

**Minutes of the January 8, 2024 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 - virtual

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Lynn Fitch
Sheldon Johnson
Lori Baltrusis
Ann Larsen

Sherry Beckman - virtual
Linda Zillmer - Virtual
Jim Ferguson
Molly Lank-Jones
Adam Lamoreaux

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 December 11, 2023, meeting; second by Ms. Hessel. Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association Report -

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report -

Ms. Baltrusis advised that the support staff member who will be working across county lines has been hired.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau -

A written report was provided showing the 2023 marketing results of the agency. Ms. Beckman reviewed the highlights; users appear to be engaged in the website pages.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission Report -

Mr. Johnson reported that the semi-annual regional planning commission meeting was held in December; the next session is in June. Currently they are developing an app for the all-hazard mitigation plan. September may be our next Hazardous Waste collection date. The Sand Lake food pantry project is still active serving approximately 850 people. A department staff member is working with a Sawyer County lake management group, applying for grant funds to assist with water milfoil management.

Economic Development Corporation Report -

Mr. Lamoreaux provided a verbal update. The annual meeting was held in December. Sponsorship letters mailed in December included accomplishments. They are working to get business curriculum and financial literacy programs into the Hayward elementary schools; it is in the curriculum approval stage at this time. The NWTC Impact 7 homes project is underway at the property located by the Hayward Area Memorial Hospital. He is applying for a THRIVE grant for a local project that is yet to be determined.

Library Updates -

Ms. Larsen provided a verbal update of programs of the Hayward Library; they are adding additional adult programs this year. Annual reports will be completed this month.

Motorized Trail and Non-Motorized Trail Report -

Ms. LaReau emailed a motorized trail report that was read by Mr. Albarado. ATV trails are open in most area of the county, and organized rides have taken place, boosting the economy. Mr. Duffy provided a verbal report on non-motorized trail activity including snow-making activities in the area. LWC tickets go on sale on January 24th.

Broadband Update -

Mr. Albarado advised that they have not heard back from any grants yet.

LCO Update -

Mr. Rusk advised the LCO medical center build is ongoing.

Historical Society -

Mr. Ferguson reported that the winter hours have now started. The quarterly meeting will host a local author, Patricia Lacey, as speaker.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee will be Monday, February 5th, at 8:30 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk