

Minutes of the September 7th 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
- Tom Duffy
- Jesse Boettcher – Virtual
- Stacey Hessel
- Brian Bisonette

Others Present:

Tom Hoff
Mike Coleson
Lynn Fitch
Lori Baltrusis – Virtual
Mike Gardner
Sherry Beckman
Sheldon Johnson – Virtual
Rick Christian – Virtual
Ariga Gregoryan

Call to Order – Chair James Schlender 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. Duffy to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2021, meeting; second by Ms. Hessel. Motion carried without negative vote.

Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association Report – Mr. Christian stated that this year's fair was the best so far with good attendance and events. They are working on changes for next for a bigger draw and are now completing some capital improvements that were held off due to high materials costs.

University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report – Ms. Gregoryan provided information on the September 22nd Clean Sweep project at the Fair Grounds to be held from 2-6pm. Ms. Baltrusis advised that the visioning session regarding the future of 4-H will likely be held in September.

Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau Report – A written report was provided. Ms. Beckman stated that the website redesign is underway and should launch by October 1st. She has been writing several grants that have been successful. She reviewed the Featured Adventures programs stating that Sawyer County has 32 different adventures in 2021.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission – Mr. Johnson provided an update of several grant programs. The *Wisconsin Bounce Back* program to date has 47 applications going through approval with 12 of them being from Sawyer County hoping to receive the \$10,000 grants. The Sand Lake food pantry should open in Stone Lake very soon. The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation *We're All In* program is open through June 2022 awarding small business grants ranging from \$2500-\$20,000 each. Sawyer County businesses have been awarded \$1,124,400 in grant funds county-wide thus far; the 3rd highest county receiving grants in all ten counties in the region.

Economic Development Report – A written report was provided. Mr. Gardner reported on various federal and state funding programs he has been helping county business owners with. The EDC is finalizing details to host a small business community forum on October 26th; other event dates include: EDC annual meeting on November 4th, Business After 5 co-hosted with Backroads Coffee on October 28th and the jail culinary training program that started on August

28th. Twenty-five participants signed up for the culinary training and only twelve will be selected through the screening process.

Motorized and Non-Motorized Trail Report – Mr. Duffy provided a written report from the Birkie. Mr. Mrotek reviewed the grant process used for trail maintenance funding. Sawyer County has been awarded \$230,000 in grant funds for Tuscobia Trail maintenance and LCO has been approved for funding nine miles of maintenance.

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee will be Monday, October 11, at 8:30 am in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 am
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk

DRAFT