

Draft

Minutes of the meeting of the Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee
Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
February 5, 2018; 8:30 a.m.; Assembly Room; Sawyer County Courthouse

Members present: Brian Bisonette, Marc Helwig, Bruce Paulsen

Others present: Lori Baltrusis, Don Semler, Don Mrotek, Tom Hoff, John Saunders, Sherry Beckman, Frank Zufall, Linda Zilmer, Don Mrotek, Rose Lillyroot.

Brian Bisonette called the meeting to order at 8:33 noting that there was a quorum.

Motion by Paulsen, 2nd by Helwig to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Paulsen, 2nd by Helwig, to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2017 Committee meeting. Motion carried.

James Schlender arrived and began chairing the meeting.

Cheri Morgan recapped statistics on tourism from 2017 that the Chamber can track via their website. Discussion of the Birkie Bridge being in Minneapolis for the Super Bowl.

Sheldon Johnson discussed recruiting and retaining employees in Northwest Wisconsin, Rise Sessions that looked at millennials and what attracts them. Discussion about affordable housing, new funding allocations that were requested and that are available, and that there will be two upcoming household hazardous waste collections.

Don Semler updated the Committee on broadband progress. Reports he has spoken to both Charter and Norvado and neither company has any opportunities being developed in Sawyer County. CenturyTel did submit a grant for further development. Some people are trying Satellite broadband and it is working well, but there is concern that once the busy tourist season arrives it will not be adequate.

UW Extension Director Lori Baltrusis distributed a monthly report to the committee, reported that recruitment is beginning for the new position in Sawyer County and she is hoping to schedule meetings with other partners to discuss possibly sharing educators in the future.

John Saunders introduced reported that the Town of Hayward application went in on time, that bike path maps are now on the website. There was discussion of a master plan.

Don Semler updated the Committee on the Economic Development Corporation and noted that there was a report in the committee's packet. The Workforce Development Committee has had two meetings, good discussion so far with the focus on what to do to attract and retain people.

WITC is hosting strategic planning listening sessions.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Rose Lillyroot