



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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

a division of the Wisconsin Business Innovation Corporation

1. Call to Order

- Meeting called to order at 10:02 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, 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, Michelle Johnson – Representing Private Industry (Enbridge), Jenice Meyer – Representing Education (UW-Superior/NorthWERD),
 - **Others Present:** Kim Heche – Iron River Area Chamber of Commerce, David Wierzba – Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation, Kate Barido – Sawyer County/LCO Economic Development Corporation, Jim Miller – Congressman Tiffany’s Office, Ken Pearson – NWRPC, Sheldon Johnson – NWRPC/Visions Northwest, Crystal Rohde – Visions Northwest
 - **Members Absent:** Mari Kay-Nabozny – Representing NWWIB, Philomena Kebec - Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, John Righeimer – Representing Sawyer County,

2. Approval of January 11th, 2023 Meeting Minutes

- A motion was made by Cole R. to approve the January 11th, 2023 meeting minutes. A second was made by Donna W.

3. SBDC at UW-Superior Updates – Andy Donahue

- Governor Evers intends to fund UW-System Institute for Business and Entrepreneurship to provide technical assistance to grantees of the Main Street Bounceback Grant through the SBDC network. These will for additional technical assistance for training, rural-based consulting, market research, services, etc. at no cost to recipients. The goal will be to make these resources available to these services as well but there may be a charge if they were not one of the grantees. These will be available for the entire state, hopefully on or around July 1st (for a 15-month program).
- Andy will be leaving his position in WI and will be taking the role of State Director of the Minnesota Small Business Development Center. His last day will be May 5th. Working out the details for an interim position – don’t want to see things drop off in the transition. {Andy received many congratulations and praise from the group – he will be missed greatly in NW WI}

4. Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Local Planning Grant OptiMap™, previously known as GEO Map™ Crowdsourcing Speed Test Renewal

- See slides/presentation attached (14:06-39:00 on [recording](#))

5. After 5 | Business and Entrepreneur Social Events

- See slides/presentation and flyers attached.
 - Upcoming: Iron River – April 18th, Mercer – May 2nd

6. Around the Table – Other Business

- John W. – (Northwood Tech) On the training side, a lot of the equipment is coming in for HOMES and RESTORE grant – took possession of mobile welding trailer – have a contract starting with the St. Croix tribe for a credit program. Working hard with communities that submitted proposals – Impact 7 is putting together costs and plans, analyzing market study information, and exploring financing options. Hope you have firmed up what projects will be moving forward by the time school is out this year. Communities have had such a positive response. Advanced manufacturing training will start soon. Governor Ever is coming to New Richmond and will be touring welding trailer and robotics equipment. Congressman Tiffany held a listening session on campus. Developed virtual broadband training for entry level technicians. Was picked up by the National Telecommunications Association (800 members) throughout the country and worked to develop a digital badge that is co-branded with the Association. We have a training solution that can skill up people to meet the demand for broadband infrastructure. Our training is set up to work with incumbent employees.
- Dale H. – (Price County) Park Falls has the \$20 million healthcare infrastructure project is in the works, a YMCA project and will be moving City Hall. Phillips had a company’s roof collapse due to the ice/snow. Village of Prentice is involved in a multi-million-dollar wastewater treatment project starting construction this Spring. A campground project (walking trails, etc.) is also in the works.
- Dave W. – (WEDC) The Vibrant Spaces grants will be announced in May. Our attraction group has a trade opportunity to the Netherlands and Belgium. Network Wisconsin program (grant application portal) is working fine and will be expanded for reporting process, etc. Approached the end of the FY. Grant applications are in, and underwriting is happening. New FY starts July 1.
- Geri D. – (Iron River Area Chamber) Iron River Area will have Senator Quinn coming this Friday to discuss housing and workforce.
- Cole R. – (Bayfield County) Part of the WHEDA pilot program – pitched three ideas (zoning, small developers, buy-in/buy-out program) to WHEDA and are fine-tuning. Hoping to get something developed that can be duplicated. Hwy 13 will be redone – Cable has old school getting demolished this Summer. Dollar General going into Washburn. Fleet Farm is going onto Hwy 2. Birkie is working on building out the start line by Cable. In process of doing own environmental and geological studies for the Site Selector and getting county approval to spend money to complete the studies.

7. Around the Table/Other Business

- Opportunity for board members to discuss relevant updates with attendees.

8. Other Upcoming Events

- See attached slides/presentation

9. Confirm Next Meeting – July 12th, 2023 (virtual meeting)

10. Adjourn – A motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:10PM was made by Geri D., second by Andy D.