

**MEETING MINUTES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
September 8, 2025**

Members Present: Warren Wagner, Thomas Bauknecht, Steve Maier

Members Present by Conference:

Members Excused: Tammy Walrath, Sarah Koszarek

Others Present: Angie Close, Keri Beck

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Warren Wagner at 4:07 pm.

Public Comment: None

Minutes of Previous Economic Development Executive Committee Meeting: Motion by Maier, second by Bauknecht, to approve the minutes from June 2, 2025. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Langlade County Economic Development Corporation:

- A. Review and Approve payments of Bills for August 2025:** Close reviewed the August 2025 LCEDC Invoices with the LCEDC Executive Committee.

Motion by Bauknecht, second by Maier to recommend to the LCEDC Board under the consent agenda to approve the August 2025 LCEDC invoices as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

- B. Review Budget vs Actual:** Close reviewed the budget vs actual with the LCEDC Executive Committee highlighting projected income and expenses. Information only.
- C. LCEDC Revolving Loan Fund and CWED Loan Fund Update:** Close updated the LCEDC Executive Committee four LCEDC revolving loan fund recipients. One requested a loan pay off amount, JDV Holdings paid in full, one paid ahead, and one delinquent loan became up to date on payments. The \$20,000 RLF administration fee should be met in September. One Antigo business is waiting for a CWED loan approval for a building purchase. The last City of Antigo Public Improvement Fund loan was paid in full in September.
- D. Review Policies: Operating Reserve, Conflicts of Interest, By-Laws, Employee Handbook and Benefit Policy:** Copies of LCEDC's Operating Reserve, Conflicts of Interest, By-Laws, Employee Handbook and Employee Benefit Policies were provided via email. Close informed the LCEDC Executive Committee that all updates to the LCEDC Handbook were made this year. Discussion was held on health insurance percentages and employee compensation. Discussion only.
- E. Staff Evaluation Process:** Close provided copies of the Strategic Dash Board to the LCEDC Executive Committee highlighting accomplishments of LCEDC. Draft evaluation will be developed for next LCEDC Executive Meeting. The evaluations will be due in November. LCEDC Board evaluates Executive Director, Executive Director evaluates Assistant Director, Assistant Director evaluates the Welcome Center Assistant.
- F. LCEDC Strategic Pillars Review:** Close updated the LCEDC Executive Committee that in 2024 LCEDC Community Development Pillar was focused on broadband and child care. Close informed the committee that \$13.9 million of BEAD funding preliminary award was to Bertram, NSight (Cellcom), and Cirrinity for Langlade County. The Langlade County Commission continues to meet with ISP Partners and is very interested to continue to improve cellular, fixed wireless (FW), Cable and Fiber networks faster than the 4 years that is anticipated. As for child care, the Business of Child Care will provide services to assist Langlade County's child care needs. LCEDC has applied for a \$10,000 grant that does cover 10% administration fee for Adopt-A-Provider. With broadband in maintenance mode and child care initiatives are being addressed, LCEDC is asking leadership if a shift in the pillar is needed. Recommendations will come forward to the board as more community engagement sessions are held.
- G. LCEDC 2026 Budget:** Close presented a rough draft of LCEDC 2026 budget without additional programming to the LCEDC Executive Committee. Additional investments have been applied for through the United Way, Grow North, WEDC Technical Assistance Grant, and WPS. Close has been working with the City of Antigo on applying for a competitive WEDC Downtown Development Grant to assist business with rent and down payments, façade and improvements, and developing a revolving loan fund for roof repairs, structural damage repair, and energy efficiency. If awarded, an application process with building tour would be developed.
- H. Economic Development Update:** Close updated the LCEDC Executive Committee that the Wolf River Territory REV Program is meeting on September 15 with UW Extension Economic Development for mapping assets of the area. The Fall 2025 ETP Program held orientation. There is six people signed up so far with nine potentially. The class starts on September 16 and runs through November 11. A broadband update with presentation will be given at the September Towns Unit Meeting with Town of Summit tower update by Sherriff Westen. Close is working with the Village of White Lake on applying for a WEDC Idle Site Grant for a potential REV incubator. Child care strategic plan is being developed with the Business of Child Care with Antigo Child Care, Peace Lutheran, and LeRoy. Close will be attending the WEDA Fall Conference September 24-26. LCEDC will be holding a HUB Zone event with Lincoln County.
- I. Tourism Update:** Beck updated the committee that over 1,500 visitors have come through the Welcome Center thus far in 2025 with almost every person taking one item from the brochure racks. In the last week, there has been increased social media interactions with the OHMV and seasonal ATV/UTV closure postings. Of the 67,000 people who viewed these two posts, over 81% were non-followers. The North Central Wisconsin Tourism Partnership will be meeting in Antigo this week to finalize the strategic plan and develop a 2026 marketing plan. Beck has been working with the Langlade County of the Ice Age Trail on the October Mammoth Hike Challenge.

As part of the challenge, four Antigo businesses have registered to participate in the Trail Magic. Welcome Hiker banners were hung on the Langlade County Historical Society sign in front of the Welcome Center and on the Langlade County Fairgrounds fence. These will be in place through the October hike.

Old Business: No old business was discussed.

New Business and set date for next meeting: No new business was brought forward. The next LCEDC Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 6, 2025 at 4:15 pm.

Adjourn: Motion by Maier, second by Bauknecht to adjourn at 5:43 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted, Keri Beck, Recording Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keri Beck", with a large, stylized initial "K" and a long, sweeping underline.