

**MEETING MINUTES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
August 2, 2021**

Members Present: Thomas Bauknecht, Ron Nye, Sarah Koszarek,
Members Excused: Dillon Gretzinger, Lynn D'Amato, Angel Zimmerman
Others Present: Angie Close, Keri Beck, Jim Rosenberg

Meeting was called to order by Vice-President Thomas Bauknecht at 4:00 pm.

Public Comment: None

Minutes of Previous Economic Development Executive Committee Meeting: Motion by Nye, second by Koszarek, to approve the minutes from June 7, 2021. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Langlade County Economic Development Corporation:

- A. Review and Approve Payments of Bills:** Close reviewed the June & July 2021 LCEDC bills with the LCEDC Executive Committee.
- Motion by Koszarek, second by Bauknecht to recommend to the LCEDC Board under the consent agenda to approve the June and July 2021 LCEDC invoices as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.**
- B. Review and Approve Budget vs Actual & Financial Reports:** Close updated the LCEDC Executive Committee on the current LCEDC 2021 budget vs expense and financial position reports. Certain budget line items are currently over budgeted. The September LCEDC Executive meeting line item transfers will be discussed. LCEDC has received notification that the Paycheck Protection Program loan will be forgiven, but is waiting for the official letter of loan forgiveness.
- Motion by Koszarek, second by Nye to approve the LCEDC budget vs actual and financial reports as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.**
- C. LCEDC Revolving Loan Fund Recipients Update:** Close updated the LCEDC Executive Committee on RLF, CDF, and ER-RLF loans. One Revolving Loan Fund has been paid in full with two new Revolving Loans disbursed in June.
- D. Review 2022 LCEDC Budget Process:** Close reviewed the LCEDC 2022 budget process. Draft budget will be present at in the next three LCEDC Executive Committee meeting. Staff evaluations will be conducted in October. Final budget will be presented in November to LCEDC Executive Committee and Board.
- E. Broadband Update:** Close updated the LCEDC Executive Committee that the Langlade County Broadband Task Force has met. The Langlade County Economic Development Broadband Taskforce, with the support of Langlade County, has partnered with Wittenberg Telephone Company/Cirrinity to submit a broadband grant application to the PSC for a total project cost of \$990,635. This project will create a 24.6-mile fiber path to two communication towers that will provide up to 158 residents and 13 businesses the opportunity to get Gigabit Fiber to the home in an underserved or unserved area, and allow the county to have one fiber network controlling its valuable Emergency Medical Services network. Grant award will be announced in September.
- F. State, Federal, and Local Business Grants Update:** Close updated the LCEDC Executive Committee on Langlade County businesses that received state, federal, and local business grants related to COVID-19 pandemic. The newest grant is for empty store fronts.
- G. Community Navigation Program:** Close informed the LCEDC Executive Committee that Nicolet College's GRID is the hub for the Community Navigation Program with six spokes. LCEDC is on of the spokes. This grant will help fund LCEDC's efforts of promoting pandemic grants and conducting one-on-one business visits. More information provided in September.
- H. Create Your Community Program:** Close informed the LCEDC Executive Committee that North Central Regional Planning and CREATE Portage County has established the CREATE Your Community Program. This program is a community-based project that brings culture into the community. LCEDC would be the liaison for the program. If awarded, a committee has already been established.
- I. Incubator Office Update:** Close updated the LCEDC Executive Committee that she is still working with an entity to rent LCEDC's incubator office. The entity is waiting for their board approval. This would be a good fit being that NTC is remodeling as a technology center of excellence.
- J. Life/DI Coverage for Staff:** Close informed the LCEDC Executive Committee that LCEDC has been informed that EPIC Life, LCEDC's life and disability insurance carrier, will be discontinuing offering life and disability insurance. LCEDC's life and disability insurance will be transitioned to Reliance Standard. Reliance Standard has stated that they will lower the monthly premiums and a 2-year rate guarantee for the same coverage. More information will be presented when received by LCEDC staff.
- K. Entrepreneurs Program Update:** Close updated that LCEDC Executive Committee that the Fall 2021 Entrepreneurial Training Program (ETP) will start on September 23 in person and virtually for 9 Thursdays. The ETP Orientation day is set for September 9 at 5:30 pm. There are three students already registered for the ETP class.
- L. Langlade County Tourism Update:** Beck updated the LCEDC Executive Committee on the following items:
- 559 items have been taken from the Welcome Center from April 1 to July 12. There has been 273 people that have come through the Welcome Center since June 24. The Welcome Center had an article on WJFW and was promoted on the Breakfast Club in June.

- Antigo has been designated as an Ice Age Trail Community. LCEDC is working with the City of Antigo and the Langlade County Ice Age Trail Alliance on marketing the new designation.
- LCEDC staff is working with the Museum for a grand opening in September.
- Close updated that the LCEDC part-time staff will be on medical leave through September or October. LCEDC staff will be working on developing a volunteer staff.
- Koszarek informed the Executive Committee that Elcho has been busy with tourists throughout the week.

Old Business: No old business was discussed.

New Business & Meeting Date: Due to the Labor Day Holiday, the next LCEDC Executive Committee meeting will be at 4:00 pm on September 13, 2021.

Adjourn: Motion by Bauknecht, second by Koszarek to adjourn at 5:10 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted, Keri Beck, Recording Secretary

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