

**Minutes of the August 9th 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: **James Schlender** - virtual
- Tom Duffy
- Jesse Boettcher
- Stacey Hessel
- Brian Bisonette - virtual

Others Present:

Tom Hoff - Virtual
Mike Coleson
Lynn Fitch
Lori Baltrusis
Mike Gardner
Sherry Beckman
David Wierzba - WEDC
Sheldon Johnson
Don Mrotek
Linda Zilmer

Call to Order – Vice 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 – Linda Zillmer

Minutes from previous meeting – A motion was made by Mr. Boettcher to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2021, meeting; second by Ms. Hessel. Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association Report –

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report – Ms. Baltrusis advised that a quarterly report was sent to committee members last month. 4-H leader, Sky Holte, has resigned to go to another county, vacating the position, and it has been determined that the position will be reposted at full capacity. The department is planning to conduct visioning sessions and community assessments to seek feedback on what county residents would like to see in the 4-H program.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau Report – A written report was provided. Ms. Beckman stated that the number of printed visitor guides has had to be increased by 10,000 to handle increased visitor interest. She advised that room tax was passed in the Town of Round Lake and they are still determining the distribution of the funds. HLVCB hired a firm called Shrpa to help develop and publish themed vacation adventures for the area. Fall lodging seems to be filling well.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission – Written reports were provided. Mr. Johnson advised that the 2022 levy recommendation has been proposed to the county. Several funding programs were highlighted: 1) \$130M ARPA State funds for workforce development, setting aside \$100M for innovative work grants; 2) a hometown grant program for communities of 50,000 or less focusing on revitalizing community work spaces; and 3) \$1M grant program with WEDC to provide \$10,000 grants to individuals filling vacant commercial spaces. They will coordinate with local entities such as Sawyer County/LCO Economic Development Corporation, the Hayward Chamber, HLVCB and others to get this information out.

Economic Development Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Gardner provided the names of several area businesses he will be connecting with to try to help facilitate the \$10,000 grant program. The EDC will help write grants for those who apply.

Trails – Mr. Mrotek advised that ATV/UTV traffic continues to grow which puts a burden on trail maintenance. A 10-county organization called NORTAC is working on connecting trails from county to county. We have representation on this board. Mr. Duffy provided a copy of an email from Ben Popp for the non-motorized trail report.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee will be Tuesday, September 7, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 am
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

DRAFT