

**Minutes of the June 10, 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: John Righeimer
- ☒ Vice Chair: Stacey Hessel
- ☒ Tom Duffy
- ☒ Steve Kariainen
- ☒ Randy Neumann

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Lynn Fitch
Sherry Beckman
Lori Baltrusis
Sheldon Johnson

Call to Order – Chair Righeimer 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: May 6, 2024

Motion to approve made by: Ms. Hessel Second by: Mr. Neumann
Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association Report –
No Update

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report -
Ms. Baltrusis handed out information for the summer camp; registration ends this week.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau -
A written report of marketing efforts was provided along with a list of upcoming PR dates. Ms. Beckman advised that the film tax incentive bill is being re-introduced and the Dept. of Tourism would operate the bill if approved. The goal is to bring more movies to Wisconsin. The ATV & Snowmobile Corridor Trail Map and Trail Guide were shared. Room tax revenue for 1st quarter was down about \$10,000 but sales tax was up.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission Report -
Mr. Johnson provided a verbal update. They are working with several lakes and lake associations to treat aquatic invasive species. Their annual meeting is June 26th.

Economic Development Corporation Report -
They are still working on the incubator house and continue discussions on housing.

Library Updates -
Written reports were provided. The Committee will have in-person reports on a quarterly basis.

Motorized Trail and Non-Motorized Trail Report -
Mr. Righeimer read a report from Ms. LaReau. The newly approved County routes are not approved to ride on until signage is up. They are seeing an average of over 80 riders a day on the trails that have monitors. Mr. Duffy advised

that there was a bike ride last Saturday. Charlie Behrens will return to LWC weekend. There are currently over 6,000 skiers registered in the Birkie.

Broadband Update -

Mr. Johnson advised that the joint group application for BEAD funds received about \$200,000. The Public Service Commission completed its first 30-day review of the underserved maps. NWRPC will help coordinate information between the PSC and counties to formulate resolutions for future applications for new funding and projects, choosing which provider to recommend for projects. The applications are expected to come out this year with full build-out in 2028-9.

Review of BugTussel Proposal – Public Safety Network – Mr. Albarado reviewed the proposal for radio coverage upgrades with an estimated cost of \$2-2.5M. We are in communication with a company called BugTussel (who could build a fiber ring) to help build out a combination of options which may help reduce costs. The BT proposal that was shared at Public Safety was reviewed by Mr. Albarado. Both digital and analog options were included. The public safety committee wants to see as much coverage be developed throughout the county as possible which may result in building a combination of GenComm/BugTussel fiber and towers. The timing to become involved with BT would require a quick turnaround.

Outside Committee Updates -

Mr. Kariainen provided an update for the Northern Waters Library Board and Northwest Wisconsin CEP Board.

Historical Society -

No update

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

Meeting adjourned at 9: am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk