

**Minutes of the November 4, 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 - virtual
- ☐ Randy Neumann - exc

Andy Albarado
Lynn Fitch
Mindy Simons
Cathy LaReau
Jim Ferguson

Others Present:

Lori Baltrusis
Adam Lamoreaux
Aryiga Gregorian

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: October 7, 2024

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

Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association Report –
No update

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report -

Ms. Baltrusis advised that a new support staff individual has been hired in Extension. Ms. Gregorian provided additional updates and advised that the Clean Sweep program was completed; nearly 200 cars went through the service. She assisted SC/LCO Economic Development Corporation complete a Strategic Plan. Opportunities for local producers to export overseas are being discovered.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau -

A written report was provided and reviewed by Ms. Simons. Ms. Simons advised that the Vacation Guide is now at the printers. She reviewed highlights of marketing activities and statistics. As of late our county is getting many more visitors from the Chicago area than the Minneapolis area. The ATV/UTV trail activity increased over 240% this year.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission Report -
No update

Economic Development Corporation Report -

Posters of two upcoming EDC events were shared. Mr. Lamoreaux reported that the business incubator is very busy. They recently applied for a small business development grant which would provide funds for marketing and technical assistance. He reviewed the upcoming educational events that they are bringing to the community.

Library Updates -

A calendar of events was included from the Winter Library.

Motorized Trail and Non-Motorized Trail Report -

Ms. LaReau advised that there are some trail closures coming up due to hunting season and pending winter conditions. Once snow grooming begins, only ATVs that are 900 lbs. and under are allowed on County trails. The State has approved only 1 of 3 bridge repair project due to funding. Mr. Duffy presented an oral report on non-motorized trails, stating that the 2025 LWC has been moved to July 17-19 due to scheduling conflicts. Birkie registrations are up to 10,000 with an 11,000 limit. A quick review of other ski-related activities was given.

Broadband Update -

BEAD Updates and Endorsement Requests – Mr. Albarado advised that there are no BEAD projects to consider at this time. He shared the Wisconsin preliminary BEAD Project Units Map of the area.

County Connectivity – Cell, Broadband, Public Safety Network -

Mr. Albarado reported that they continue to work on the radio project details with GenComm to try to get tentative terms in place. He did talk to BugTussel to see if there is a partnership opportunity available, and next year it can be reviewed again. Representatives can come back to the County to open discussions in December, if we so choose.

Historical Society -

Mr. Ferguson reported that they are closed November and December except by appointment. In January they start winter hours of Thursdays 10am – 2pm. They hosted the local Trunk or Treat this year in October. The restoration of the Totem Pole at the Hayward Library is nearing completion.

Board Appointed Committee Updates -

Ms. Hessel attended the 100-year anniversary party at one of our area lodges. Mr. Kariainen reported on his meetings with ICAA and Hayward Head Start.

Future Agenda Items – County Connectivity – Cell, Broadband, Public Safety Network

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee will be Monday, December 9, 2024, at 8:30 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk