



BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, July 12th, 2023
[View Zoom Recording](#)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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, Dale Heikkinen – Representing Price County, John Will – Representing Education (Northwood Technical College), Geri Dresen – Representing Chambers of Commerce, Carver Harries – Representing Economic Development Organizations, Joy Melton – Representing Washburn County
 - **Others Present:** Kim Heche – Iron River Area Chamber of Commerce, David Wierzba – Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Jim Miller – Congressman Tiffany’s Office, Jo Nowak-Thompson – NWWIB, Ken Pearson – NWRPC, Sheldon Johnson – NWRPC/Visions Northwest, Crystal Rohde – Visions Northwest, Jason Laumann – NWRPC, Clem Larson - NWRPC
 - **Members Absent:** Dick Hartmann – Representing Burnett County, Mari Kay-Nabozny – Representing NWWIB, Philomena Kebec - Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, John Righeimer – Representing Sawyer County, Jim Caesar – Representing Douglas County, Donna Walker – Dairyland Power Cooperative, Michelle Johnson – Representing Private Industry (Enbridge), Jenice Meyer – Representing Education (UW-Superior/NorthWERD)

2. Approval of April 12th, 2023 Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made by Cole Rabska to approve the April 12th, 2023 meeting minutes. A second was made by John Will.

3. Partner Updates

- Northwood Technical College – John Will, President
 - HOMES Grant Update
 - Acquired advanced manufacturing equipment.
 - Industry 4.0 – Advanced Manufacturing Trainings:
 - Machine Tool-CNC training: June 19-22 - 5 students completed
 - FANUC Handling Tool Certification: July 31 – August 2 - 4 students enrolled
 - Planning a ribbon-cutting event for the new Mechatronics Lab at the Rice Lake campus (possibly September)
 - Housing –[Impact 7](#) has site control in two communities: Hurley and St. Croix Falls – many communities talk about needing housing, but are finding out that many are not prepared for a project (even with \$2 million in grant funding). Impact 7 is continuing to work with Hayward on a potential site – Impact 7 continuing to apply for various funding opportunities to support the developments.
 - NWWIB – QUEST Grant Update – Jo Nowak-Thompson (see presentation)
 - WEDC – David Wierzba, Regional Economic Development Director (see presentation)
 - <https://wedc.org/wisconsin-economic-summit/>

4. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Local Planning Grant Updates

- See slides/presentation attached.

5. Presentation | NWRPC Regional Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan – Jason Laumann, Clem Larson

- See slides/presentation (begins in the [recording](#) at 52:27)

6. Around the Table – Other Business

- Crystal R. shared an event on behalf of Jenice Meyer at UW-Superior
 - Learn how to launch, fund, and grow your own business at SWIFT event July 26 in Superior
 - More information and registration [HERE](#).
- Kelly K. – Railroad update from Rail Transit Commission – WATCO (new line) taken over CN old lines – have a lot of issues they are dealing with – lines need major work (in Fox Valley area) – been busy trying to build traffic on the lines (contacting shippers, etc.) – identified three segments that could eventually be open again: Park Falls to Mellen, Prentice to Tony, Rhinelander to Goodman – these lines have the least amount of issues and best opportunity to build business on them. Long-term outlook but may see more rail in the future.
- Jim M. – Congressman Tiffany bringing in several members from the Western Caucus to tour Natural Resource businesses – forestry, etc.
- Dale H. – Price County sold the fairgrounds to a developer – going to add a campground. Prentice will be starting the wastewater treatment plant – new propane business on Hwy 13 – Jump River Industrial Park acquired another small business – other one expanded operation in park – hardware store purchased and upgraded – Dollar Store purchased land on Hwy 8 and received approval from planning commission to move forward.

7. Other Upcoming Events

- See attached slides/presentation.

8. Confirm Next Meeting – October 11th, 2023 (in person/lunch to follow)

9. Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 11:43AM.