

**Minutes of the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sawyer County  
Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee  
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors  
Assembly Room; Sawyer County**



**Voting Committee Members Present:**

- Chair: Tom Duffy
- VC -- John Righeimer
- Stacey Hessel
- Brian Bisonette
- Chris Rusk - virtual

**Others Present:**

Mike Coleson  
Lynn Fitch  
Lori Baltrusis  
Kate Ross-Barido-virtual  
Jim Ferguson

Cathy LaReau  
Sherry Beckman  
Linda Zillmer - Virtual

**Call to Order** – Vice 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 --**

**Public Comments –**

**Minutes from previous meeting** – A motion was made by Mr. Rusk to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2023, meeting; second by Ms. Hessel. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association Report – No Update**

**University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report -**

Ms. Baltrusis handed out a Food Wise recap of the programs being offered. She advised that the University has hired Kelsey Hyland for the Agriculture Water Culture Program Specialist to serve the northwest part of Wisconsin, and she will work out of Burnett County.

**Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau -**

A written report was provided. Ms. Beckman advised that Ann Sayers, Tourism Secretary, will be here during Birkie, and Sherry will attend Madison Days on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Highlights of the report were reviewed. The fishing opener will be in Park Falls this year. A 60-second winter recreation commercial for Hayward was viewed, and it is planned to run in Eau Claire, Duluth, and Minneapolis TV area.

**Northwest Regional Planning Commission Report – No update**

**Economic Development Corporation Report -**

Ms. Ross-Barido advised that the Wisconsin Vibrant Economic Spaces grant has been submitted to improve the parking lot at Frandsen Bank. They have finalized the board committees and she reviewed some of the projects that are underway in those committees, including their marketing efforts for local businesses. There are funds available through Man Power for new employee training efforts and will let our employers know about this opportunity.

**Library Updates -**

Written reports were provided. Ms. Lank-Jones reviewed the highlights of her report. They are exploring the possibility of going fine-free for overdue books, and she is on the exploration committee that is going to review the prospect of combining three library systems.

**Motorized Trail and Non-Motorized Trail Report -**

Ms. LaReau recently read the trail counters but has not yet reviewed the reports. Sled traffic is high and trails are in great condition despite needing cleanup from the storm; we attract a lot of out-of-state riders. The DNR created a storm damage application for counties to complete; Ms. LaReau and Greg Peterson will apply for Sawyer County.

**Broadband Update -**

**Historical Society -**

Jim reported they are currently open on Thursdays from 10a-2p, but in the summer they are open four days a week. Their quarterly meetings are often held at the Weiss Library on the fourth Thursday of the month. The fund raiser is now over \$26,000 and their balance is currently over \$60,000, so they feel they are currently self-sustaining.

**Meeting Date/Time** – The next meeting of the Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee will be Monday, March 6, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

DRAFT