches of wet heavy snow over the county, causing widespread, extensive damage to the entire trail system, and widespread prolonged power outages. Reported snow depth totals (NOAA) varied from between 22"-24" near Hayward to 31"-36" in Couderay.
- **COLD FRONT.** For several days after the initial storm, we were hit with additional snowfalls, arctic temperatures, and extreme wind/windchills.
- **WORK CONDITIONS ON THE TRAIL.** Volunteers were subject to brutal conditions; bitter cold, wind, and snow 2-3' deep on trails during this extended cold snap. Work, travel on trails along with transport of equipment was hampered.
- **WARM UP.** Just when we were making cleanup headway, the temperatures warmed to above freezing for several days, causing trails to become soft which made using heavy equipment or grooming equipment next to impossible. This warmup also caused temporary closure of trails that we previously opened, and it delayed many lakes from freezing adequately.
- **EXPECTING RESIDUAL DAMAGE** and continuous cleanup efforts over the next several months.
- **HOLIDAYS.** Consider holiday/family commitments that club members, volunteers and contractors had during this time.
- **ADDITIONAL SNOWFALL.** The area received another 8" of wet, heavy snow on January 3-4, 2023.

County Map showing trail areas each club maintains (boundaries not exact)



Club Trail brief and estimated storm damage costs to date- January 5, 2023

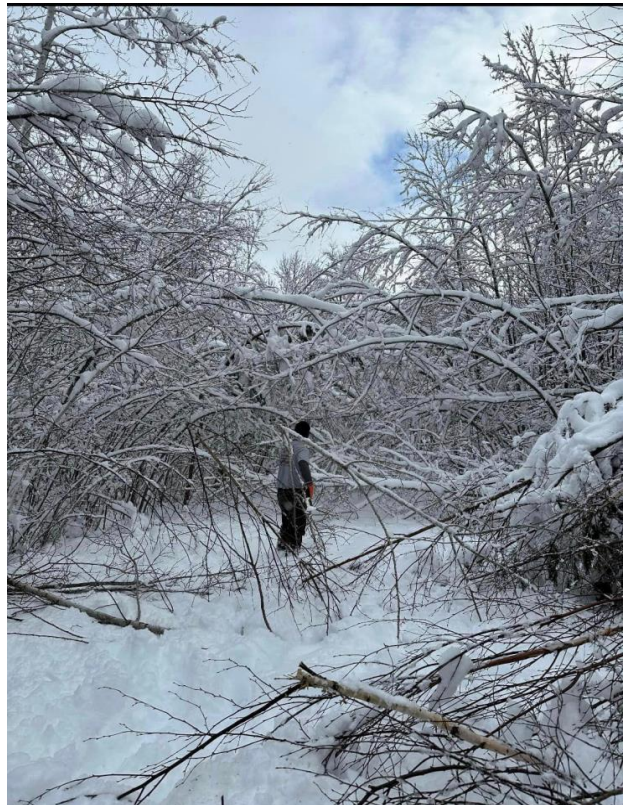
Figures quoted are rough estimates- Trail Captains have been working continuously and haven't reported actual hours yet.
Trail briefs will just give an idea of condition/progress of each club's area.

- Rough estimates of combined contractor and volunteer labor costs to date is approximately **\$130,000** further broken down as approximately \$80K in contractor costs and \$50K in labor costs.
- This estimate is conservative, and we expect that actual numbers will be much higher.
- We are over the halfway point in trail restoration, and anticipate continual work due to residual damage
- All reporting is slow as all clubs, contractors and volunteers are *still out working trails- and they are exhausted*.

Clubs who were able to give brief reports and estimates of storm damage work:

Club	Trail Brief	Reported Est. Costs To Date
Sno Mads North Country Riders	Most trails cleared of major debris and open Some grooming started Nelson Lake, upper Tiger Cat (Upper Twin Lake) staked 12/31/22 Tiger Cat/Upper Twin temp. closed Nelson Lake trails alone were approx. \$4k in labor A couple contractors worked and donated time/equipment	Volunteer: \$9,000 Contractors: \$8,000 +
Sno Trails Relic Riders North Country Riders	Most trails cleared of major debris and open Grooming started Chippewa Flowage staked (both east and west sides) Grindstone, Lac Courte Oreilles staked on 1/5/22 Round, Little Round, Whitefish, Sand, to be staked Jan 6-7 A couple contractors worked and donated time/equipment LCO Conservation and members worked	Volunteer: NR Contractors: NR
Musky Sno & ATV	Most trails cleared of major debris and open All groomed except trails 18, 18/21 Tiger Cat, Callahan, Moose Lake, Spider Lake, Lost Land Lake staked 12/31/22 Tiger Cat & Callahan (Trail 18) temp. closed This area suffered some extremely heavy damage Several contractors worked and donated time/equipment	Volunteer: \$12,000 Contractors: \$9000++
Birchwood Bobcat Riders	Most trails cleared and groomed other than those that run through swamp areas. Lake Chetak scheduled to be staked on 1/6 Long Lake is not ready yet- 3" ice on north end, south thin.	Volunteer: NR Contractors: NR
Winter Huskies Radisson/Exeland ATV 4-Wheelin Warriors	Main Trails cleared of major debris and open Work still needed on 9-mile loop and many side trails including ATV-only trails Grooming has started- marshes not frozen as of 1/5 This area suffered some of the heaviest damage	Volunteer: \$10,000+ Contractors: 40,000
Loretta Trailblazers	Main trails cleared of major debris and open Grooming has started	Volunteer: \$5000 Contractors: \$7-\$8000

Pictures: Following pages show a sampling of damage on trails throughout the county.





Thomas W. Duffy

From: Ben Popp <ben.popp@birkie.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 5, 2023 7:20 PM
To: 'Tom Duffy'
Subject: 1.5.23 Update

Latest from the Birkie / LWC

1. The trails are finally all open including the loops at Hatchery. It has cost us over \$70,000 and hundreds of hours. There is still lots of debris, but the skiing is generally good.
2. We launched a new reporting app for the grooming - live updates as they groom (they start an app and it tracks the grooming). It has worked surprisingly well and the skiers find it easy to follow. <https://www.birkie.com/trail/#trail-conditions-map>
3. Trial kids start this Sunday afternoon at OO- over 165 local kids!!!
4. Seeley Hills Classic is next weekend - it will be a SuperTour as well which will bring the best skiers from around the US here in addition to 500 citizen skiers!
5. LWC has hired a new event director - Sam LaSalle. She grew up in Hayward and has been competing as an athlete. Goal is to continue to improve the event and get more people excited and attending.
6. In case you missed it- LWC made national news on CBS: <https://www.cbsnews.com/video/lumberjack-world-championships-cut-above-the-rest/#x>
7. The Birkie/Korte/Prince Haakon is full and is now the largest event ever - over 11,125!!!

Ben Popp
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