



Sawyer County

Agenda

Economic Development & UW Extension Committee Meeting

Monday, May 6, 2024 @ 8:30 AM

Sawyer County Board Room

Revised: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 12:44 PM

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. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION)

- a. Chair
- b. Vice Chair

6. MEETING AGENDA

7. 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.

4 - 5	8. CONSIDER APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING a. 4.8.24 DRAFT Econ.UWEX Minutes
	9. SAWYER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FAIR ASSOCIATION REPORT
6 - 15	10. UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EXTENSION DEPARTMENT REPORT a. UWEX
16	11. HAYWARD LAKES VISITORS & CONVENTION BUREAU a. Hayward Lakes VCB May 2024
	12. NORTHWEST REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT
	13. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REPORT
17 - 22	14. LIBRARY UPDATES a. 1) Weiss Director's Report for 5-13-2024 2) Director's Report 4.25.24 .docx
	15. MOTORIZED TRAIL AND NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL REPORT
23 - 26	16. BROADBAND UPDATE a. Sawyer
	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 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



FoodWise

Bridget Rongner –
FoodWise Nutrition Program
Administrator
bridget.rongner@wisc.edu
715-635-4444



Kimberly Clark -
Educator
Kim.clark@wisc.edu
715-638-3350



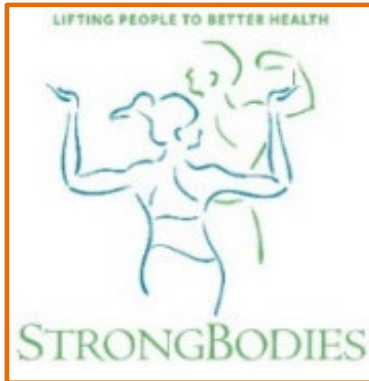
Extension
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Programming with Local Grade Schools

- Kim has been providing nutrition education lessons to students in kindergarten, third, and fourth grades at Hayward, Winter, and LCO schools and to the middle schoolers at Northern Waters. Nutrition lessons focus on a variety of topics, including the five food groups, trying new fruits and vegetables, and being physically active. Students love seeing Miss Kim and are always excited to guess and to try the food samples she brings to reinforce her lessons!
- Kim continues to offer a monthly series of 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.



Bridget applied for a FoodWise **garden grant** to be used at the Hayward School District, and it was approved in March! She and Kim will work with teachers and staff and the school to include students in planting, tending, and harvesting the garden. The produce harvesting will be part of the school meals and will also be donated to the Hayward Area Food Pantry so that students see the impact that their work has on the communities. Stay tuned for pictures and updates on what we are growing, harvesting, and distributing!



FoodWise collaborated with several colleagues to provide virtual StrongBodies strength-training to more than 80 adult participants in NW Wisconsin. StrongBodies is a physical activity program where middle-aged and older 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 socially connect. As part of the most recent virtual series, FoodWise tested a pilot nutrition program. Sawyer County middle-aged and older adults were able to provide feedback and will be a part of making lasting changes and improvements to the permanent curriculum! Kim also worked with the LCO Elder Meal Center and the Winter Library to get them connected to the class so that community members could join

without the barrier of limited internet access in some homes. Additionally, the site provides an opportunity for participants to have a way to socially connect in person with each other two times a week. Feedback on the class included things like:

"I have noticed it is easier to put on my pants (especially pj's) My balance has greatly improved when standing on one leg."

"Thank you for making this a fun experience and promoting healthy habits!"

"I have been struck by my ability to get up from a seated position. Seems like a small feat, but my efforts are rewarded several times a day."

Bridget also provides a monthly series of 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.



4-H Program/Community Youth Development Educator

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



Heart of the North Legislative Day was held on Thursday, February First. Adults and youth traveled to Madison to speak with legislators on issues that were important to the counties of Barron, Rusk, Sawyer, and Washburn. Youth worked alongside adults on the Natural Resource, Education, Transportation, Public Health, Tourism and Economic Development topics/issues. Heart of the North committees prepared information to share with legislators on the proposed bills that were being heard at committee meetings on how those bills would affect the North. Heart of the North Legislative Day for the youth has been an educational, hands-on experience on civic engagement and governance. This trip to Madison is sponsored by area business and organizations and would not be possible without their financial support.



Project Discovery Days!!

Volunteers offer hands-on learning at Project Discovery Days in October, November, December, February, March, and April. This year's projects have included **hand sewing, woodworking, painting, small engines, cookie decorating, latch-hook, paper crafts, and more**. Each month 30-40 youth participate and can complete a project from start to finish each month under the guidance of an expert volunteer! If you have a passion for something and interest in teach youth, contact us!



4-H is Expanding – Enrollment:

2022-2023 = 44 people, 21 new members
2023-2024 (current) = 56 people, 12 new members (so far)!!



Now Hiring!!

Program Assistant AmeriCorps/4-H



NOW HIRING!!
AMERICORPS/4-H
PROGRAM
ASSISTANT

Sawyer County 4-H is looking for a part-time and seasonal AmeriCorps member to assist with program implementation, camps, and the fair. The member will also help with expanding collaboration efforts.

