

**Minutes of the September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sawyer County  
Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee  
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors  
Board Room; Sawyer County**



**Voting Committee Members Present:**

- Chair: Tom Duffy
- VC -- John Righeimer
- Stacey Hessel
- Brian Bisonette – virtual @ 8:35 am
- Chris Rusk

**Others Present:**

Andy Albarado  
Lynn Fitch  
Donna Knuckey  
Lori Baltrusis

Sherry Beckman  
Linda Zillmer  
Molly Lank-Jones

**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 – Linda Zillmer**

**Minutes from previous meeting** – A motion was made by Ms. Hessel to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2023, meeting; second by Mr. Righeimer. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Sawyer County Agricultural Fair Association Report -**

Ms. Hessel provided an update.

**University of Wisconsin-Extension Department Report -**

Mr. Baltrusis provided handouts for a variety of upcoming events, including *Focus on Fathers*, *Resilient Co-Parenting classes*, *the Strong Couples Program*, *Parents Forever Co-parenting class*, *Parenting Classes* and *the Positive Parenting program* offered by Barron County; we can share these resources. The hazardous waste Clean Sweep program is being held this Wednesday in Sawyer County.

**Hayward Lakes Visitors & Convention Bureau -**

A written report was provided. Ms. Beckman provided a recap of summer activities in our area as well as the Wisconsin Department of Tourism updates. The 2024 Vacation Guide cover contest generated over 364 photo entries for future social media campaigns; a list of upcoming PR campaigns was also provided. The ATV Trail Map system was the #1 web search criteria this year.

**Northwest Regional Planning Commission Report -**

Mr. Albarado reported that the loan officer has changed.

**Economic Development Corporation Report -**

Ms. Hessel advised that board members attended a training strategy session training at LCO. The Executive Director position remains open at this time. There is positive movement on the Impact Seven workforce Housing project. A succession planning training workshop for businesses is being planned.

**Library Updates -**

A written report was provided by the Weiss Community Library listing upcoming activities and events as well as a recap of the summer reading challenge. Ms. Lank-Jones provided an overview including a potential grant award of \$10,000; these funds may be used for window/ventilation repairs. A reception will be held on September 21<sup>st</sup> for Friends of the Library. Ms. Knuckey provided a verbal update on fundraising efforts. The Strong Bodies program will

begin again this fall as well as after school programming. They have two HotSpot connections available for checkout at the library.

**Motorized Trail and Non-Motorized Trail Report -**

The Alliance is bringing a RideSafe Foundation safety presentation to all Hayward youth at the High School, this coming Thursday September 14th. Our goal is to teach all youth to be safe around motorsports, and wear the proper helmets and safety gear. Mr. Duffy provided an email from Mr. Popp stating that nearly 11,000 (cap is 13,000) people have registered for the 50<sup>th</sup> Birnie in 2024. A schedule of silent sports events was also provided. The Fat Tire 40 race will be held next weekend with an estimated 3,000 riders.

**Broadband Update -**

Mr. Albarado reported that the Broadband Committee had a meeting with the providers. All providers intend to continue building their networks within the County; a map of the current scope of coverage was shared. The providers indicate that they plan to continue to build out services from this baseline. New grants require a 25 Mbps Down/3+ Mbps up speed.

**LCO Update -**

Mr. Bisonette reported that much of the preliminary earth work for the new medical facility has been completed. The footings are in and basement walls are starting to go up. They have not yet determined who the service provider will be for the new health center. The \$80M ARPA funds were used to build the apartment building and provide other services.

**Historical Society -**

**Meeting Date/Time** – The next meeting of the Economic Development and UW-Extension Committee will be Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 am in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 am  
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk