



BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 8th, 2025 - 10AM to 12PM
Virtual Zoom Meeting

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

a division of the Wisconsin Business Innovation Corporation

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 10:04 AM by Administrator Crystal Rohde
 - **Members Present:** Kelly Klein – Representing Iron County, Jeff Holte – Representing Bayfield County, Dale Heikkinen – Representing Price County, John Will – Representing Education (Northwood Technical College), Geri Dresen – Representing Chambers of Commerce, Dick Hartmann – Representing Burnett County, Jim Caesar – Representing Douglas County, Donna Walker – Representing Private Industry (Dairyland Power Cooperative), Michelle Johnson – Representing Private Industry (Enbridge), Carver Harries – Representing Economic Development Organizations, Ilsa Hoeschen – Representing Education (UW-Superior), Nick Koverman – Representing Washburn County
 - **Others Present:** David Wierzba – Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Joy Melton – NWRPC, Adam Lamoureux – Sawyer County/LCO EDC, Lisa Westberg – NWWIB, Thomas Michels – DWD, Beth Gehred – Bad River, Sheldon Johnson – NWRPC, Crystal Rohde – Visions Northwest
 - **Members Absent:** Ken Disher – Representing Private Industry (Xcel Energy), Mari Kay-Nabozny – Representing NWWIB, Philomena Kebec - Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, John Righeimer – Representing Sawyer County

2. Welcome and Introductions

- Participants introduced themselves and their roles – including two new board members: Jeff Holte and Nick Koverman.

3. Approval of Draft October 9th, 2024, Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made by Michelle J. to approve the October 9th, 2024, minutes, a second was made by Donna W. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Key Partner Update

- David Wierzba – Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation
 - WEDC Economic Summit will take place in Green Bay October 15th- 16th:
<https://wedc.org/about-us/events/wisconsin-economic-summit/>
 - WEDC provides funding to the Small Business Development Centers, UW-Superior and UW-Eau Claire. Starting new this year, small businesses with 20 employees or less are eligible to get free consulting if they need help with a business plan, financial statements, etc.
 - Small Business Development Grants will be announced in the next month.
 - Vibrant Spaces Grant will be announced in February.
 - WEDC is about halfway through the fiscal year, so projects should be brought forward soon (by mid-April) to be included in FY25 consideration.

- Community Ambassador program is ongoing – Crystal is regional ambassador for talent attraction. Learn more at <https://lookforwardwisconsin.com/>

5. Presentation: CLICK (Connecting Lives through Internet & Community Knowledge)

- <https://www.nwwib.com/programs/click>
- Lisa Westberg, Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board (see attached presentation/slides) – connect with Lisa directly at 715-227-4671 or westberg@nwwib.com
- This is a two-year grant program

6. Great Northwest Regional Career Pathways Update

- See attached presentation/slides
 - What is Regional Career Pathways Wisconsin?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F01rpJeerPc>
 - Watch the Great Northwest Regional Career Pathways [Webinar](#)

7. Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Update

- See attached presentation/slides
- Learn more about BEAD: <https://psc.wi.gov/Pages/ServiceType/Broadband/GrantBEAD.aspx>

8. SWOT CEDS Update

- See attached presentation/slides

9. Around the Table/Other Business

- Dale H. – Park Falls has two major projects that they are in the final stages of completion – YMCA and the hospital – new bank – Prentice wastewater treatment plant is finalized – manufacturers are expanding in Prentice
- Nick K. – Just finished first year with City of Spooner/Washburn County EDC – solidified partnership with Washburn County to fund the EDC – partnering with CEDA to provide consulting services two days a week to help build membership and focus on key areas, such as housing – recently sent out an RFP for a housing study for the County.
- Jim C. – Surprising disappointment that [Barko Hydraulics will be moving out of their Superior](#) location on the waterfront. With Barko moving, it will allow the property for a potential convention center to open. Waiting on appraisal of the property – the City has indicated they will be aggressive in acquiring the property once the appraisal is completed.

10. Confirm Next Meeting – April 9th, 2025 (virtual)

11. Adjourn

- Dick H. made a motion to adjourn the meeting 11:14AM, a second was made by Geri D. Motion carried unanimously.