

**Minutes of the July 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 - virtual
- Chris Rusk

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Mike Coleson
Lynn Fitch
Sheldon Johnson-Virtual
Molly Lank-Jones
Cathy LaReau
Jane Schroeder

Sherry Beckman - virtual
Linda Zillmer
Mark Lundeen - virtual
Donna Knuckey
Ariga Grigoryan
Andy Donahue – virtual
Beth Haskovec - virtual

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 Ms. Hessel to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2022, meeting; second by Mr. Rusk. Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association Report –

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report – Ariga Grigoryan advised that the Clean Sweep program will be at the Fair grounds on September 21st. They would like to offer services to capture needles and epi-pens and are working with Public Health. They are currently offering courses in conjunction with LCO Community College. The Farmers Market is doing well in the new venue at Lumberjack Village

She introduced Andy Donahue, Director of the SBDC in Superior. Mr. Donahue explained some of the programs that are available to county small businesses for getting financing, launching and growing their businesses. Some programs are offered at no cost.

Beth Haskovec from WEDC provided a review of the Rural Prosperity Program.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau Report – A written report was provided. Ms. Beckman reported that total business sales were up by 17% since last year. She reviewed the room tax collections and expenditures chart. She advised that ATV/UTV activity receives the most hits on their website.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission - Sheldon Johnson reported that NWRPC works closely with SBDC in programming and with WEDC on programs like grants. A new program called Build Back Better came on board about 30 days ago. A new staff member will begin to offer assistance to Lake Associations in grant writing and other planning services.

Economic Development Report –

Library Updates - Written reports were provided. Ms. Lank-Jones reviewed highlights of her report; they received a donated new electric fireplace from Holly Duffy's business. Ms. Knuckey reviewed the special programs and fund raisers at the Winter Library. Their basement project will begin in August.

Motorized and Non-Motorized Trail Report – Mr. Duffy provided an emailed report of non-motorized trail activity. Ms. LaReau advised that the Alliance received a letter regarding the deadline of October 4th to the ATV/UTV ordinance asking for their input. They want to develop a comprehensive report on how the trail system activity impacts the local community. They may hire an outside company to complete a survey for some of the data. A primary focus is the collaborative work on a proposed ATV/UTV Ordinance and Alliance members will be attending Town meetings this month to listen and provide feedback. Mr. Duffy advised that the Lumberjack Championships had a record crowd with an estimate of 10,000 visitors.

Broadband Forward Update – Mr. Albarado has advised the local providers that he is the County point person. He participated in the Town of Draper meeting and is meeting with the LCO broadband coordinator. They are developing maps to see where gaps in coverage exist.

Review Board Policy & Procedure Manual – Public comment was made by Linda Zillmer. Topic will be revisited at the September meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 am
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk