



Sawyer County

Agenda

**Economic Development & UW Extension Committee Meeting
Monday, March 11, 2024 @ 8:30 AM
Sawyer County Board Room**

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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

- a. [2.5.24 Economic Dev.UWEX Minutes DRAFT](#)

8. SAWYER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FAIR ASSOCIATION REPORT**9. UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION DEPARTMENT REPORT****10. HAYWARD LAKES VISITORS & CONVENTION BUREAU****11. NORTHWEST REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT****12. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REPORT****13. LIBRARY UPDATES**

- a. [Hayward Director's Report for 3-1-2024](#)

14. MOTORIZED TRAIL AND NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL REPORT**15. UPDATE ON AIRPORT MASTER PLAN****16. BROADBAND UPDATE****17. LCO UPDATE****18. HISTORICAL SOCIETY****19. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS****20. CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS FROM CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS****21. ADJOURNMENT****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 February 5, 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
- ☐ Chris Rusk - virtual

Others Present:

Andy Albarado -virtual
Lynn Fitch
Lori Baltrusis
Cathy LaReau
Ann Larsen
Matt Kures – virtual

Sherry Beckman
Adam Lamoreaux
Jim Ferguson
Molly Lank-Jones
Donna Knuckey
Ann Larsen

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 January 8, 2024, meeting; second by Mr. Righeimer. Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association Report -

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report -

Ms. Baltrusis advised that August 7th the Extension Northwoods Showcase will take place. Matt Kures shared a PowerPoint presentation regarding Sawyer County's population and economy. He reviewed the change in population over time; Sawyer had a larger growth in the last decade than most of the State of Wisconsin, largely during the pandemic and because of the recreation amenities offered. Net migration by age groups and community patterns were reviewed; individuals working remotely from home increased significantly. Sawyer had a job opening spike in openings prior to the pandemic and it has remained fairly high. Unemployment rate patterns in Sawyer have followed the rest of the state and nation; we have more job openings in the State than we have employable individuals; population of individuals age 65 and over has increased more notably in northern and central Wisconsin. Labor availability in Sawyer County will continue to be an issue going forward due to our age demographics. Sawyer County has one of the highest share of seasonal/rental housing units in the entire U.S. Sawyer County is very low on the home affordability index due to the high cost of homes in the area.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau -

A written report was provided and focused on the NW ITBEC marketing. A snowmobile/ATV map of the 14 participating counties is produced by this group as well as a silent sport vacation guide. The 2024 budget was itemized. The 58th Governor's Fishing Opener will be held in Burnett County this year and Sawyer will host in 2026 (the 60th anniversary). A pie chart of 2023 highest activities in the county was provide with snowmobile and ATV volume being the highest.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission Report -

No update

Economic Development Corporation Report -

Mr. Lamoreaux advised that he attended the Governor's Conference and housing/daycare were some of the top priorities of the conference. He feels that we will need to be more creative in developing housing options for our county. Several local organizations have written a letter identifying businesses that have undergone economic duress due to the lack of snow this year; there are 60-90% reductions in revenue this season in some areas, and locals have been encouraged to help support these businesses. The EDC was granted a \$25,000 Thrive grant (\$50,000 for two years) for an incubator program which will be located at the LCO tribal plaza on Hwy B.

Library Updates -

A Winter Library written report was provided in the packet; it identifies their calendar of events and current programming. A circulation report was included. A Weiss Community Library written report of circulation statistics and an event/programming calendar was provided at the meeting, reviewed by Ms. Larsen.

Motorized Trail and Non-Motorized Trail Report -

Ms. LaReau advised that the lack of snow has prompted local businesses to develop alternative reasons for people to visit. Many groups have secured lodging for these visits. All lakes have been un-staked; ice fishing tournaments have also cancelled. Mr. Duffy advised that a Birkie announcement will be made on the 12th regarding which activities will be held. Cable has had enough snow for some skiing, and the Birkie will still draw a large number of visitors to our area.

Broadband Update -

No Update

Historical Society -

Mr. Ferguson advised that they received a \$1000 donation this year, and a local author provided a presentation from her book on local history. Their next speaker will be John Dettloff regarding his book on the history of the Chippewa Flowage on April 11th.

LCO Update -

No update

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:49 am
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk



SHERMAN & RUTH WEISS COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Director's Report by Molly Lank-Jones



March 1, 2024

MARCH ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

1/2 to 11/28/24. Complete the Smokey Bear Reading Challenge to celebrate Smokey Bear's 80th Birthday! This challenge complements the 2024 Summer Reading theme, "Adventure Begins at Your Library!" Ann, Molly, volunteers.

Month of March. Celebrate Women's History Month with informational displays, books, and films. Ann, Agnes, Karen.

