

**Minutes of the April 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
- ☐ Chris Rusk

Andy Albarado
Lynn Fitch
Donna Knuckey
Lori Baltrusis

Others Present:

Molly Lank-Jones
Cathy LaReau
Ann Larson
Sherry Beckman

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 the previous meeting dated: March 11, 2024

Motion to approve made by: Ms. Hessel

Second by: Mr. Righeimer

Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association Report –

A fundraiser will be held this June.

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report -

Ms. Baltrusis reported on the May 7th Extension Northwoods Forum celebrating 175 years of partnering with Wisconsin communities at Lake of the Torches.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau -

Written reports were provided, and a complete list of marketing efforts to date were included and reviewed by Ms. Beckman. Of importance to note is that the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is proposing to amend the existing administrative rules governing how and when they can grant school district waivers to the September 1 school start date. The Top Chef show is coming to Wisconsin this year. Also included was a letter sent to the newspaper regarding the HLVCB response to comments read in to the County Board by Chairs of the Town of Hunter, Round Lake and Spider Lake. ATV/UTV use in Sawyer County is in 2nd place of interest on their website; second only to snowmobiling. Summer activity for our area looks promising.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission Report -

No update

Economic Development Corporation Report -

Mr. Albarado reported that they are working on implementation of the Thrive Grant with Northwood Technical College for an incubator. They are working on housing through contacting some housing developers and on Thursday they will have a strategic planning session with the board.

Library Updates -

Written reports were provided from the Weiss Library; a full annual report was included. A visual summary of the annual report was also provided, and a list of upcoming programs was shared.

Ms. Knuckey handed out materials for the Winter library including a pictograph of data summarizing the annual report. They offered 284 programs last year, and a list of new spring activities was provided. May through September are their heavy fund-raising months.

Motorized Trail and Non-Motorized Trail Report -

Ms. LaReau thanked the committee for their direction and support of Alliance efforts. Due to the requests from the businesses, they plan to bring forth a request to open remaining county roads to April committee meetings.

Broadband Update -

Mr. Albarado advised that there are two open projects yet and there are no further grant updates. On May 1st a regional broadband meeting will be held at Flat Creek.

LCO Update -

No update

Historical Society -

No update

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee will be Monday, May 6th, at 8:30 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk