

**Minutes of the September 9, 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
Liz Klein
Mindy Simons
Cathy LaReau
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 –

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: August 5, 2024

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

Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association Report –

The August fair appeared to be a success.

Hayward Community School Education Director -

Meredith Ingbretson advised the Committee on how community members will be able to access the new facilities at the remodeled school buildings. Monthly family and individual membership rates are available.

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report -

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau -

A written report was provided highlighting the August 2024 marketing efforts. Lieutenant Governor Sara Rodriguez visit-Lieutenant Governor Sara Rodriguez visited the Hayward Area on Thursday, August 8th taking part in an ATV/UTV ride and a visit to Tamarack Farms. Ms. Simons reported a very busy August at HLVCB with events and marketing campaigns.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission Report -

Economic Development Corporation Report -

Mr. Lamoureux provided a verbal update, and last month they worked with ten hopeful new businesses. The incubator is ready for use. There are grant opportunities coming up along with training on how to offer the loan programs. They are hosting an alternative funding workshop soon.

Library Updates -

Written reports were provided.

Motorized Trail and Non-Motorized Trail Report -

Ms. LaReaux advised that route markers have been going up to help clarify newly opened routes. The trail counters have been providing results; Trail 5 has seen a jump in activity since County roads were opened. Seeley Hills trails hold steady with about 1600 riders a month. The Tuscobia Trail is over 3,000 a month. LCO showed a substantial drop in ridership, down to 500/month. The DNR recently put out some safety messaging that they want shared. Mr. Duffy shared an email from Ben Popp on non-motorized trail activity. Trail counters at OO shows over 5,500 visits in August. They have over 8,800 Birkie registrations to date and Birkie Week events are now open for registration. The Forestry Department recently completed a logging project at OO with little interruption of trail services.

Broadband Update -

Mr. Albarado reported on the BEAD process and the endorsement process. Applications for letters of support should be coming in soon.

Board Appointed Committee Updates -

Mr. Kariainen advised that CEP has been downsizing their staff/operations. The Spooner office will likely close.

Historical Society -

No update

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee will be Monday, October 7th, at 8:30 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:09 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk