

**Minutes of the February 10, 2025 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
Mindy Simons
Ann Larson
Kathy LaReau

Others Present:

Adam Lamoreaux
Lori Baltrusis
Jim Ferguson
Donna Knuckey
Ariga Grigorian

Call to Order – Chair Righeimer called the meeting to order at 8:31 am.

Certification of Compliance with the open meeting law was met. Roll Call was taken. Quorum was met.

Meeting Agenda -- Set

Public Comments – None

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: January 6, 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. Knuckey gave a written and verbal report on 4H, the Positive Youth Development program, Heart of the North Legislative Day and Community Health programs, which include Substance Prevention, Youth-Adult partnerships and the Youth Advocate for Community Health Program. The department's motto is "Extension is out in the community."

Ms. Grigorian gave a written and verbal report on the NRCS Grant received with LCO for food sovereignty programs; the funding is approved but on hold. A TSAT grant will be applied for in April which combines science with art: the project will feature tribal art murals and may serve as a tourism site.

The committee asked about including youth on the County Board and Mr. Albarado agreed it can be done and will be investigated further.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau -

A written report was provided and reviewed by Ms. Simons; efforts to bring in tourism revenues despite low snowfall totals include a YouTube series called Crappie Chronicles, new advertising for ice fishing on Milwaukee radio, and Google ads. Snowmobile trails are open and hiking and snowshoeing are popular winter options as well

Northwest Regional Planning Commission Report -

No update

Economic Development Corporation Report -

Mr. Lamoreaux gave a written report on the Governor's Economic Conference. The EDC is writing a grant to obtain funding for a building for the business incubator after the THRIVE funding runs out. Fundraising efforts with local

sponsors are ongoing, and information is posted on Facebook and the EDC website. An accounting Profit Mastery course was offered on January 8-9, with 9 people in attendance.

The 2025-2030 Library Plan-

Mr. Albarado stated the need for a committee to look at planning for the library system.

Motion to approve Resolution to Establish a Library Committee as presented for forwarding to the Board of Supervisors by: Mr. Neumann Second by: Ms. Hessel

Motion carried without negative vote.

Motorized Trail and Non-Motorized Trail Report -

Ms. LaReau provided a verbal update on snowmobile trail conditions and stated that Sawyer trails are open and rated in fair condition. Businesses on the flowage report good revenues but outlying areas are seeing winter numbers lower than last year. ATV/UTV opportunities are available throughout the county and use is steady.

Mr. Duffy reported on the Birkie. Recent snow and cold temperatures are promising for the race to extend through to Hayward. The decision will be made at a meeting later today. Telemark has been busy hosting races from other Midwestern areas without snow.

Broadband Update -

Two BEAD Endorsements were approved and a third company has approached the county. Bevcomm is not seeking a BEAD endorsement but will continue to expand their coverage throughout their service area.

Historical Society -

Mr. Ferguson updated the committee on projects including a fence and a gangster exhibit. There is a new board member. A citizen has donated videos from the 1940s.

Board Appointed Committee Updates - None

Future Agenda Items – Youth participation on the County Board

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee will be Monday, March 10th at 8:30 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:28 am

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk