VISIONS NORTHWEST
Regional Economic Development

A Division of the Wisconsin Business Innovation Corporation

OCTOBER 14, 2020- MEETING MINUTES
Zoom Virtual Meeting

1. **Call to Order**
   - Meeting called to order at 10:00AM by Administrator Crystal Rohde.

     - **Members Present:** Kelly Klein – Representing Iron County, Cole Rabska – Representing Bayfield County, Dick Hartmann – Representing Burnett County, Geri Dresen – Representing Chambers of Commerce, Joel Zimmerman – Representing Washburn County, Jessica Wagner-Schultz – Representing Sawyer County, Mike Bebeau – Representing Private Industry (Xcel Energy), Jim Caesar – Representing Douglas County, Michelle Johnson – Representing Private Industry (Enbridge), Betsey Harries – Representing Economic Development Organizations, Mari Kay-Nabozny – Representing NWWIB, Jenice Meyer – Representing Education (NorthWERD Group), John Will – Representing Education (WITC), Leo Naumann – Representing Private Industry (Jeff Foster Trucking), Andy Albarado – Representing Rusk County

     - **Members Absent**: Dale Heikkinen – Representing Price County

     - **Others Present**: Thomas Michaels – DWD, Andy Donahue – Representing Small Business Development Corporation at UW-Superior, Ken Pearson – NWRPC, Sheldon Johnson, NWRPC

     - **Vacant Seats:** Ashland County, Taylor County, Tribal Representative

2. **Approval of July 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes**
   - A motion to approve the July 8, 2020 minutes was made by Geri D., second by Mari K-N.

3. **Key Partner Updates (see attachments to minutes for presentations):**
   - Andy Donahue, SBDC at UW-Superior
   - Mari Kay-Nabozny, Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board
   - Ken Pearson, NWRPC
   - Visions Northwest and WEDC Update (provided by Crystal)

4. **2020-2024 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Final Draft Discussion (www.nwrpc.com/CEDS)**
   - Crystal provided a presentation to the board on the 2020-2024 CEDS highlighting some of the key components, etc.
   - Mike B. noted that it would be good to find ways to track affordable housing data (county building permits, etc.) and broadband infrastructure developments annually as part of the evaluation framework.

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5. **Regional Broadband Discussion – Who is doing what?**
    - Joel Z. with Washburn County noted that once we began to endure the pandemic, he sent weekly letters to the Governor's Office regarding broadband and the challenges being faced – he stated that he has been in many conversations with the PSC he is hopeful that improvements will be made to the Broadband Expansion Grants that will serve our rural areas in the future.
    - Kelly K. with Iron County stated that the broadband committee that they formed back in 2012 has guided much progress as it relates to broadband throughout the county over the past several years. They are fortunate to have a local, engaged, fixed wireless provider that has implemented 12 towers, serving most parts of Iron County. He noted that they saw about a 40% increase in usage in the county in March. Iron County is looking forward to the results of the NWRPC/EDA Internet survey to help to identify gaps, learn more about remote work/telecommuting and the economic impacts, and what their residents are interested in learning more about as it relates to technology. He noted that they will be looking to increase bandwidth on the towers as a result of the increased usage in the county.
    - Cole R. with Bayfield County stated that Spectrum blocked efforts of two recent grant applications that could have potentially benefitted the county from moving forward. He noted that the county and many communities have been supportive, providing financial assistance and finding locations for towers, etc. Norvado provides service to 80% of the county – they have completed their buildout well ahead of schedule. They have also extended fiber services into Price County. He also noted that Norvado offered affordable Internet to households with K-12 students as a result of the pandemic.
    - Jessica W-S. commented that Sawyer County was recently designated as Telecommuter Forward! The county was denied for the recent WEDC Broadband Connector Pilot.
    - None of the counties in the region were selected for the WEDC Broadband Connecter Pilot project per the discussion at the meeting. Many applied to the program.
    - Dick H. in Burnett County stated that he has had many meetings with local providers and there are currently Telecommuter Forward! conversations happening. Local providers have been working on building out fiber to some of the remote areas, including campgrounds, etc. BCDA is in the process of developing a survey to assess some of the telecommuter work occurring due to the high volume of second homes in the area.
    - Andy A. in Rusk County noted that they have some board members expressing interest in continuing broadband discussions after taking a couple of years off from tackling the issue (due to continued lack of progress). He stated that most of the west side of the county is built out, while the other side is serviced by CenturyLink which continues to be a hard provider to work with. They are going to start forming some roundtable discussions between schools, businesses, etc. in the near future.

