

**Minutes of the December 8, 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- Excused

Others Present:

Mike Markgren
Laura Bruce
Kris Treland-Neumann
Mindy Simons
Jim Ferguson

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, Kris Treland-Neumann

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: November 3, 2025

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

Motion carried without negative vote.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau Report—

Ms. Simons reported on the Destinations conference she attended in November and provided information on the Destinations International speaker. Ms. Simons gave a report on economic impact dollars between Vilas County and Sawyer County; Mr. Righeimer asked to have an agenda item added to next meeting regarding education on Room Tax.

NWRPC Report—

Mr. Markgren reported on the Lumber Exchange and stated the soft opening will be in May with a full opening in July.

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report –

No Report

SC/LCO Economic Development Corporation Report—

Ms. Hessel reported for Mr. Lamoureux. She reported on the upcoming Financial Literacy Class, The Thrive Grant, the new budget proposal, Sponsorship Drive Plan, and the WEDC Opportunity Talent Recruitment Grant.

Trail Reports--

Ms. Treland-Neumann reported on motorized trails; signage was done on the new trails, two re-routes and one trail rehab have also been completed. Sales of trail passes are up. Trail clean up from the ice storm was going to cost \$60,000-75,000 and they started a campaign similar to go fund me to raise funds. Mr. Duffy reported we had 9500 skiers already signed up for the upcoming Birkie, there were 850 Turkey Birkie racers, and the trails have been cleaned up from the last ice storm.

Historical Society-- Mr. Ferguson reported the Society is closed from Thanksgiving until New Years. They will have some key speakers starting in March of 2026.

Board Appointed Committee Updates –
No reports

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences— None

Future Agenda Items – None

Adjournment – 9:56 am

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee will be Monday, January 5, 2026 at 8:30 am in the Board Room.

Minutes recorded by Laura Bruce, Elected Official Deputy Clerk