

**Minutes of the October 6, 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

Mike Markgren
Laura Bruce
Adam Lamoureaux
Mindy Simons
Sheldon Johnson

Others Present:

Donna Knuckey
Ann Larson

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 – Linda Zillmer

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: September 8, 2025

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

Library Budget Updates--

Winter- Ms. Knuckey updated the Committee on upcoming future plans, with a strategic plan being finalized at the next meeting. She reported on the garden harvest and budget, and stated the library is not asking for additional funding in 2026.

Weiss- Ms. Larson presented Weiss Library documents to the committee; she stated there has been a 10% increase in visitors and the library is asking for additional funding for 2026 operations.

Mr. Righeimer inquired about possible funding help from the local municipalities; Ms. Larson explained to do that there would need to be joint agreements in place.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau Report—

Ms. Simons reported on the Tourism and Room Tax revenues which Townships contribute, and how the funds are distributed. She explained that room tax revenues are used strictly for advertising and marketing and requested \$50,000.00 for the 2026 budget.

NWRPC Report—

Mr. Johnson presented documents to the committee regarding the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. He spoke regarding the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) ending in April 2026 and provided details regarding the new Northwest Regional Housing program. The Hazardous Waste Collection has been completed. He spoke regarding the upcoming Forestry Resolution and stated NWRPC will be creating a Resolution to support the Act.

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report – No Report.

SC/LCO Economic Development Corporation Report—

Mr. Lamoureux reported the Thrive Grant has been accepted and they are now working on submitting the business plan. There is now a Thrive 2 grant available. October 8, 2025 there will be a fraud prevention workshop from 11am-12 pm; how to handle fraud in the workplace. He stated that the Forestry Revitalization Act would be an amazing opportunity for our area.

RESOLUTION 2025- to support the Forestry Revitalization Act—

Mr. Markgren stated that this would be a huge boost to our economy.

Motion to approve the resolution as written to forward to County Board by: Ms. Hessel

Second by: Mr. Neumann

Motion carried without negative vote.

Trail Reports--

No motorized reports.

Mr. Duffy reported on non-motorized trails; Telemark Trail Run was last weekend, work is being done to the Birkie Trail and a 500 seat expansion is underway at the Lumberjack bowl.

Board Appointed Committee Updates –

No reports.

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences—

No reports

Ms. Hessel spoke regarding suicide awareness; recently there was a walk in Winter and one in Hayward. All of the proceeds went to the schools for suicide prevention.

Future Agenda Items – None

Adjournment – 9:39 am

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee will be Monday, November 3 at 8:30 am in the Board Room.

Minutes recorded by Laura Bruce, Elected Official Deputy Clerk