6. **Around the (Virtual) Table – Other Business**
    - Kelly K. spoke about his experience on the Northwoods Rail Transit Commission. In March, a legislative summit was held in Rhinelander and as a follow-up, legislators contacted Canadian National Railway (CN) encouraging them to find solutions to get some of the light density lines back in operation. As a result, CN plans to divest 625 miles of rail line (mostly in Northern WI)– they are currently in the process of developing the RFP. They hope to finish by next Summer.
    - John W. reminded the group about the broadband installer/technician program they have at WITC. He stated that they are at about 90% of their enrollment compared to last year.
    - Jenice M. stated that things at UW-Superior are going well overall – student are on-campus as much as possible and feel safe in the current environment due to the safety precautions that have been taken.
7. **Confirm Next Meeting– January 13, 2021 10AM to 12PM – Location or virtual TBD**

8. **Adjourn –** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joel Z., second by Cole R. at 12:00PM.

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VISIONS NORTHWEST
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Quarterly Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 14th, 2020
10AM-12PM

Join audio on your computer or by phone at +1-312-626-6799
Meeting ID: 831 4898 2467

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Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of July 8, 2020 Meeting Minutes
3. Key Partner Updates:
   - *Andy Donahue, Andy Donahue, SBDC at UW-Superior*
   - *Mari Kay-Nabozny, Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board*
   - *Ken Pearson, NWRPC*
   - *Visions Northwest and WEDC Update (provided by Crystal)*
4. 2020-2024 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Final Draft Discussion (www.nwrpc.com/CEDS)
5. Regional Broadband Discussion – Who is doing what?
   - *County Economic Development partners – please come prepared to update the board on your local broadband efforts*
6. Around the (Virtual) Table – Other Business
7. Confirm Next Meeting– January 13, 2021 10AM to 12PM – Location or virtual TBD
8. Adjourn

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Andy Donahue

Director

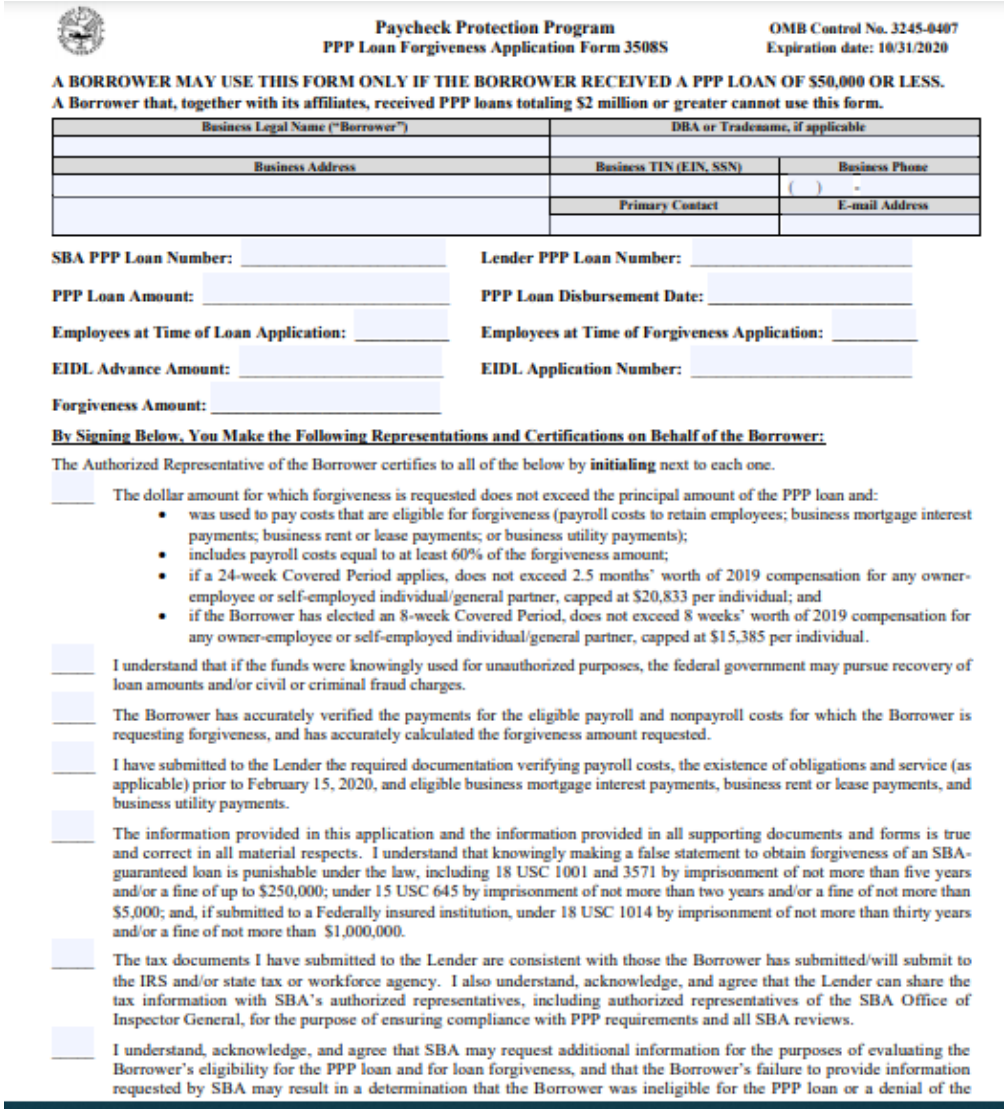
adonahue@uwsuper.edu

https://wisconsinsbdc.org/centers/superior/

SBDC
Wisconsin Small Business Development Center

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS!

PPP Forgiveness



Paycheck Protection Program
PPP Loan Forgiveness Application Form 3508S

OMB Control No. 3245-0407
Expiration date: 10/31/2020

A BORROWER MAY USE THIS FORM ONLY IF THE BORROWER RECEIVED A PPP LOAN OF $50,000 OR LESS.
A Borrower that, together with its affiliates, received PPP loans totaling $2 million or greater cannot use this form.

Business Legal Name ("Borrower")	DBA or Tradename, if applicable	
Business Address	**Business TIN (EIN, SSN)**	**Business Phone**
		( ) -
	Primary Contact	**E-mail Address**

SBA PPP Loan Number: _____ **Lender PPP Loan Number:** _____

PPP Loan Amount: _____ **PPP Loan Disbursement Date:** _____

Employees at Time of Loan Application: _____ **Employees at Time of Forgiveness Application:** _____

EIDL Advance Amount: _____ **EIDL Application Number:** _____

Forgiveness Amount: _____

By Signing Below, You Make the Following Representations and Certifications on Behalf of the Borrower:

The Authorized Representative of the Borrower certifies to all of the below by **initialing** next to each one.

____ The dollar amount for which forgiveness is requested does not exceed the principal amount of the PPP loan and:
- was used to pay costs that are eligible for forgiveness (payroll costs to retain employees; business mortgage interest payments; business rent or lease payments; or business utility payments);
- includes payroll costs equal to at least 60% of the forgiveness amount;
- if a 24-week Covered Period applies, does not exceed 2.5 months' worth of 2019 compensation for any owner-employee or self-employed individual/general partner, capped at $20,833 per individual; and
- if the Borrower has elected an 8-week Covered Period, does not exceed 8 weeks' worth of 2019 compensation for any owner-employee or self-employed individual/general partner, capped at $15,385 per individual.

____ I understand that if the funds were knowingly used for unauthorized purposes, the federal government may pursue recovery of loan amounts and/or civil or criminal fraud charges.

____ The Borrower has accurately verified the payments for the eligible payroll and nonpayroll costs for which the Borrower is requesting forgiveness, and has accurately calculated the forgiveness amount requested.

____ I have submitted to the Lender the required documentation verifying payroll costs, the existence of obligations and service (as applicable) prior to February 15, 2020, and eligible business mortgage interest payments, business rent or lease payments, and business utility payments.

____ The information provided in this application and the information provided in all supporting documents and forms is true and correct in all material respects. I understand that knowingly making a false statement to obtain forgiveness of an SBA-guaranteed loan is punishable under the law, including 18 USC 1001 and 3571 by imprisonment of not more than five years and/or a fine of up to $250,000; under 15 USC 645 by imprisonment of not more than two years and/or a fine of not more than $5,000; and, if submitted to a Federally insured institution, under 18 USC 1014 by imprisonment of not more than thirty years and/or a fine of not more than $1,000,000.

____ The tax documents I have submitted to the Lender are consistent with those the Borrower has submitted/will submit to the IRS and/or state tax or workforce agency. I also understand, acknowledge, and agree that the Lender can share the tax information with SBA's authorized representatives, including authorized representatives of the SBA Office of Inspector General, for the purpose of ensuring compliance with PPP requirements and all SBA reviews.

____ I understand, acknowledge, and agree that SBA may request additional information for the purposes of evaluating the Borrower's eligibility for the PPP loan and for loan forgiveness, and that the Borrower's failure to provide information requested by SBA may result in a determination that the Borrower was ineligible for the PPP loan or a denial of the

- "Simpler" form for applicants that received $50,000 or less
- All other forgiveness requirements apply

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PPP Forgiveness

Question:

The Paycheck Protection Program Flexibility Act of 2020 (Flexibility Act) extended the deferral period for borrower payments of principal, interest, and fees on all PPP loans to the date that SBA remits the borrower's loan forgiveness amount to the lender (or, if the borrower does not apply for loan forgiveness, 10 months after the end of the borrower's loan forgiveness covered period). Previously, the deferral period could end after 6 months. Are lenders and borrowers required to modify promissory notes used for PPP loans to reflect the extended deferral period?

Answer:

The extension of the deferral period under the Flexibility Act automatically applies to all PPP loans. Lenders are required to give immediate effect to the statutory extension and should notify borrowers of the change to the deferral period. SBA does not require a formal modification to the promissory note. A modification of a promissory note to reflect the required statutory deferral period under the Flexibility Act will have no effect on the SBA's guarantee of a PPP loan.

Regional Economic Indicators Forum

Tuesday, November 10, 8am-9am

The COVID-19 Economy

Virtual Setting

Free to attend

Ron Wirtz – Regional Outreach Director – Federal Reserve of Minneapolis

Register: https://www.nbcbanking.com/about-us/reif/

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Contracting Opportunities

- Have a special project?
- SBDC CARES Act funding through the Institute for Business and Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development Center
- Will pay for specialized consultants
- Contact Andy Donahue – adonahue@uwsuper.edu for more information

Upcoming Webinars

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- First Steps to Business Webinars: November 5 & 12, 2020
- Introduction to QuickBooks: October 27, 2020
- Building Audience Engagement through Remote Presentations: December 1, 2020
- First Steps to Business Webinars: January 14 & 21, 2021
- Communication for Managing Others: February 2, 2021
- Entrepreneurial Training Program: February 2021
- Hospitality and Tourism, Holiday Retail - TBD

VISIONS NORTHWEST
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Mari Kay-Nabozny

Chief Executive Officer

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NORTHWEST WISCONSIN
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter® network

Incumbent Worker Training Grants

Are you looking to upskill your employees to stay competitive in the current economy? We have Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) grants available to assist employers in training current employees. Businesses have the opportunity to compete for up to $5,000 to alleviate the burden of training costs. The IWT grants will run under a Fall and Spring funding cycle. Applications are currently being accepted for the Fall cycle until October 21st. Contact us to learn about our Incumbent Worker Training grants at mari@nwwib.com.

Entrepreneurship Support Grants

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Due Oct 25th
$ 10,000 - $ 100,000 with 1:1 match requirement

NWWIB submitting to scale and replicate the CheqYes SPARK event in Superior and Hayward/ Cable areas

Looking for an additional $ 6,000 cash match

Eligible uses:
- Personnel, professional services, general administrative costs and materials directly related to activities identified in the project application. Funding shall not be provided for ongoing operational costs except for personnel costs directly related to the project activities.
- Direct financial assistance provided to entrepreneurs served in the project period
- Other expenses deemed eligible by WEDC

E3 Event

EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION & THE ECONOMY E^3 ROUNDTABLE REPORT

VIRTUAL EVENT HOSTED BY THE NORTHWEST WISCONSIN WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD (NWWIB) AND HELD VIA ZOOM ON SEPT. 25, 2020

PURPOSE:

1. IDENTIFY AND DISCUSS EMPLOYEE TRAINING NEEDS
2. IDENTIFY ECONOMIC TRENDS THAT MAY IMPACT TRAINING NEEDS/DELIVERY
3. IDENTIFY TRAINING OPTIONS
4. SHARE INFORMATION ON GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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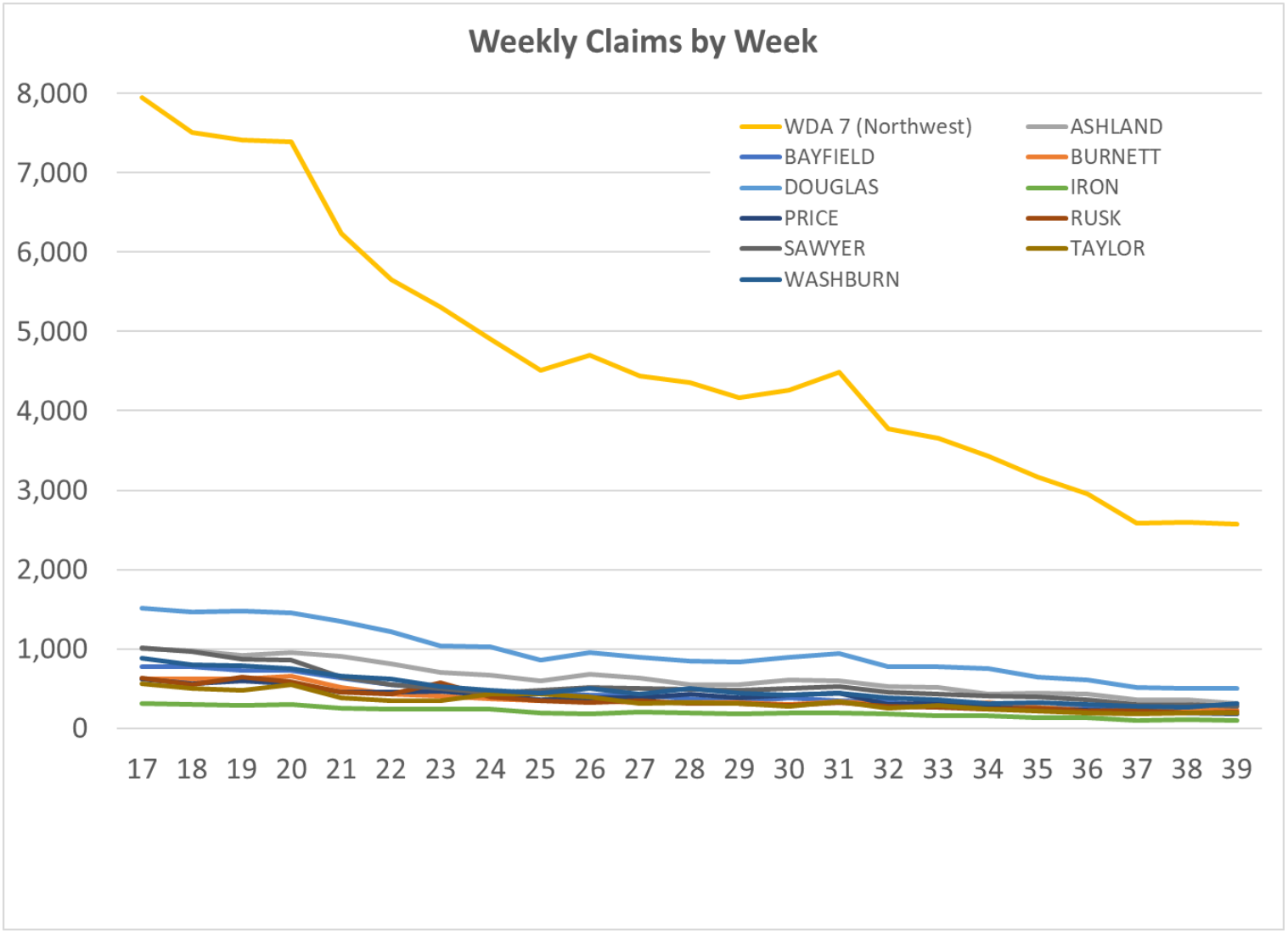
Week 39 Unemployment Claims



Workforce Waves Podcasts Recently Released

VISIONS NORTHWEST
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Ken Pearson

Loan Fund Manager

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NWRPC

VISIONS NORTHWEST
Regional Economic Development

Crystal Rohde

Visions Northwest Administrator
NWRPC - Business Development Specialist

crohde@nwrpc.com
www.visionsnorthwest.org | www.nwrpc.com

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Visions Northwest Updates

- FY21 WEDC Funding – Still waiting on final contract

- Wood Industry Collaborative
  - Discover Mediaworks Projects
  - Virtual Meeting in November?
  - Follow and share posts from Wood Industry Collaborative Facebook page

- Inspire Northward/Pathways Wisconsin (Melissa Rabska)
  - Current Capacity Building Grant ends 10-31-20
    - Many continued challenges/magnified by COVID-19
  - Work will continue as part of Regional Career Pathways (RCP) DPI grant

- Outreach
  - Utilizing e-blasts to share COVID-19 resources/WEDC programs, etc.
  - Follow NWRPC Facebook page for consistent updates on social media

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Visions Northwest Updates

- Chequamegon Bay Regional Economic Development Summit
  - 10-22-20 ~ 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
    - *Regional Economic Overview Implications of a Changing Workforce*
  - 10-23-20 ~ 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
    - *Entrepreneurship & Evolving the Chequamegon Bay Region Economy*
  - Register: https://tinyurl.com/ChequamegonSummit

- NWRPC/EDA Internet Survey Project (Ashland, Bayfield, Douglas, Iron Counties)
  - Surveys are scheduled to be mailed week of November 9th (post-election)
    - Mailing to include 49,392 surveys sent
    - Follow-up postcards to be mailed the following week
  - Hard copy and digital options to complete

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WEDC Updates

- Lance Ausing is no longer NW WI regional representative
  - WEDC has job posted currently

- We're All Innovating Contest (wisconsininnovates.com)
  - The We're All Innovating Contest is open to new and established Wisconsin businesses with 50 or fewer employees.
  - Deadline to apply is 11:59 p.m., Sunday October 18, 2020.

- WEDC WE'RE ALL IN SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS – PHASE 2 (https://www.revenue.wi.gov/Pages/FAQS/SmallBusinessGrantProgram.aspx)
  - Applications will be accepted from 8 a.m., Monday, Oct. 19, 2020, to 11:59 p.m., Monday, November 2, 2020.

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2020-2024 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

Final Draft - Presentation

www.nwrpc.com/CEDS

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Regional Broadband Discussion

Who is doing what?

Public Service Commission – Broadband Expansion Grants

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Around the (Virtual) Table ~ Other Business

Next meeting: January 13, 2021

10AM to 12PM – Location or virtual TBD