**POSITION STARTS MAY 19TH, 2024
AND ENDS AUGUST 23RD, 2024**

- Required Orientation in May
- The living allowance is \$5,000
- An additional Member End of Service Education Award of \$1,956.35

**THE POSITION REQUIRES
30 HOURS A WEEK AT A
TOTAL OF 450 HOURS.**

Apply Today!
Americorps/4-H Summer
Program Assistant

Contact with Questions: Donna Knuckey donna.knuckey@wisc.edu 715-638-3294

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.

Sawyer County 4-H is looking for a part-time and seasonal AmeriCorps member to assist with program implementation, camps, and the fair. The member will also help with expanding collaboration efforts.

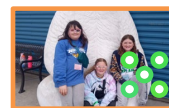
Position starts May 19th, 2024, and ends August 23rd, 2024.

The position requires 30 hours a week for a total of 450 hours over the summer.

Please help us spread the word about this fantastic opportunity for someone to serve our community in a unique way while also gaining valuable skills while serving with a seasoned educator!
Contact Donna to apply.

Sawyer County 4-H Discovers Wisconsin!

A large group of 4-H youth aged 6-8th grade took a trip to Discover Wisconsin! The youth came together from Barron, Rusk, Sawyer, and Washburn Counties to go on a 3 day, 2-night bus trip experience known as Discover Wisconsin. They engaged in exploration, history, science, technology, leadership, and other activities to strengthen their understanding of the state of Wisconsin and their place in it now, and in the future. The goal of the experience was for youth to learn about the history of the area, learn leadership skills, explore a different area of the state, and meet other 4-Hers from neighboring counties. The trip included the **Wisconsin Dells, Madison, and Spring Green**. They had the opportunity to visit the UW Geology Museum, Henry Vilas Zoo, Wisconsin Science Museum, Wisconsin Capitol, and House on the Rock while staying at the Chula Vista Water Park.





Agriculture Development Educator

Kevin Schoessow

Kevin.schoessow@wisc.edu

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

Kevin provides support in the areas of Horticulture and Local Foods outreach, research, and service while also serving as a resource for agriculture producers and rural property owners.

As a member of the Extension Horticulture team, Kevin has been assisting with statewide on-line programming and in answering horticulture enquiries that are posted to the State Horticulture Website. Each month there are several free on-line gardening webinars on a wide range of topics. Kevin is also part of the on-line Ask the Experts: Monthly Garden and Landscape Q & A series.

<https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/events/>

Kevin is a regular guest on Wisconsin Public Radio, "Garden Talk" call in radio show. With host Larry Meiller. His last show was on March 23, 2024, which was his 16 time as a guest. To listen to Kevin's most recent show on March 23, 2024, go to <https://www.wpr.org/shows/garden-talk>



Kevin as guest on
"Garden Talk"

Kevin continues with a series of personal conversations, direct teachings, emails, and telephone consultations with residents in the region. These interactions are to assist people to make informed decisions on managing their lands, properties, farms or agriculture businesses. Topics vary but they are within the general topics of gardening, horticulture, crops and soils, nutrient management, land rents/leases, pest management, direct marketing, soil health and regenerative agriculture.

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 their bi-annual conference at the Shell Lake Community Center on Saturday, March 2nd. The meal was catered by Fiddlehead Kitchen, a local rural business, that featured locally raised meats and seasonal produce.

In total 90 people attended the conference, 56 identified as livestock producers/Graziers and 34 identified as non-livestock producers.

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.



This conference has a strong tradition of an informative and friendly networking environment to learn about grazing planning, livestock health, marketing and direct marketing options, soil health and regenerative agriculture practices, human health, and mental health unique to farmers, and farm financial and budgets and other important topics suggested by Graziers. All NW Graziers events are open to new farmers, part-time or full-time operators, low-income startups, Graziers or non-Graziers. Several agencies and commercial exhibitors were available to network with throughout the day.

This spring's topic included: Converting cropland to hay fields and pasture, preparing for birthing season, A farmer's story of struggling with mental health, Livestock markets, Benefits of pollinators in pastures, Grazing impacts on water quality and Using goats and sheep to manage woody plants in forests.

Video recordings can be found on YouTube -https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSEldKRO9cr8DTtB_m-ggqA



One of the more touching and very well received presenters was dairy farmer Brittney Olson, who shared her personal journey with mental health and assistance she is getting to cope.

[More resources for Resilient Farms and Families can be found here:](https://farms.extension.wisc.edu/farmstres)
<https://farms.extension.wisc.edu/farmstres>

Area businesses, government and non-profit agencies, community groups and educational partners like UW-Madison Extension are important partners at the conference.





Community Resource Development Educator

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

Ariga worked closely with the town of Round Lake representative to assist with grant writing efforts to secure a new fire truck. The town was able to apply for federal funding for roughly **\$200,000** for a new fire truck to be utilized for emergency use for the town and the entire Sawyer County. The need was to replace the RLFD converted, multifunctioning 2-wheel drive brush truck that responds to all fires and trail rescues. The current 1-ton vehicle owned by the Town of Round Lake was not designed to do all that needs to be accomplished for safety and emergency needs. (The chassis maximum gross vehicle weight limit for carrying and towing has been met and it has over 147,000 miles. There is a need to replace the vehicle with a 1½ -ton, 4-wheel drive vehicle for both operational safety and function. The estimated cost of the Type 3 fire engine to meet the unique needs is \$200,000.)



Housing Study

The Housing Study for Sawyer County was completed in partnership with Matt Kures. Kures is the Community Economic Development Specialist within the Community Development Institute, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Extension. The study is a housing assessment in Sawyer County and Lac Courte Oreilles tribe, which focused on comprehensive housing needs in our community. It aims to inform local decision-making in order to address the housing demands of the workforce and vulnerable populations in Sawyer County and the LCO Tribe.

Food Sovereignty

Efforts with Natural Resources Conservation Service grant applied in 2023, funded in 2024. The grant was approved and is Focusing on Climate-smart agriculture. The grant program received a \$901,342 of funding by the UW Madison Team, which will subaward communities to accomplish parts of this study and work. Main goals for this programming are to improve food sovereignty, labor conditions, mental and physical health, economic sustainability, and environmental quality. This project will be the first of its kind in Wisconsin.

In addition to support for the well-being of migrant workers, this project will address environmental and social consequences of unsustainable food commodity and agricultural practices impacting Tribal



communities. We will do this by providing climate-smart agricultural resources and trainings that are guided by community values and embedded in both food sovereignty and Indigenous cultural teachings. Food sovereignty is defined as a process of democratizing food and agriculture—restoring the right of Indigenous people to determine policies related to food and agriculture (Gauthier et al, 2020). Several of Wisconsin's Tribes have initiated food sovereignty programs.

As an approach, food sovereignty expands beyond food security to include social justice concerns related to local control and local knowledge. These concerns stem from cultural teachings about traditional foods; a focus on nature; the value of local food providers; and a focus on providing sufficient, healthy and culturally appropriate food for all people. A focus on food sovereignty, community values, and Indigenous cultural teachings is important to Tribal communities in Wisconsin. A review of county health rankings indicates considerable health and economic disparities in communities with significant Native American populations. **LCO Tribal Community** will be part of this program.

The Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Tribe, located in Northwest Wisconsin, also experiences rampant disparities with 43.3% of the population living in poverty (US Census Bureau, 2023) and the reservation categorized as a food desert according to the USDA Food Access Research Atlas (USDA, 2022). LCO has been focusing on food sovereignty through diversification of agricultural programs being implemented. Some of these programs include: compost and soil building, seed preservation and sovereignty of locally and culturally relevant seeds, and value-added programs to supply the community with fresh nutritious produce and the LCO Farmers' Market. One of the primary goals of the LCO Tribal Community is to create self-sufficiency through sustainable agricultural and culturally relevant practices. **With this project, we intend to support these efforts by collaborating with LCO to develop community-guiding principles, values, and strategies for socially just climate-smart agriculture.**

Strategic Planning

Strategic Planning efforts with Sawyer County and Lac Courte Oreilles Economic Development Corporation. The strategic planning is an organizational management activity that is used to set priorities, focus energy and resources, strengthen operations, ensure that employees and other stakeholders are working toward common goals, establish agreement around intended outcomes/results, and assess and adjust the organization's direction in response to a changing environment. UW Extension customized each strategic planning towards the organization's goals, mission and vision working closely with the organization to craft the process so it serves their needs and purpose. Scheduled in April, 2024

Other Ways Extension Serves Sawyer County!

Natural Resources

The 2024 **Northwest Wisconsin Lake Conference** is scheduled for June 21st in Spooner. Registration opens May 1st. The Natural Resources Educator for Washburn County, Sarah Brown, is helping to plan this conference for surrounding counties. This conference is for waterfront property owners and watershed professionals where attendees learn about shoreline management practices, aquatic invasive species, ecology, capacity considerations for lake associations, tools to approach resident and tourist conflict, and other topics relevant to the water resources of northwest Wisconsin. The goal of this effort is to enable behavior change and connect professionals to each other and new resources, leading to improved water quality in northwest Wisconsin. Register here: <https://wclra.org/event/2023-northwest-wisconsin-lakes-conference/>

Human Development and Family Relationships

Missy Bablick, Barron County Educator, provided a 3-hour online class for mandated parents in a legal court case for divorce, placement change, child support or paternity, where they learn about the effects of family transitions on children and how parents can minimize problems for their children through cooperative co-parenting strategies. When divorced parents can cooperate or have a business-like approach to co-parenting, their children are far more likely to do better and not experience lasting negative effects of divorce.



Outreach Support Associate

Casidy Landry

casidy.landry@wisc.edu

715-645-9574

I joined the team in January and can be seen in Sawyer County a couple of times a month. I am working to support the educators with their programming and magnify the outreach to our community members. 4-H is new territory for me and so I have been working with Donna, the 4-H educator, to create systems to help ensure the communication with 4-H families is accurate and timely. You may see some temporary signs taped up around the building. We are hoping they will help the community members find us on the lower level until new maps are made and installed on all ends of the building. I'm learning more about the Sawyer accounting practices too and am creating systems to track and spend funds accordingly throughout the year.

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

April 2024
Hayward Lakes VCB Marketing Report

Wisconsin Department of Tourism

- Regional Tourism Specialist-Jeff Anderson has resigned and took a job with the Wapacua Chamber of Commerce. Drew Nussbaum will be in the interim.
- WI Governor's Fishing Opener- Thank you to the sponsors for the Sawyer County Basket. Pat's Landing Resort, Holiday Inn Express & Suites, Northwoods Mama, Hayward Power Sports, Winter's Delight Bakery, Hayward Area Chamber of Commerce and Sevenwinds Casino and Conference Center. \$750 value
- National Travel & Tourism Week will be May 19th -25th. We will be in WRLS Lifestyles on May 22nd.
- Grants
- Fall Co-op slot for the PR Consultation
- Travel Wisconsin Public Relations-Media Leads... We submit requests from journalists for story ideas. Typically, we get 7 days to respond. (this month Wisconsin Lakes and generational resorts)
- Travel Wisconsin updates.

New marketing initiatives:

Banner ad with Bass Resource for May and June

Targeted Email Marketing (new email lists with APG and Star Tribune)

- On April 16th we sponsored Matthew Olson from Signal Fire to present to the Winter Area Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours. Google Business Profile. (we got a 5-star rating on Friday, April 19th)

June WCCA Conference will be held in Sawyer County. 50+ county clerks will be in attendance for a "Welcome Hayward-Up North" by Sherry, Chris (HACC) and Ben (Birkie). They will also have the choice of a UTV ride (Sawyer County Alliance) or pontoon ride (Cheryl Treland).

Spectrum News IN FOCUS interview on ATV Tourism-April 19th

Namekagonriver.org website updated Sawyer County Information.

Monday, April 29th at 1 pm the Northwest Regional Planning Commission will present the Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation & Tourism Opportunity Study for Northwest Wisconsin. Registration is required. If you can't attend the Zoom meeting you can provide input with a brief questionnaire.



SHERMAN & RUTH WEISS COMMUNITY LIBRARY



Director's Report by Molly Lank-Jones

May 6, 2024

GUY HOUSTON CREATES "GO FUND ME" PAGE TO RESTORE TOTH STATUE

In 1977, renowned sculptor Peter Toth visited Hayward to create a special monument honoring Native Americans. This was the 26th of his sculptures celebrating Indigenous cultures across



the U. S., with one monument in each state as well as his home country of Hungary.

Hayward's statue was originally installed behind the old Carnegie library building. Approximately 17 years ago,

it was relocated to the grounds of our current library, where it stands as a symbol of respect for the original inhabitants of this land.

Over the decades, natural wear took its toll on the aging monument. In 2009, the library raised funds for Toth himself to return and restore his Hayward sculpture. Sadly, the repair materials he used could not withstand the curiosity of our local wildlife.

By early 2024, the deteriorating state of the statue spurred Library Board President Matt Ostrander to seek input from Guy Houston of the Sawyer County Historical Society. Their discussions led to a crowdsourcing idea - a "Go Fund Me" page inviting the Hayward community and

Toth's fans to donate towards restoring the piece to its original glory.

Since Toth gifted this monument to Hayward, it feels right that we collectively ensure its legacy lives on. All proceeds raised will go directly towards repairing the statue itself and revitalizing the surrounding area. Please consider contributing to honor our area's Native heritage through this distinctive public art. You may donate to the "Go Fund Me" page at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-restore-haywards-whispering-giant-statue/>.

MAY 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, staff, volunteers.

4/7-8/31. Passport Program. Ann & all NWLS member libraries.

- 5/2, 9:30 a.m. Meeting with Friends Treasurer Ann Korn. Molly, Ann.
- 5/3.
 - New StoryWalk® books on library nature trail will be posted in the library and on the website. Ann, Ann Korn.
 - Can You Guess the Answers? Topic: May flowers. Ann.
 - Fish Take N Make Kit. Ann.
 - Fishing Scavenger Hunt. Ann.
 - Fishing I-Spy. Ann.
- 5/1. Northern Waters Environmental School Fire Prevention Field Day. Molly, Ann.
- 5/1, 10 a.m. "The Secret to Loyal Supporters: E-mail Welcome Journeys" webinar. Molly.
- 5/1, 6 p.m. Star Wars Trivia Night. Ann, Janet.
- 5/4, 10 a.m. Family Fishing Fun with Frank Pratt. Registration required; limit of 30 children. Ann.
- 5/6, 8:30 a.m. Sawyer County Economic Dev/UW-Extension Committee Meeting. Ann, Molly.
- 5/6, 9:30 a.m. Kindergarten Tours at library. Ann.
- 5/6, 10-11 am. Hello Tech. Call 715-634-2161 or stop between 10 and 11 am to schedule an appt. for tech help. Karen, Agnes.
- 5/7, 8:25 a.m. WRLS Lifestyles Interview with Ann to promote library programs. Ann.

- 5/7-5/12. National Children's Book Week. Daily prize drawings. Ann.
- 5/8, 9:30 a.m. Library Tour for Kindergarten. Ann.
- 5/9. Libby Library Big Read Kickoff for Wild New World by Dan Flores. No holds & no waiting!
- 5/9, 1:30 p.m. "Growing Summer Reading Engagement with Beanstack." Ann.
- 5/9, 5:30 p.m. Celebration for Ann and Betty's special work anniversaries at Sawmill. Molly, staff members.
- 5/11, 6 p.m. Writers' Workshop. Sean, Ross.
- 5/13, evening. CCBC workshop in Superior. Ann.
- 5/14, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Library Board Meeting. Molly.
- 5/16, 10 am to 2 pm. NWLN and Directors Meetings. Molly, Ann.
- 5/16, 1 pm. Friends Meeting. Ann, Molly.
- 5/17. Deadline for library clerical job applications/resumes. Molly.
- 5/18, 10:30 a.m. Craft: Children's Custom-Made Baseball Hat. Ann.
- 5/21. 6th grade rain date for library tour. Ann.
- 5/21, 4:30 pm. Hayward Library Foundation Meeting. Molly.
- 5/27. Closed for Memorial Day.
- 5/TBA, 9 a.m. NICE Committee Mtg. Molly.
- 5/30, 9:30 a.m. Meeting with Friends Treasurer Ann Korn. Ann, Molly.
- 6/6 - 8/4. Summer Reading Program: "Adventure Begins at Your Library!" Ann, Molly, staff, volunteers.

Ongoing Programs

- Tuesdays, 10:15 am. Storytime (Birth - 5 yrs.) presented by Northwest Connection Family Resources. Nina.
- Thursdays 10 am-12 noon. In Gauge, knitters & crafters. Ann, Molly.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES

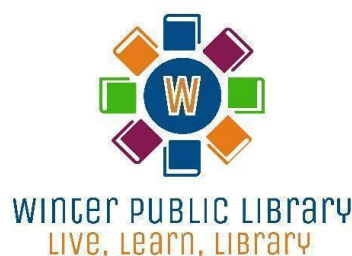
- FREE hotspots on loan!-For our library's cardholders 18+ years old with a card in good standing.
- Free one-day Wisconsin State Park Passes: Free admission for one vehicle at any state park, forest, or recreation area-while supplies last.
- STEM Kits-available at our library. The kits increase the 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** -100+ languages at your fingertips, and **Kanopy** - allows people to stream thousands of movies with a library card. To use the apps, go to <https://weisscommunitylibrary.com/online-resources/> and follow the instructions.



Ila is so proud of the beaded flower she made with the library's Take n Make kit.

"Basic First Aid for Kids," our instructional program held April 13 in partnership with Kids Interactive Tools for Success (K.I.T.S.), piqued the interest of many kids & their parents.





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)

26th-Birth to 4K Story Hour @ 10:30 a.m.

26th-Kidz Club @ 3:30-5:30 p.m.

30th-StrongBodies @ 9:00 a.m.

May

2nd-StrongBodies @ 9:00 a.m..

3rd-Birth to 4K Story Hour @ 10:30 a.m.

3rd-Kidz Club @ 3:30-5:30 p.m.

7th-StrongBodies @ 9:00 a.m..

9th-StrongBodies @ 9:00 a.m.

10th-Birth to 4K Story Hour @ 10:30 a.m.

10th-Kidz Club @ 3:30-5:30 p.m.

14th-StrongBodies @ 9:00 a.m..

16th-StrongBodies @ 9:00 a.m.

16th-Lego Club @ 6:00 p.m.

21st-StrongBodies @ 9:00 a.m.

23rd-StrongBodies @ 9:00 a.m.

25th-Annual Indoor Book Sale from 9-2 p.m.

28th-StrongBodies @ 9:00 a.m.

30th-StrongBodies @ 9:00 a.m.

Kidz Club

This club is open to ages kindergarten through high school. Homework help, crafts and board games are offered as activities. It will end on May 10th for the summer and resume in the fall.

Lego Club

Meets the third Thursday each month. Lego Club begins with individual lego challenges and ends the evening with a team challenge.

Story Hours

We have two opportunities for Story Hours. Tuesdays afternoons @ 4:00 p.m. and Friday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Both are very well attended.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten (Ongoing)

The objectives of this organization are:

- to promote reading to newborns, infants, and toddlers
- to encourage parent and child bonding through reading

Prizes and free books are offered with this program.

Race to 100 (Kindergarten) (Ongoing)

Similar concept to 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten but just focuses on 100 books before the end of the Kindergarten year.

StrongBodies

UW-Extension FoodWise Strongbodies programming continues until May 30th. This programming is every Tuesday and Thursday. This is a virtual program.

Friends of the Library

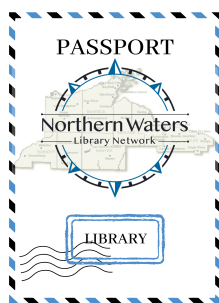
Main fundraisers for 2024:

- Spring Fling Book Sale
- 50/50 July Jubilee Library Raffle
- July Jubilee 2 mile Color Run and 10K Race
- Glow items at the July Jubilee Fireworks show
- Winter Music Fest food stand
- Duck Race on the Chippewa River in Ojibwa
- Fall Homespun Holiday Basket Raffles

Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament

March 10th was the first of more puzzle tournaments. Due to space, we have allowed 4 teams of 4 to register for the competition. Each team gets the same 500 piece puzzle at their table and have up to 2 hours to complete the puzzle. The first team to complete their puzzle won gift certificates to local establishments. The next Jigsaw Puzzle Competition is May 5th from 2-4:00 p.m.

NWLN Passport program



Stop by a NWLN library and pick up a passport. Start visiting libraries in the system

and get your passport stamped to be eligible for prizes. This program lasts through the end of August of 2024.

Upcoming Events:

- Summer Reading Program
- Book Sale
- Outdoor Space project

Grant Awarded (\$1,500): IEEE SKPL

Purchase circulating science kits that cover forces and motions, robotics, magnetic force, tessellations, geology, simple machines, electric circuits and more. The kits can be checked out by families, completed at home and returned back to the library. This competitive grant was provided by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

Summer Reading Program:

Adventure Begins at Your Library

Preschool program will be on Friday mornings at 10:30 a.m. The program includes books, music and movement, crafts, and family circle time.

Elementary program will be on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. Books, hands-on activities are included in this programming option. We are partnering this year with the Winter Schools for our summer program. The school is using the library for their summer incentive reading program. Students that participate in the program earn awards at the library and school. We will be having a joint end of summer celebration at the school's open house.

Teens and adults will also have the opportunity to join in on the Adventure Begins at Your Library program. Special events and programs are being planned geared towards them.

Circulation Statistics

Circulation Report 2023

Winter	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Total	676	580	739	828	732	765	952	840	861	952	782	914
ILL	6	4	1	4	12	13	9	19	17	9	5	9
Total-ILL	670	576	738	824	720	752	943	821	844	943	779	905

Total Circulation as of 12/31/23= 10,000-79=9,928

Circulation Report 2023

Winter	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Total	904	830	952									
ILL	1	7	7									
Total-ILL	903	823	945									

Total Circulation as of 3/31/2024=2,671

Libby Statistics-E-Media-2023

Winter	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct.	Nov	Dec
State eBooks	188	161	191	150	131	133	112	143	130	132	130	128
State Audiobooks	216	136	89	88	68	89	47	66	113	91	104	68
State Magazines	5	21	29	8	6	8	7	3	46	29	28	34
Total eCirculation	409	318	309	246	205	230	166	212	289	252	262	230
Adv. eBooks	22	15	15	11	10	9	8	17	11	11	8	12
Adv. Audiobooks	9	12	11	10	8	14	9	6	11	7	14	14
New Users Added	1	4	0	0	1	3	0	2	5	4	5	4
Unique Users	47	49	47	45	41	49	49	53	59	61	64	52

Libby Statistics-E-Media-2024

Winter	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	July	Aug.	Sept	Oct.	Nov	Dec
State eBooks	177	137	154									
State Audiobooks	120	95	133									
State Magazines	88	44	49									
Total eCirculation	385	276	336									
Adv. eBooks	18	23	13									
Adv. Audiobooks	18	9	15									
New Users Added	3	2	0									
Unique Users	62	55	55									

Wisconsin Broadband Access- Serviceable Locations (BSL)

