

**Minutes of the June 9, 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- Excused
- ☒ Steve Kariainen
- ☒ Randy Neumann

Others Present:

Mike Markgren
Liz Klein
Lori Baltrusis
Mindy Simons
Cathy LaReau

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: May 5, 2025

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

Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association—

No report

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report –

Ms. Baltrusis updated the committee on the open position for a Regional Crops Educator position that would be shared by 3-4 counties. Federal funding cuts to SNAP-Ed would eliminate the FoodWise program in Sawyer County.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau Report—

Ms. Simons reported on May marketing numbers for the website, increased summer staffing, and three marketing contests: HLVCB/Chamber contest for a giant stuffed bear and \$100 in Chamber bucks June 1-August 30, a Vacation Guide Cover Contest from June 1-end of summer, and a free night Holiday Inn Express stay for day of fishing with professional bass angler Chad Grisby.

Trail Reports--

Motorized- Ms. LaReau reported on a successful Muddin' 4 Kidz fundraiser over the weekend and also stated that the Alliance is not opposed to the Seeley Forest Trail, other than where it adversely affects motorized trails. Ms. LaReau stated that the trail concept is a good idea for Sawyer County.

Historical Society –

No report

SC/LCO Economic Development Corporation Report--

No report

Broadband Update—

Mr. Markgren stated that this will be the last update for a while as the projects are finished.

Board Appointed Committee Updates –

Mr. Kariainen reported that the CEP Board meets next week.

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences—

Mr. Markgren and Ms. Hessel visited a City of Washburn affordable housing project that has potential to work as a model in Sawyer County. Next steps would be to contact Cinnaire and conduct an assessment on what has been built in Sawyer in the past few years.

Future Agenda Items –

Strategic Planning- incorporate reports and discussions into upcoming committee meetings, gather data and set goals.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 am

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk