

**MEETING MINUTES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

April 1, 2024

Members Present: Warren Wagner, Thomas Bauknecht

Members Present by Conference: Sarah Koszarek, Tammy Walrath

Members Excused: Dillon Gretzinger

Others Present: Angie Close, Keri Beck, Steve Maier

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 Koszarek, to approve the minutes from February 5, 2024. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Langlade County Economic Development Corporation:

- A. Review and Approve Payments of Bill for February/March 2024:** Close reviewed the February/March 2024 LCEDC bills with the LCEDC Executive Committee.

Motion by Wagner, second by Koszarek to recommend to the LCEDC Board under the consent agenda to approve the February/March 2024 LCEDC invoices as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

- B. Review Budget vs Actual:** Close presented the current 2024 budget vs actual to the LCEDC Executive Committee. Information only.
- C. Review 2023 Audited Financial Statements Report by Kerber Rose:** Close presented and reviewed with the LCEDC Executive Committee the 2023 LCEDC Financial Statement Report from Kerber Rose. Information Only. Final approval will be at LCEDC's Annual Meeting in May.
- D. Review RLF/CWED Loan Report:** Close updated LCEDC Executive Committee with the March 2024 LCEDC Loan Fund report. At the end of February, GB Acquisition paid in full. LCEDC is in the process of presenting a new CWED start up loan.
- E. Discuss Other Funding Resources:** Close updated the LCEDC Executive Committee that LCEDC has assisted three businesses with SBA Disaster Loans. CWED has increased its Micro Business Loan Program to a maximum loan amount of \$75,000. WWBIC, CoVantage Credit Union, Associated Bank, and CWED will be presenting to the Spring ETP class on funding opportunities they offer to businesses.
- F. LCEDC Economic Summit:** Close informed the LCEDC Executive Committee that the last LCEDC Economic Summit was in 2018-2019. LCEDC will be working with the City of Antigo and Antigo/Langlade County Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Center to host a fall summit.
- G. Discuss Annual Meeting and Slate of Officers:** Close reviewed the LCEDC Board terms and Executive Committee. Elections of officers will be held at LCEDC's Annual Meeting on May 20.
- H. Update on LCEDC Tourism Activities:** Beck updated the LCEDC Executive Committee on the following:
- LCEDC is starting to look for a Welcome Center Assistant.
 - There has been an average of 30 people per week coming into the Welcome Center/Museum.
 - Beck attended the Wisconsin Governor's Conference on Tourism. The conference is a great way to talk with other destination marketing organizations, to learn about tourism best practices, and what tourists are looking for.
 - Top social media post in March was on the Langlade County Forestry, Park, and Rec Dept new Google Map showing Langlade County ATV/UTV Trails. The post reached 24,302 people with 969 clicks to the map.
 - Travel Wisconsin's Winter Snow Report is finished. Beck is working on updating the Hiking and Biking Trail reports for when these reports go live.
 - LCEDC staff is reevaluating social media marketing.
 - The North Central Tourism Partnership (ITBEC) approved additional 2024 Tourism Marketing.
- I. Update on Other Economic Development Corporation Activities:** Close updated the LCEDC Executive Committee on the following:
- **Dream Up Langlade County Grant Update:** The Dream Up Grant Roundtable event will be held on April 11 at 6-7:30 pm at NTC – Antigo Campus. Post cards were mailed out with email follow up this week.
 - **Broadband:** A broadband grant was awarded to the Town of Neva. They were one of 30 projects awarded out of 124 applications. Cirrinity is finishing fiber in the Town of Polar, Norwood, and Rolling. They will be starting projects in the Town of Peck, Vilas, and Summit this year. They are projected to be on schedule as Cirrinity has hired another crew. The agreement between Langlade County and the Town of Summit for the emergency communication tower is being worked on. Possibly will be working on the Town of Neva this fall and finish in spring 2025. Commission now looking at fixed wireless and tower space. Cirrinity is presenting at the May meeting on where they are and the availability they have.
 - **WEDC Entrepreneurial Hub Grant:** The Spring ETP Class is graduating on April 27. Business plans will be presented at May or June's LCEDC Executive Committee meeting. Presented Fall 2023 ETP Business Start Up check to CB Rental Trailers.
 - **Non-State Grant Update:** Non-State Grant awards will not be announced until the Fall of 2024.

Old Business: Close updated the LCEDC Executive Committee that Town of Neva business submitted a WECD Community Development Investment grant, but WECD didn't see a fit for the project for this grant. The business will be working with the Town of Neva on a developer's agreement to apply for an Idle Site Grant to relocate a machine shop to dedicated to foster green energy research and designing with hydrogen and electric fuel cell technology for recreational vehicles and motorhomes.

New Business and set date for next meeting: The next LCEDC Executive Committee meeting will be at 4:00 pm on May 6, 2024.

Adjourn: Motion by Bauknecht, second by Wagner to adjourn at 5:22 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted, Keri Beck, Recording Secretary

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Bauknecht". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the page.