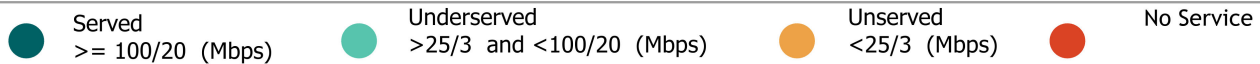
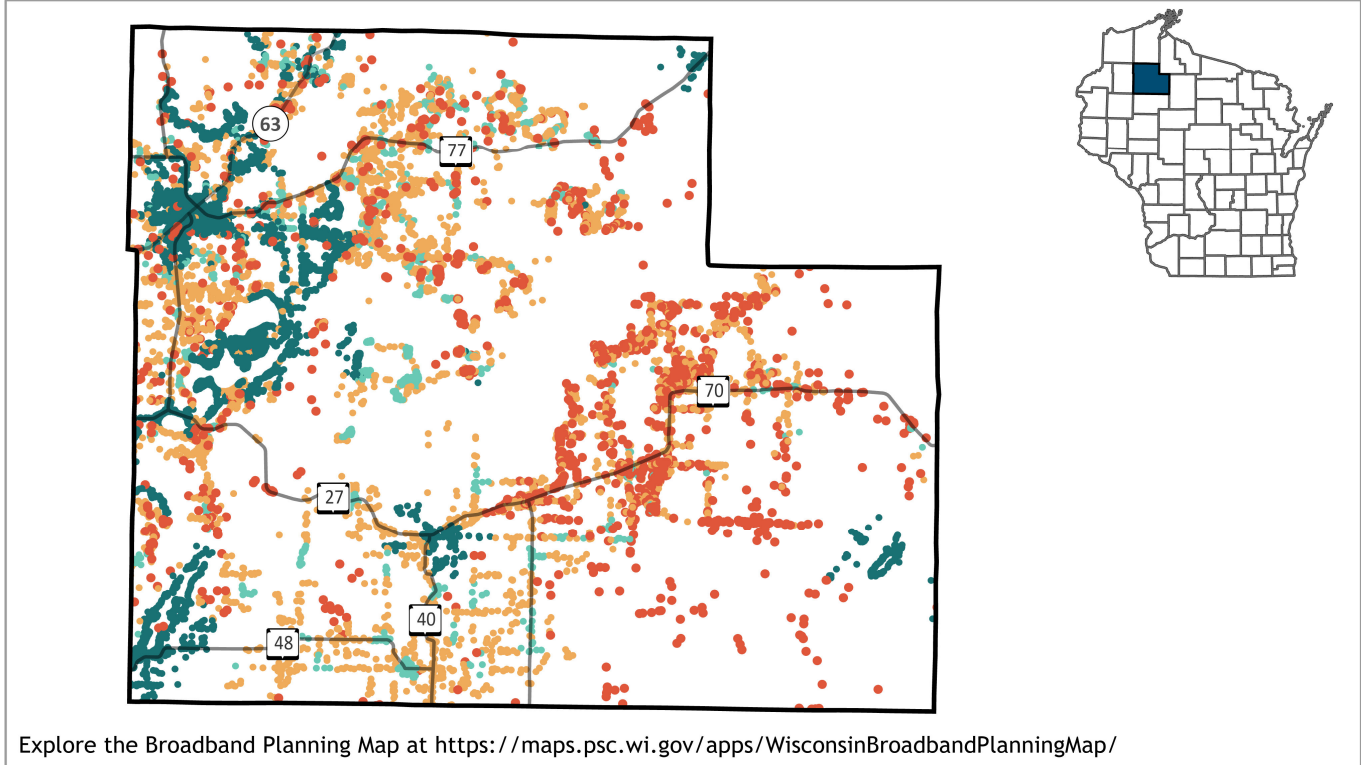
Sawyer County



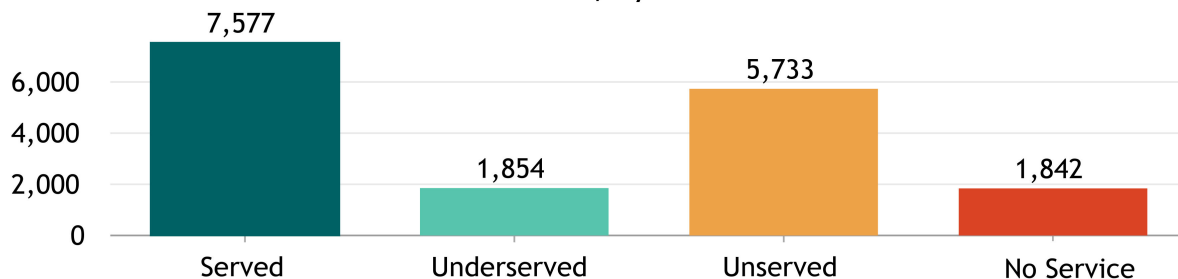
Total BSLs **17,006**

Underserved,
Unservd and No
Service Count **9,429**

Source: FCC Broadband Data Collection BSL Service Status as of June 30, 2023

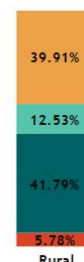


BSL count, by service status



"Broadband service" = an internet service with a minimum speed 100/20 Mbps

% of BSLs, by urbanicity type, by service status



Note: For counties having 100% BSL in the same urbanicity type only one bar is displayed.

Wisconsin Broadband- Enforceable Funding Commitment

Sawyer County



17,006

Count of Total BSLs

9,429

Count of Underserved, Unserved, and No Service BSLs

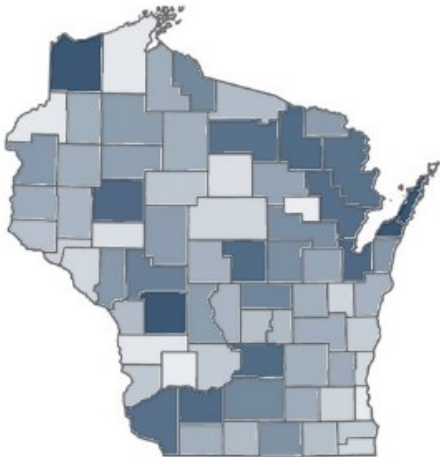
Source: FCC Broadband Data Collection BSL Service Status as of June 30, 2023

"Enforceable Funding Commitment", (EFC) for the purposes of BEAD is any "in progress" award that will build service of at least 100/20 to all locations by either a wireline cable or fiber connection, or a licensed fixed wireless connection. This includes a subset of state awards, all ARPA awards, all USDA Reconnect awards, RDOF, and E-ACAM.

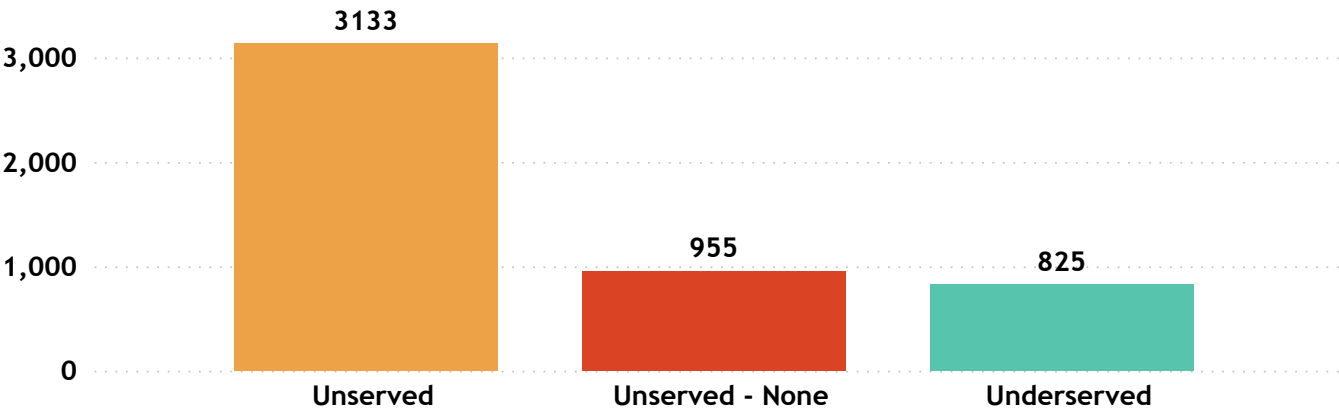
Estimated Underserved, Unserved and No Service Locations without Enforceable Funding Commitment

4,913

Estimated Underserved, Unserved and No Service Locations without EFC (count of locations **min** to **max**)



Estimated Underserved, Unserved, and No Service locations without EFC



Wisconsin Broadband- Internet Service Providers

Sawyer County

FCC service as of December 31, 2022

8

ISP

Bevcomm

Bevcomm - Indianhead Telephone Company

CenturyLink (owned by Lumen)

Charter Communications Inc

Consolidated Communications, Fidium

Mosaic Technologies

Norvado

T-Mobile US

Wisconsin Broadband Affordability- Plan Cost

'Broadband service' = an internet service with a minimum speed 100/20 Mbps

ISPs in Wisconsin: **126**

ISPs in Sawyer County : **8**

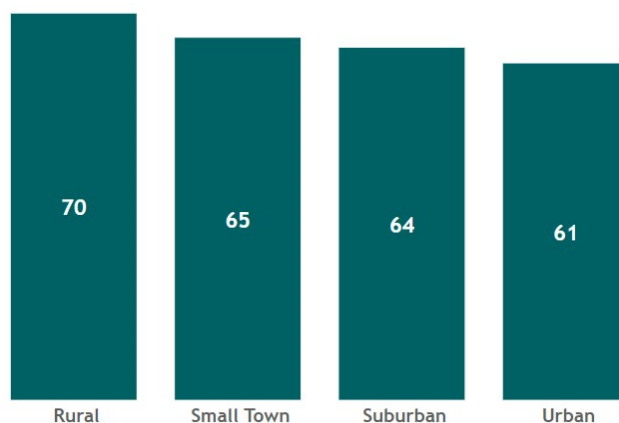
State Minimum Broadband
Monthly Price Range
\$ 49.95 - \$ 156.50

State Average of Minimum
Broadband Price/ Month
\$64.85

WI Household (HH)
Median Income
\$67,080

AFFORDABILITY CRITERIA:
1.17% of Household Income

WI Average Minimum Broadband Price/
Month
(in \$) by Urbanicity



Source: Service offerings from ISPs representing 2,200 price offerings across all counties.

HH annual income-range (\$)	Broadband Plan* monthly cost
less than \$15K	less than \$15
\$15K - \$24K	\$15 - \$24
\$25K - \$39K	\$25 - \$38
\$40K - \$54K	\$39 - \$52
\$55K - \$69K	\$53 - \$67
\$70K - \$84K	\$68 - \$81
\$85K - \$99K	\$82 - \$96
\$100K - \$150K	\$97 - \$146
\$150K+	\$147+

* Broadband plan: is a plan providing internet service of a minimum speed of 100/20Mbps
The commonly accepted Broadband cost-burden threshold's income (see worldwide affordability target by 2025)

Sawyer County

Average of Minimum Broadband
Price/ Month

\$ 60.89

Sawyer County

Household (HH) Median Income

\$ 52,022

Wisconsin HHs: 2,401,818

Sawyer County HHs: 7,893

Source: ACS 5y 2017-2021