

Minutes

Sawyer County Comprehensive Planning Committee

February 25, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.

Assembly Room – Sawyer County Courthouse

Voting members present: Mark Olson, Phil Nies, Ron Buckholtz, Linda Zilmer, Nita Kemp, Kay Wilson, Troy Morgan.

Voting members absent: Steve Kelsey, Jason Weaver, Elaine Nybert, Marc Helwig.

Others present: Jay Kozlowski – Sawyer County, Kelly Nechuta – Sawyer County, Jason Laumann – NWRPC, Emily Nelson – NWRPC.

Meeting called to order by Chair Mark Olson at 6:02 p.m. The Chair verified that a quorum was present.

Motion by Phil Nies to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Ron Buckholtz. Motion carried.

Presentation of key areas going forward from Jason Laumann of the Northwest Regional Planning Commission.

EMSI software is used for the county's economics modeling. It is vital to have accurate demographic statistics during the planning process.

It was noted that an aging population, which Sawyer County is experiencing, has huge impacts on economic planning.

Mr. Laumann then led the commission through the preliminary data. This included some clarification of terms contained in the report. "LQ" stands for "location quotient". This is defined as the relative abundance of industries in a given geographic location. "Cohort" is another term for age class.

Population growth estimates for a county like ours are notoriously difficult to predict. Inventory of buildable lake lots would be an ideal measure to be able to look at going forward. This data may take some time to gather.

The committee then volunteered issues of major importance and focus identified by each member. We will revisit issues discussion again at the next meeting.

Reviewed the structure of the Vision element of the Comprehensive Plan. Suggested a work group for this task that could then report back to the full group. We will work as a committee of the whole at a meeting next Tuesday, March 3, 2020 at 6:00.

It was noted that we need a point person to identify commercial and industrial areas that have been added since the last plan.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Troy Morgan

Secretary