

**Minutes of the April 7, 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

Others Present:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Andy Albarado | Ann Larson |
| Liz Klein | Sheldon Johnson |
| Adam Lamoreaux | Cathy LaReau |
| Katherine Elchert- virtual | Mindy Simons |
| Donna Knuckey | Lori Baltrusis |

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 -- Set

Public Comments – None

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: March 10, 2025

Motion to approve made by: Mr. Duffy Second by: Mr. Neumann

Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association—

No report

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report –

Ms. Baltrusis gave updates on a vacancy, Youth in Government and the County's Strategic Plan timeline.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau –

Ms. Simons attended the Wisconsin Governor's Conference in Tourism and stated that Sawyer is ahead of the game with our focus on outdoor recreation. Speakers included Duluth Trading Company, St. Croix Rods, and Mercury Marine. Ben Popp was there to present an award.

Contract for Services—The HLVCB Contract for Services was reviewed and approved on a motion by: Ms. Hessel

Second by: Mr. Neumann

Motion carried without negative vote.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission Report –

Sheldon Johnson discussed the state's intent to seek the CDBG RLF funds back from local entities to reallocate to repurposing vacant spaces; Sawyer County has \$16,000.00 in its fund, used for rehabilitation of housing for low-income applicants. NWRPC is advocating to retain those funds locally. The County Board may prepare a resolution to request that its funds be kept in the local account.

Economic Development Corporation Report -

Mr. Lamoreaux presented a list of SC LCO sponsorships with ten new sponsors. He updated the committee on the "Why Sawyer?" video being prepared to recruit employees to Sawyer County. The HOMES report was sent to the committee. A list of services offered by the SSBIC was discussed. On May 9 from 8am-12pm, NWRPC is conducting a small business workshop.

Library updates—**Winter Library—**

Donna Knuckey presented updates on programming, fundraising, and circulation. Winter Library will be working on a strategic plan with A. Grigorian for the next three months.

Shermann Weiss Library—

Ann Larson presented a programming, fundraising and circulation statistics. Federal IMLS cuts will impact services and programs. Ms. Elchert confirmed the information.

County Library Planning Committee—

The committee met and made revisions to the proposed County Library Plan.

Library Plan—

The Updated Library Plan was presented to the committee.

Resolution to approve the Library Plan and pass on to County Board for consideration by: Mr. Neumann

Second by: Ms. Hessel

Motion carried without negative vote.

Trail Reports--

Motorized- Ms. LaReau stated that revenues are down and trail pass rates may be increased.

Non-motorized- Mr. Duffy shared a letter from Ben Popp.

Historical Society –

No report.

Broadband Update—

No updates.

Board Appointed Committee Updates – Mr. Kariainen reported that CEP and ICAA have upcoming meetings; federal cuts have not impacted those programs.

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, May 5th at 8:30 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 am

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk