

**Minutes of the May 8th 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

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Lori Baltrusis - virtual
Lynn Fitch
Molly Lank-Jones

Sherry Beckman
Linda Zillmer
Jim Ferguson

Call to Order – Chair Duffy 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. Righeimer to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2023, meeting with the correction of VC Righeimer calling the meeting to order; second by Ms. Hessel. Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association Report -

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report -

Ms. Baltrusis informed the committee of upcoming conference and training dates.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau -

A written report was provided. Ms. Beckman presented the branding study completed by HLVCB. Through the study, it was determined that the primary demographics has shown that Duluth and Minneapolis are our primary group and the main draw is nature and activities. They have now hired a company to help with the next phase of establishing a brand.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission Report -

Economic Development Corporation Report -

The EDC is looking for a new director at this time; the housing committee met. Their next social is at the Whistlepunk next week.

Library Updates -

Written reports were provided. Ms. Lank-Jones reviewed the highlights of her report; they are applying for a grant to expand the nature park and trail. Summer reading program will be starting soon.

Motorized Trail and Non-Motorized Trail Report -

The Birkie has opened up registration for the 50th American Birkebeiner and have 3500 skiers already.

Broadband Update -

Mr. Albarado advised that the PSC is holding listening sessions around the state and one is here at the Casino as part of the pre-cursor for the upcoming grant. Visions Northwest are meeting after that public hearing.

Historical Society -

Mr. Ferguson advised that they are about to start summer hours on June 1st (open Thursday through Saturday, 12:00-4:00 pm), and they will again be parking cars for the Lumberjack Shows. They have a new book called *Charlie* which is about the caretaker of Al Capone's Lodge.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee will be Monday, June 5, 2023, at 8:30 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 am

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

DRAFT