



BOARD OF DIRECTORS QUARTERLY MEETING AGENDA Wednesday, October 11th, 2023

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

a division of the Wisconsin Business Innovation Corporation

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 10:05 AM by Board Chair, Kelly Klein
 - **Members Present:** Kelly Klein – Representing Iron County, Cole Rabska – Representing Bayfield County, Geri Dresen – Representing Chambers of Commerce, Dick Hartmann – Representing Burnett County, Mari Kay-Nabozny – Representing NWWIB, Philomena Kebec - Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Donna Walker – Dairyland Power Cooperative, Michelle Johnson – Representing Private Industry (Enbridge), Jenice Meyer – Representing Education (UW-Superior/NorthWERD), Ken Disher – Xcel Energy
 - **Others Present:** Steve Janke – Mission Wisconsin, Monica Johnson – Sawyer County/LCO EDC, Thomas Michels – DWD, David Wierzba – Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Jim Miller – Congressman Tiffany’s Office, Crystal Rohde – Visions Northwest, Joy Melton – NWRPC, Kenia Link – Americans for Prosperity
 - **Members Absent:** Dale Heikkinen – Representing Price County, John Will – Representing Education (Northwood Technical College), John Righeimer – Representing Sawyer County, Jim Caesar – Representing Douglas County, Carver Harries – Representing Economic Development Organizations

2. Approval of July 12th, 2023 Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made by Cole Rabska to approve the July 12th, 2023 meeting minutes. A second was made by Dick Hartmann.

3. Presentation – Steve Janke, Mission Wisconsin – Connecting Employers with Transitioning Service Members, Spouses, and Veterans – See attached slides/presentation.

4. Partner Updates

- Mari Kay Nabozny – Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board – see attached slides/presentation.
- WEDC – David Wierzba, Regional Economic Development Director
 - Dave gave an update on FY24 business and community development programs. For more information about specific programs, please visit:
 - <https://wedc.org/business-development/>
 - https://wedc.org/programs/?fwp_programsresources_category=community
 - The application period for the FabLab grant program is now open through January 12th, 2024 - <https://wedc.org/programs-and-resources/fabrication-laboratories-grant/>

5. Around the Table – Other Business

- Crystal R. shared updates on behalf of Dale Heikkinen (Price County) including: The Prentice Hardware Store was purchased by Mike and Tara Murphy extensively remodeled inside and out -they offer Do It Best Hardware Line the Grand Opening was Progress Day Labor Day Weekend. Industrial Machine completed a new building addition on Railroad Ave. The 8-million-dollar wastewater treatment plant upgrade and expansion has started. The Jump River Industrial Park business is expanding, adding

people and has purchased building. Another Prentice manufacturing company is expanding - moving operations from Minnesota to Prentice. The Village had just opened its new campground on the Jump River Flowage with electric service to 10 sites. Prentice school is getting a new track. A new propane company has purchased village property on Highway 8 for propane operations. The Price County Historical Society has built a new expanded records and research center in Fifield. Construction on the Marshfield Medical Center-Park Falls' \$35 million dollar expansion and renovation project started.

- Jim M. shared updates from Congressman Tiffany's Office – been working with communities to identify federal grant opportunities, can provide letters of support for projects.
- Geri D. provided updates on the grassroots housing efforts in Iron River. She stated that “you have to do it yourself” – yes, there's help from programs like the Community Development Investment (CDI) grant out of WEDC – the Mitchell building has been an eyesore in the community for many years and now will be converted into retail space and housing by a local builder/developer who has also began discussions about doing additional housing projects in the community (such as a four-plex). The reason it's working is because he has a line-up of people that need housing. It is paying off to keep working at it – and finding the right (local, in this case) people is also key. Another person that has 300-acres has divided his land into 5-acre plots and is building a spec home – and is hoping that people will buy the land and he'll be a part of the building process. People are seeing the need and doing it on a local level. They have to be young enough to make the investment.
- Jenice M. – Three updates from the campus – 1) started doing more regional outreach at a community level to see what the small business and community needs are. If you have any interest in UWS coming to your community, reach out to Jenice to help coordinate at jmeyer@uwsuper.edu. 2) UWS has been expanding micro-credentials and badging – now have 12-15 available – upskilling/retooling opportunities. 3) Been looking at public/private partnerships to create additional housing, athletic space for youth/collegiate/HS students – just went through the Board of Regents and received the approval to start construction bidding and design work. Within the next two to five years, could have a expanded indoor hockey arena (on South side of campus) – would be great for the community, as well as indoor turf. Working with the City, Essentia and a number of other organizations. Additionally, there could be some expanded mental health and childcare services in there. Very excited to start this process.

6. Other Upcoming Events

- Wisconsin Economic Development Summit: October 23-24 - Fox Cities Exhibition Center, Appleton <https://wedc.org/wisconsin-economic-summit/>
- SBA CYBER SUMMIT 2023 (Oct 18, Oct 25, Nov 1): Virtual - SBA will convene Experts from the Cybersecurity and Business Worlds to Share Best Practices and Practical Tools to Help Small Businesses. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sba-cyber-summit-2023-oct-18-oct-25-nov-1-tickets-628704420847>
- Entrepreneur Fund DISTINCTION AWARDS – Celebrating Regional Excellence: October 25 – DECC Duluth - <https://entrepreneurfund.ac-page.com/EFundDistinctionAwards>
- Marketplace Wisconsin: December 6-7 - The Baird Center, Milwaukee <https://www.marketplacewisconsin.com/>

7. Confirm Next Meeting – January 10th, 2023 (Virtual)

8. Adjourn – Meeting was adjourned at 11:35AM.