



BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING AGENDA
Wednesday, January 11th, 2023
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

a division of the Wisconsin Business Innovation Corporation

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 10:03 AM by Administrator Crystal Rohde
 - **Members Present:** Kelly Klein – Representing Iron County, Cole Rabska – Representing Bayfield County, Dick Hartmann – Representing Burnett County, Dale Heikkinen – Representing Price County, John Will – Representing Education (Northwood Technical College), Jim Caesar – Representing Douglas County, Mari Kay-Nabozny – Representing NWWIB, Geri Dresen – Representing Chambers of Commerce, Donna Walker – Dairyland Power Cooperative, Carver Harries – Representing Economic Development Organizations, Andy Donahue – Small Business Development Center at UW-Superior, Joy Melton – Representing Washburn County
 - **Others Present:** David Wierzba – Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Kate Barido – Sawyer County/LCO Economic Development Corporation, Kenneth Discher – Xcel Energy, Jim Miller – Congressman Tiffany's Office, Ken Pearson – NWRPC, Crystal Rohde – Visions Northwest
 - **Members Absent:** Michelle Johnson – Representing Private Industry (Enbridge), Jenice Meyer – Representing Education (UW-Superior/NorthWERD), Philomena Kebec - Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, John Righeimer – Representing Sawyer County,

2. Approval of October 12th, 2022 Meeting

- A motion was made by Jim C. to approve the October 12th, 2022 minutes. A second was made by Cole R.

3. Key Partner Updates: Please let Crystal know if you would like to give a partner update at an upcoming meeting or if you have ideas about relevant presenters.

- **Andy Donahue, SBDC at UW-Superior (see attached slides)**
- **Mari Kay-Nabozny, Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board (see attached slides)**
- **David Wierzba, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (see attached slides)**

4. Start in Wisconsin | Resource Partner/Business After 5 Events – 2023 Regional Events (see attached slides)

5. Main Street Bounceback Update (see slides attached)

- 390 grants awarded - \$3,900,000 – program has expired.

6. Around the Table – Other Business

- Cole R. – (Bayfield County) Lost the Brickhouse Café in Cable due to a fire – not sure if they are going to rebuild. Community is surrounding them with support. Working with the site selector group on the Business Park Certified Site. Crystal will share information about Spark! – the Chequamegon Bay Pitch Contest. Part of the WHEDA pilot program – did public presentations in December and had the highest community turnout – going to present ideas to WHEDA executives' senior staff – hoping to have some replicable ideas for other communities, Bayfield County and UW-Extension have joined together to create a Community Housing position – will have a staff member to deal with housing.
- Geri D. – (Iron River Area Chamber) Iron River Area will have first meeting on January 26th at the Community Center – went on hold for a bit – Mitchell Building will be revitalized due to a grant with

WEDC – thanks to Dave. W for support on project – Feb 18th – 5th annual sled dog race in Iron River – big deal for our area!

- Dale H. – (Price County) Village of Prentice is rezoning Hwy 8 and Cty A for commercial (store) building. Xcel Energy completed hookups to campground so that's moving forward for next year, Village is involved in a multi-million-dollar wastewater treatment project starting construction in the Spring, investment group moving to Prentice and hiring new employees, but housing will continue to be an issue. Housing projects that were happening are on hold due to interest rates going up. Park Falls has transit area garage done and the \$20 million healthcare infrastructure project is in the works. Phillips has completed highway 13 project and technical education at school.
- John W. – (Northwood Tech) Last week met with communities that are in the running for the HOMES project: Hayward, Ladysmith, Minong, Hurley. Had very productive meetings. All have viable projects – met with community leaders and Impact 7 will be working with the community to determine which will move forward (hoping to have decisions made by end of May/early June). Healthcare is in an interesting time – used to enjoy a reputation as a stable/high paying/recession-proof career – nursing programs have a high capacity for enrollment. There has been a damage to the health care system image due to pandemic and the negative images of healthcare careers, etc. Northwood Tech's biggest cluster programs are health care. Shell Lake building conversion to health care center – not as reliant on the health care system for clinicals. Still somewhat learning how to use the simulation and will be looking to bring more people in this Spring to see the facility. Have been excited to be contacted by several leaders in healthcare to see the facility. Been working on a lot of mobile training portfolio options – mobile welding, mobile advanced manufacturing, and a new one will be a mobile meat processing training unit.
- Ken P. – thanks everyone for your great support of the Main Street Bounceback program – loan programs also were amplified -talked to more than 160+ individuals about starting businesses and usually talk to 80-100/year usually. Façade program available within the seven counties that consolidated funds to regional RLF. Help eligible main street/downtown business districts to improve the façade-scapes. Low interest loans/low burden for improvements. If you have interest, contact Ken at kpearson@nwrpc.com. Might be questions about Entrepreneur Fund coming into the area – has enhanced our visibility and capacity – working on possibly four projects with them and SBDC currently. Willing to meet with your boards and do a presentation or just participate!

7. 2023 Meeting Schedule - Calendar invites will be sent

- April 12 (virtual)
- July 12 (virtual)
- October 11 (in person)

8. Confirm Next Meeting – April 12th, 2023 (virtual meeting)

9. Adjourn – A motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:22AM was made by Donna W. second by Dale H.