

**MEETING MINUTES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
January 9, 2023**

**Members Present:** Thomas Bauknecht, Warren Wagner, Dillon Gretzinger, Tammy Walrath

**Members Present by Conference:** Sarah Koszarek

**Members Excused:**

**Others Present:** Angie Close, Keri Beck, Kylie Higgins

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

**Public Comment:** None

**Minutes of Previous Economic Development Executive Committee Meeting:** Motion by Walrath, second by Wagner, to approve the minutes from November 7, 2022. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**Langlade County Economic Development Corporation:**

- A. 2022 Fall Entrepreneur Graduate Presentations:** Two of the 2022 Fall Entrepreneurial graduates presented their business plans to the LCEDC Executive Committee. With the twelve (12) Fall 2022 ETP graduates, there has been 102 LCEDC ETP graduating students since 2015. Since 2015, thirty-two (32) of the thirty-nine (39) new businesses are still in business.
- B. Award 2022 Fall Entrepreneur Business Start Up Grants:** Close informed the LCEDC Executive Committee that \$6,000 was to be awarded for the Fall 2022 Entrepreneurial Business Start Up Grants.

**Motion by Dillon, second by Koszarek to recommend to the LCEDC Board under the consent agenda to approve the Entrepreneurial Business Start-Up Grants to Chocolate Creations by Kylie, LLC for \$5,000 and LearningRX for \$1,000 contingent upon all requirement of the grant being met. All Ayes. Motion Carried.**

- C. Review and Approve Suick Family Foundation Grant for 2023 Entrepreneur Program:** Close informed the LCEDC Executive Committee that the Suick Family Foundation has awarded the LCEDC Entrepreneurial Program \$15,000 for the 2023 Entrepreneurial Programs and Entrepreneurial Start-Up Grants. The next ETP Program will be starting February 28 with the Orientation Day on February 7. For the 2023 Spring ETP Class, the ETP classes will be held on Tuesdays instead of Thursdays.

**Motion by Walrath, second by Gretzinger to recommend to the LCEDC Board under the consent agenda to approve accepting the Suick Family Foundation Grant donation for the 2023 Entrepreneurs Program. All Ayes. Motion Carried.**

- D. Review and Approve Payments of Bill for November & December 2022:** Close reviewed the November and December 2022 LCEDC bills with the LCEDC Executive Committee.

**Motion by Walrath, second by Bauknecht to recommend to the LCEDC Board under the consent agenda to approve the November and December 2022 LCEDC invoices as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.**

- E. Review Budget vs Actual/Financial Position Reports ending 12/31/2022:** Close reviewed the December 31, 2022 budget vs actual and financial position reports with the LCEDC Executive Committee. Overbudgeted line items were highlighted.

**Motion by Gretzinger, second by Wagner to recommend to the LCEDC Board under the consent agenda to approve the Budget vs Actual and Financial Position Reports ending December 31, 2022 as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.**

The LCEDC audit will be in March. Discussion will be held at the February LCEDC Executive Committee meeting to create an LCEDC Funding Policy.

- F. LCEDC Health Insurance Discussion and HSA Contribution:** Close informed the LCEDC Executive Committee that the LCEDC employee 2023 health insurance deductible increased to \$3,000 individually and \$6,000 for the family because of federal law changes. By increasing the deductible, the 2023 health insurance premium went down.

**Motion by Walrath, second by Wagner to recommend to the LCEDC Board under the consent agenda to approve up to a \$600.00 increase per eligible employee based on eligible expenses to the HSA benefit starting January 1, 2023. All Ayes. Motion Carried.**

- G. Review and Amend LCEDC 2023 Budget:** Close recommended to amend the LCEDC 2023 budget due to projected fund balance carry over and DMO prepaid expenses that was not originally included in the approved 2023 LCEDC Budget.

**Motion by Gretzinger, second by Wagner to recommend to the LCEDC Board under the consent agenda to approve the amended 2023 LCEDC Budget as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.**

- H. Review 2023 Budget vs Actual Report:** Close reviewed the current 2023 budget vs actual report with the LCEDC Executive Committee. Information only.

- I. LCEDC Revolving Loan Fund Recipients and CWED Update:** Close updated the LCEDC Executive Committee on RLF, CDF, ER-RLF, and CWED loans. Five (5) RLF loans closed in 2022, while five (5) RLF loans have paid in full in 2022. Close will be following up on one loan. Update only.
- J. State, Federal, and Local Business Grants Update:** Close updated the LCEDC Executive Committee that as of November 30, 2022, there were fifty (50) Langlade County Mainstreet Bounceback Grant applications. Langlade County has received \$430,000 through this grant program and \$17.47 million from all COVID-19 pandemic grants.
- K. Update on LCEDC Tourism Activities:** Beck updated the LCEDC Executive Committee on the following:
- The Go To Spots lumber and hardware for the County Go To Spot signs have been purchased.
  - The Welcome Center was decorated by Jody and Carl for Christmas. There was 466 people that came to visit Santa in the 6 days she was there. Two additional days were canceled due to weather. With Santa visitors, there was 2,676 total people that came through the Welcome Center in 2022. This does not include the number of people that stopped after hours in the vestibule. There were 2,004 items were taken in 2022.
  - The "Build My Adventure" and the trail report "Narrow Your Search" has been added to the tourism website. Promoted the new updated on the December's Breakfast Club.
  - Travel Wisconsin's winter reports are live. They added snowshoeing, skijoring, and winter fat biking to the cross-country trail reports. To accommodate all the additions, LCEDC added all these trails and each specific cross-country ski trail.
  - LCEDC staff has been working with the Office of Outdoor Recreation to finalize a customize Live + Work Where You Play Outside in Wisconsin booklet. This will be used for workforce attraction.
  - An article was published in The Manual from the September FAM Tour travel writer visit. Langlade County's Nicolet Roach Mountain Bike Trail was mentioned in the article.
  - There was 170 people that checked in at Antigo during the Mammoth Hike Challenge in October 2022.
  - The Langlade County Snowmobile Trails opened on 1/7/23. The Facebook post on the trail opening reached 7,434 people with 551 engagements.
- L. Update on Other Economic Development Corporation Activities:** Close informed the LCEDC Executive Committee on the following:
- Northwood Blooms was featured on the front cover of the "Business News" and an LCEDC story.
  - LCEDC will be working with NTC to create a Langlade County HR (Human Resource) Group formed of human resource specialists from larger Langlade County employers. The first meeting will be in January. NTC will be hosting, while Close will be facilitating the meetings.
  - The SBA Navigator grant is on target. LCEDC may receive additional dollars for doing so well in Langlade County.
  - Close has been nominated to be on the CoVantage Credit Union Board of Directors. If selected, this board will meet on the first and third Thursday of the month.
  - The Broadband Commission is meeting as the next broadband grants are due February 21. Cirrinity \$1.1 million proposal is for the western side of the county to lay fiber along County Road B, C, J, and H to town of Summit.
- M. Review 2023 Executive and Board Meeting Dates:** Close informed the LCEDC Executive Committee that the next meeting will be February 6, 2023. The LCEDC Board meeting will be Monday, February 20, 2023.

**Old Business:** No old business was discussed.

**New Business & Meeting Date:** The next LCEDC Executive Committee meeting will be at 4:00 pm on February 6, 2023.

**Adjourn:** Motion by Gretzinger, second by Wagner to adjourn at 5:20 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted, Keri Beck, Recording Secretary