Month of March. Spring Surprise Eggs. When children aged 0-12 check out a book, they'll receive a plastic egg to open with a small spring surprise. Ann, volunteer.

3/1. Dr. Seuss Take N Make Kit. Ann.

3/1, 1:30 p.m. Meeting with Karen Menke of Hayward Library Foundation. Molly, Ann.

3/4. New Mario Brothers Scavenger Hunt & I Spy display. Ann.

3/4. Women's History Month Can You Guess the Answers Board. Ann, Janet.

3/4, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Hello Tech: Get to Know Your Gadget. Call or stop by for one-on-one help with your gadget. Ann, Sean.

3/4, 1 p.m. WISCAT Quarterly Report Meeting. Ann.

3/5, 8:25 a.m. WHSM Lifestyles Interview with Ann to promote library programs. Ann.

3/5, 10:15 a.m. Storytime. Nina from Northwest Connection Family Resources.

3/5, 11 a.m. to 12 noon. "5 Trends in Volunteer Management You Can't Afford to Ignore" webinar. Molly.

3/5, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. WI Extension Master Gardner Sue Reinardy returns with the "Gardening with Shrubs" program. Ann.

3/6, 6 p.m. Oscar Trivia Night in the Library Meeting Room or via Zoom. Light snacks & refreshments. Ann.

3/7, 10 a.m. In Gauge Knitting & Craft Club. Ann, Molly.

3/7, 1 p.m. How to Train Your Community on Libby webinar. Molly, Ann.

3/9, 10:30 a.m. Zoo Yoga for Kids. Held in partnership with K.I.T.S. Ann.

3/11, 8:30 a.m. Economic Dev./UW Ext Mtg at Sawyer County. Ann, Molly.

3/11. Spring Take N Make Kit. Ann.

3/12, 10:15 a.m. Storytime. Nina from Northwest Connection Family Resources.

3/12, 3:30-4:30 p.m. LEGO Club for kids. Ann.

3/12, 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Library Board Meeting. Molly.

3/13, 12 p.m. NWLN - Marketing Meeting. Ann.

3/14, 10 a.m. In Gauge Knitting & Craft Club. Ann, Molly.

3/14, 1 p.m. Ryan Dowd presents "... A Conversation with Ben Greene" webinar. Ann, Molly.

3/14, 1 p.m. Friends of the Library Meeting. (Subject to change.) Molly, Ann.

3/14, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Hayward Writers Group. Sean.

3/19, 9 a.m. NICE Committee Meeting. Molly.

3/19, 10:15 a.m. Storytime. Nina from Northwest Connection Family Resources.

3/19, 1 p.m. "What's New for Summer 2024" webinar. Ann.

3/19, 4:30-6 p.m. Hayward Library Foundation Monthly Meeting. Molly.

3/19, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. "Wills and Trusts" community program presented by Susan Sharp Miley, Attorney at Law. Ann.

3/20, 10 a.m. "Rethinking Registration" for library programs webinar. Ann.

3/21, 10 a.m. In Gauge Knitting & Craft Club. Ann, Molly.

3/21, 10 a.m. NWLN Meeting. Ann, Molly.

3/26, 10:15 a.m. Storytime. Nina from Northwest Connection Family Resources.

3/26, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. TNT Art Club, including games, art, crafts, and more. Agnes.

3/28, 10 a.m.-12 noon. In Gauge Knitting & Craft Club. Molly, Ann.

3/28, 10:30 a.m. Super Mario Brothers movie and free popcorn! Ann.

3/29, 10:30 a.m. "Spring Fun for Families," sponsored by Superior Choice Credit Union. Includes storytime, a craft, bingo, & an egg hunt. Ann.

4/9, 1 p.m. "Growing Summer Reading Engagement with Beanstack." Ann.

5/1, 10 a.m. "The Secret to Loyal Supporters: E-mail Welcome Journeys" webinar. Molly.

5/9, 1:30 p.m. "Growing Summer Reading Engagement with Beanstack." Ann.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

- FREE hotspots on loan!-For our library's cardholders 18+ years old with a card in good standing.
- Free one-day Wisconsin State Park Passes: Free admission for one vehicle at any state park, forest, or recreation area-while supplies last.
- STEM Kits-available at our library. The kits increase the fun of learning about science, technology, engineering, & mathematics.
- 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten-Ongoing program that encourages parents & preschoolers to read together. This helps to prepare children for success in kindergarten.
- FREE online apps! Access is available at Hayward, Winter, & other NWLS member libraries. Includes: Creativebug-thousands of award-winning art and craft video classes, Transparent Language-offers 100+ languages at your fingertips, Kanopy allows people to stream thousands of movies with a library card, New York Times & New York Times-Cooking provide 24-hr access online. To use the apps, use <https://weisscommunitylibrary.com/online-resources/> and follow the instructions.

