

**Minutes of the December 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

Andy Albarado
Lynn Fitch
Mindy Simons
Cathy LaReau
Jim Ferguson

Others Present:

Adam Lamoreaux
Lori Baltrusis
Jim Ferguson

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, Steve Beining

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: **November 4, 2024**

Motion to approve made by: Ms. Hessel Second by: Mr. Kariainen

Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association Report –

No update

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report -

Mr. Albarado presented a MOU between UW-Madison Division of Extension and Sawyer County to supplement the contract.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau -

A written report was provided and reviewed by Ms. Simons who explained the relationship between HLVCB and Destinations Wisconsin. HLVCB began running a digital Google Ads pay-per-click campaign targeting four main topics: year-round things to do in Hayward, fishing, ATV/UTV, and snowmobiling. In the first six days they got 564 clicks. Their primary target audience is younger families.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission Report -

No update

Economic Development Corporation Report -

Mr. Lamoreaux reported good things happening in the incubator project, applying for a grant and combining forces with LCO. They are also working on marketing projects to encourage “doing business in Sawyer County”. They also have workforce education trainings coming up soon, and flyers will be provided to the Committee.

Library Updates -

A flyer from the Hayward Weiss Library was included.

Motorized Trail and Non-Motorized Trail Report -

Ms. LaReau advised that the clubs are getting the trails ready for snowmobiling. They held a fundraiser last Friday that good attendance. Mr. Duffy advised that there are over 10,300 skiers registered for the Birkie and 2.5km of machine-made snow down at the Birkie start. About 515 skiers attended last month's Turkey Birkie race, and the next event will be the Gitchi Gami Games and 600 kids are registered.

County Connectivity – Cell, Broadband, Public Safety Network -

Mr. Albarado advised the discussion for the public safety network continues, and Scott Feldt from BugTussel joined the meeting virtually to respond to questions. Mr. Feldt reported that they would be happy to revisit the project and see if alterations would be needed. They are waiting for the PSC to see how much funding could be available. The County has three priorities with connectivity: 1) EMS support; 2) improved cell service for public and EMS; 3) increased broadband availability. Timing-wise, items 1 and 2 could/would work hand-in-hand and could be completed first while increased broadband availability could come later. It was suggested that both Econ/UWEX and Public Safety will meet to create a proposal for a January County Board meeting.

Broadband Update -

Consider BEAD Endorsements – The State has \$1B to distribute for broadband projects. Our first request is from Mosaic Technologies; De Anna Westphal from Mosaic shared their request and committee members were provided a packet of information. Maps of future projects were included in the presentation. Their projected project would cover areas of the county by the Chippewa Flowage and extensions thereof (Towns of Sand Lake, Bass Lake, Hayward, and Lenroot). A Resolution to endorse this project was presented by Mr. Albarado. A motion was made by Mr. Kariainen to approve the revised resolution including CTC Telecom dba Mosaic Technologies was made by Mr. Kariainen; seconded by Ms. Hessel and forward to County Board. Motion carried without negative vote.

Ms. Hessel left the meeting at 9:37 am and returned at 9:39 am.

Historical Society -

Mr. Ferguson advised they will be looking for a new board member soon. Their next meeting is in January at the Weiss Library. They received a substantial donation from an anonymous patron.

Board Appointed Committee Updates -

Future Agenda Items –

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee will be Monday, January 6th at 8:30 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 am
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk