



BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES

[VIEW THE MEETING RECORDING](#) 

Wednesday, July 13th, 2022

10AM to 12PM

Zoom Virtual Meeting

a division of the Wisconsin Business Innovation Corporation

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM by Administrator Crystal Rohde.
 - **Members Present:** Kelly Klein – Representing Iron County, Cole Rabska – Representing Bayfield County, Dick Hartmann – Representing Burnett County, Jenice Meyer – Representing Education (UW-Superior/NorthWERD), Dale Heikkinen – Representing Price County, John Will – Representing Education (Northwood Technical College), Andy Donahue – Small Business Development Center at UW-Superior, Philomena Kebec - Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Jim Caesar – Representing Douglas County, Mari Kay-Nabozny –Representing NWWIB, John Righeimer – Representing Sawyer County, Joy Melton –Representing Washburn County, Geri Dresen – Representing Chambers of Commerce
 - **Others Present:** David Wierzba – Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Chris Wojtowicz – SBDC International Trade Consultant, Jim Miller – Congressman Tiffany’s Office, Ryan VanLanduyt - Office of State Senator Janet Bewley
 - **Members Absent:** Donna Walker – Dairyland Power Cooperative, Michelle Johnson – Representing Private Industry (Enbridge), Carver Harries – Representing Economic Development Organizations

2. Approval of January 12th, 2022 Meeting Minutes and April 13th Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made by Andy D. to approve the January 12th, 2022 minutes. A second was made by Dick H.
- A motion was made by Cole R. to approve the April 13th, 2022 minutes. A second was made by Kelly K.

3. Welcome New Board Members

- John Righeimer, Sawyer County
- Donna Walker, Dairyland Power Cooperative
- Philomena Kebec, Bad River

4. Key Partner Updates (See attached slides):

- Andy Donahue, Small Business Development Center at UW-Superior
- Mari Kay-Nabozny, Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board
- David Wierzba, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

5. July Keynote Presentation

- Melissa Meschke, Economic Development Outreach Manager, Institute for Business and Entrepreneurship – UW System (**see attached slides/presentation**)

6. Workforce Innovation Grant Application Update (see slides attached)

- Awards made in June/July 2022
- Northwood Technical College Update – John Will
 - Thanks to all who wrote the letters of support for the application. The previous application had a disqualifier in it because of structure of RLF and allowable use of ARPA funds. Reworked the application and now has seed funding for up to three multi-family housing units in (possibly) non-campus communities – these will include community rooms for residents and community. This project will be set up to function as classrooms – including technology, support, remote access, etc. Also, will include some private rooms. Exterior will have space to bring in mobile training equipment. About six million dollars will go to Impact Seven (non-profit housing developer) – will self-finance/borrow additional money to complete the projects. The rest of the project will look like a market rate development. The seed funding should allow for rent levels to be set at a more affordable rate. In process of building a mobile welding trailer – under previous WIG award with Chippewa Valley Tech – Enbridge and Superior Refinery stepped in to supply funding for a generator to power the welding trailer. Will help provide hands-on training in rural areas across the region. This new grant will have about \$4 million for vans that will have advanced manufacturing equipment – including machine tool. Manufacturers are moving toward automation, and this creates a training gap for employees- this equipment will help improve that. Expansion of CDL training through these education hubs. Very excited about the opportunities that this grant will provide!

7. Mail Street Bounceback Program Updates (see attached slides)

- To date, NWRPC has made 247 awards in all 10 counties. Additional funding available through December 31st, 2022.
 - Minimum of 400 Sq. Ft. Requirement
 - Businesses need to be open and operational at the location that makes them eligible to be awarded funds. Reach out to Crystal with any questions.

8. Around the (Virtual) Table – Other Business

- Crystal R. – submitted FY23 KSP application to WEDC for Visions Northwest – the broadband speed test that we are administering is still available at www.nwrpc.com/speedtest - local privacy agreements can be executed to allow access to backend data – we were recently awarded RCP grant from DPI
- Dale H. – Park Falls crypto operation is up and running at the old Park Falls paper mill due to heavy power and cooling needs, met with a couple of housing developers for apartments and multi-units, AT&T is adding another cell service to their tower, sale of housing in area is still moving really well, Xcel Energy doing a major update to substation in Prentice, Village campground project is moving forward really well.

9. Confirm Next Meeting – October 12th, 2022 (more details to come – likely in person 10AM-12PM – luncheon)

10. Adjourn