

Draft Minutes of the meeting of the Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee
Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
September 8, 2020; 8:30 a.m.; Assembly Room; Sawyer County Courthouse

Members present: Tom Duffy, James Schlender, Troy Morgan, Jessie Boettcher

Others present: Carol Williamson, Tom Hoff, Sherry Beckman, Lori Baltrusis-V, Janice Snider, Rick Christian, Mike Gardner, Mike Coleson-V, Don Mrotek, Linda Zillmer-V, Alex Butterfield, Amanda Wilson-V, Sheldon Johnson-V

Chair Schlender called the meeting to order 8:30 am

Motion by Duffy, 2nd by Boettcher, to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2020 meeting. Motion carried

Sawyer County Fair President Rick Christian reported to the Committee. Attendance at the 2020 Fair was down around 40%. Weather and attendance was good on Sunday. Usual attendance is 5,000 to 6,000. 3,000 attended in 2020. The Fair requested \$35,000 for 2020 and Sawyer County contributed \$31,250. The Fair is requesting \$45,000 for 2021. The \$10,000 additional request is for improvements to the horse arena and stalls.

Area Extension Director Lori Baltrusis reported to the Committee virtually. Ariga working with LCO on \$220,000 Grant. 2021 Budget of \$115,000 includes 3.5 educators for \$74,000.

Sherry Beckman, Executive Director for the Hayward Lakes Visitors and Convention Bureau reported to the Committee. Room Tax was down the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2020. Resorts are busy. Hotels are spacing reservations for quest comfort and are at ½ capacity. HLVCB has sent out 852 more vacation guides over last year causing postage to be \$1700 over budget. 2021 budget request is \$50,000.

Northwest Regional Planning Commission's Executive Director Sheldon Johnson reported to the Committee. Sawyer County Hazardous Waste Collection is September 30, at the Sawyer County Fairgrounds, from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm. NWRPC membership levy is \$35,552 for 2021 and the Household Hazardous Waste levy is \$8,587. NWRPC administering \$1 million in revolving loan funds for the next two years. Working with the Birkie on the Telemark project with a \$250,000 grant.

Sawyer County/Lac Courte Oreilles Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Mike Gardner reported to the Committee and provided a budget request for the next three years of \$75,000; \$25,000 annually. Making application as a Pilot Community for a WHEDA housing initiative. The Committee received the SC/LCO EDC Annual Report. The State of Wisconsin has 120 Opportunity Zones of which two are in Sawyer County.

Ben Popp from the Birkie will be invited to the October meeting to discuss possible contributions. Winter Depot had a grand opening on September 4. Sawyer County designated \$15,000 for discretionary funding; a portion of that was used by the Depot Project.

Adjourned 9:09

Minutes prepared by Carol Williamson