

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

Andy Albarado
Liz Klein
Sherry Beckman
Lori Baltrusis

Others Present:

Ann Larson
Jim Ferguson
Ariga Grigoryan
Adam Lamoureux

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 – Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: June 10, 2024

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

Apostle Island National Park Letter of Support-

Motion to support a Sawyer County letter by: Mr. Duffy Second by: Mr. Kariainen
Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association Report –

No Update

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report -

Ms. Baltrusis reported that the summer camp is in session and her quarterly report was provided to the committee. Ms. Grigoryan reported on efforts to promote local foods and organizational development work with towns and LCO to determine community needs and access grant funds.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau -

A written report showing a record year for business sales in 2023 was provided. Room tax for the first quarter of 2024 is expected to be low due to the lack of snow. Ms. Beckman announced that she is retiring this month and will be replaced by Mindy Simons.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission Report -

No update

Economic Development Corporation Report -

The incubator house funded by the THRIVE grant will be open to the public for business coaching Mondays and Wednesdays from 4-6pm. Other upcoming events include and an open house July 18 from 5-6:30 PM to celebrate new business Timber Green Services, and a Tribal Toolbox workshop August 1 from 10am-1pm. The housing committee continues a feasibility study to look for building land.

Library Updates -

Ann Larson spoke on recent and upcoming speakers and events at the Weiss Community Library. Written reports were provided for Weiss and Winter Libraries.

Motorized Trail and Non-Motorized Trail Report -

Mr. Duffy reported that Birkie registrations continue to come in with good numbers. Lumberjack Fest features comedian Charlie Behrens and tickets are selling fast. The Telemark pentathlon project is underway with a Grand Opening set for August.

Mr. Righeimer read a report from Ms. LaReau on record attendance for ATV tourism over the 4th of July holiday.

Broadband Update -

Mr. Albarado met with Norvado and is meeting with Mosaic on updating county progress for broadband projects and coverage. Mr. Duffy asked if there is a timeframe when the whole county will be covered. Mr. Albarado stated he hopes to see BEAD funding used toward this end, but some of the more remote areas will need satellite or wireless coverage.

Outside Committee Updates -

Mr. Kariainen attended a meeting for the Indianhead Community Action Agency and reported on current efforts to fund the CEP Board. Mr. Albarado noted that this is an agenda item on next week's Admin and Finance committee meetings.

Historical Society -

Mr. Ferguson reported on new display items the Society is working on. There will be a meeting in Stone Lake next month featuring John Detloff as a speaker.

Future Agenda Items-

Mr. Albarado thanked Sherry Beckman for her work and requested the appointment of Mindy Simons on the next agenda.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee will be Monday, August 12th, at 8:30 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17 am

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, EO Deputy Clerk