

**MEETING MINUTES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
May 1, 2023**

Members Present: Thomas Bauknecht, Warren Wagner

Members Present by Conference: Dillon Gretzinger, Sarah Koszarek, Tammy Walrath

Members Excused:

Others Present: Angie Close, Keri Beck

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 Wagner, second by Gretzinger, to approve the minutes from February 6, 2023. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Langlade County Economic Development Corporation:

- A. **Review and Approve Payments of Bill for February, March, April 2023:** Close reviewed the February, March, and April 2023 LCEDC bills with the LCEDC Executive Committee.
- Motion by Wagner, second by Bauknecht to recommend to the LCEDC Board under the consent agenda to approve the February, March, April 2023 LCEDC invoices as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.**
- B. **Review Budget vs Actual/Financial Position Reports:** Close reviewed the budget vs actual and financial position reports with the LCEDC Executive Committee. Close updated the grant administration income LCEDC funding as some administration of grants have changed on how much LCEDC will be receiving in 2023. Information only.
- C. **LCEDC Revolving Loan Fund Recipients and CWED Update:** Close updated the LCEDC Executive Committee on RLF, ER-RLF, CDF, and CWED loans. There are three potential LCEDC RLF loan in the works. Information only.
- D. **State, Federal, and Local Business Grants Update:** Close updated the LCEDC Executive Committee that there was \$480,000 awarded for the Mainstreet Bounceback Grant to Langlade County businesses in Antigo, Bryant, Deerbrook, Elcho, Lily, Pickerel, and White Lake. In the Governor's budget, there is proposed programs for a micro-loan, growth loan, revolving loan, and façade loan funds.
- E. **LCEDC annual Audit/Preparation of 990 Update:** Close reviewed the draft LCEDC Financial Statement prepared by KerberRose with the LCEDC Executive Committee. There were no concerns. KerberRose will present the financial statement at the LCEDC Annual Meeting in May.
- F. **Spring 2023 ETP Class Update:** Close updated the LCEDC Executive Committee that there was seven graduations of the Spring ETP Class. Five students were in person, while two students were virtual. Two of the five in person students are from outside of Langlade County. Langlade County business plans will be presented to the LCEDC Executive Committee at the June 2023 meeting for Business Start-Up Grant considerations.
- G. **Workforce Update:** Close informed the LCEDC Executive Committee that a Langlade County Human Resource (HR) Group has been created. There are 23 Human Resource specialists that have been invited to the meetings to discuss workforce needs in Langlade County and how to overcome these needs.
- H. **Broadband Update:** Close updated the LCEDC Executive Committee that the PSC Broadband grant was submitted in February. The grant award announcement should be in the next couple of weeks. The Broadband Commission is working with Regional Planning on developing broadband planning map and planning. Close has been working with the ISP providers to continue planning and implementation of broadband in the Langlade County.
- I. **Langlade County Childcare Taskforce:** Close informed the LCEDC Executive Committee that the Langlade County Childcare Taskforce has applied for the Dream Up Grant to create a Langlade County childcare plan. Antigo Child Care received the Wisconsin Rural Partners Award for their tiered childcare program. There has been a lot of interest from other areas on the tiered childcare program. The Green Bay Gazette will have an article on the program. Even if the Dream Up Grant is not awarded to Langlade County, the Childcare Taskforce will continue without because of the need for childcare in Langlade County. The task force will also look at the needs of childcare for 2nd and 3rd shift workers.
- J. **LCEDC Annual Meeting Discussion:** Close informed the LCEDC Executive Committee that the LCEDC Annual Meeting will be on Monday, May 15 starting at 4:00 pm. Langlade County economic overview will be presented. LCEDC elections will be held. Close reviewed the current LCEDC Executive Committee members that will be up for elections.
- K. **Welcome Center/Museum Reception:** Close informed the LCEDC Executive Committee that LCEDC Staff has been working with the Langlade County Historical Society on a reception for elected officials and the school board starting at 4:30 pm on Tuesday, June 13. Close is working with the Museum on offering a historical building renovation presentation. More information forthcoming.
- L. **Update on LCEDC Tourism Activities:** Beck informed the LCEDC Executive Committee on the following items:
- The Welcome Center and Museum started their summer hours on May 1st. The building will be open Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 4 pm.
 - Beck attended a digital marketing workshop at Nicolet College.
 - Wrote Ice Age Trail Unit Status support letter to ensure the National Scenic Ice Age Trail has the same funding as other Trails and Parks administered by the National Park Service.

- Travel Wisconsin had a successful snow report - from November 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 the report received 1,696,468 million pageviews which is a 33.42% increase over last year. The Langlade County Tourism website had 312 referrals from Travel Wisconsin during this time. Third on the list behind Facebook and Jack Lake Campground referrals.
- The Travel Wisconsin hiking and bike report went live on April 10. LCEDC is updating both Langlade County reports on a weekly basis.
- LCEDC had a booth at the Antigo High School Teen Health Fair. Student and staff took 159 items.
- A report LCEDC ATV/UTV Tourism report was given at the Langlade County ATV Council meeting.
- Print advertisements for the 2023 Brewer Yearbook (page 149), 2023 Travel Wisconsin Travel Guide (page 48), 2023 Summer Wisconsin Traveler (page 19) was passed around.
- The Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Wisconsin's Scenic Byway website page is live. The page has Langlade County images that were submitted.
- Discussion with the Antigo/Langlade County Chamber of Commerce collaborative efforts and one mutual destination marketing website continues.
- The Antigo Off Road Races has been awarded a 3rd Year JEM Grant. Marketing will start in the next couple of weeks.

M. Update on Other Economic Development Corporation Activities: Close informed the LCEDC Executive Committee on the following:

- Close will be attending the Wisconsin Credit Union League Convention.
- LCEDC has attended meetings on the City of Antigo Solar, Water Tower, and Saratoga Industrial Park grant projects.
- The LCEDC Executive Committee will be discussing an LCEDC Funding Policy at the next LCEDC Executive Committee meeting.
- LCEDC strategic plan will be expiring in 2023.
- Close is on the Langlade County Strategic Plan Committee.

Old Business: No old business was discussed.

New Business & Meeting Date: The next LCEDC Executive Committee meeting will be at 4:00 pm on June 5, 2023.

Adjourn: Motion by Wagner, second by Gretzinger to adjourn at 4:52 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted, Keri Beck, Recording Secretary

Thomas Rudewicht