

**Minutes of the March 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- virtual
- ☒ Vice Chair: Stacey Hessel
- ☒ Tom Duffy
- ☒ Steve Kariainen
- ☒ Randy Neumann

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Liz Klein
Adam Lamoreaux
Lori Baltrusis- virtual
Donna Knuckey

Call to Order – Vice Chair Hessel 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 -- Set

Public Comments – None

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: February 10, 2024

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

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report -

Donna Knuckey introduced Emily Burger from UW Extension to speak about the Youth in Governance program: students can participate in County Board meetings to learn about government. The committee will move the idea forward with draft applications and rules.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau -

Ms. Simons provided a written letter with updates that was read to the committee.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission Report -

No update

Economic Development Corporation Report -

Mr. Lamoreaux reported on job creation, business incubator numbers, a video project to promote living and working in Sawyer County, future EDC fundraisers to have matching grant funds on hand, a sponsorship drive, and consulting work with local businesses.

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report –

Ms. Baltrusis joined the meeting and updated the committee on the upcoming Government Day which would provide an opportunity to reach out to students for interest in the Youth in Governance program. Mr. Kevin Schoessow is retiring after serving Sawyer, Burnett and Washburn counties at the Spooner Ag Department. Strategic Planning is awaiting next steps.

Motorized Trail and Non-Motorized Trail Report -

Ms. LaReau provided a written report on snowmobile, ATV/UTV trail conditions that was read to the committee. Mr. Duffy reported on a successful Birkie: 13,000 racers and 25,000 spectators participated. The event brought in an estimated \$5M on race weekend and \$30M annually to Sawyer County.

Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Report—

No report

Historical Society –

No report

Broadband Update—

Mr. Albarado reported that all the BEAD endorsements were submitted last week.

Contracts(s) for Services with External Organizations – Drafts of contracts between Sawyer County and HLVCB, SRC, the Fair, and the EDC are in progress to formalize their relationships with the county; services and payments will be outlined to provide a mechanism for assessing performance between the parties.

Board Appointed Committee Updates - None

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences--None

Future Agenda Items – Youth in Governance

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 am

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk