

MEETING MINUTES LANGLADE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Monday, February 16, 2026

Members Present: Tammy Walrath, Thomas Bauknecht, Fred Westphal, Steve Maier, Mike Jaje, Chad Matuszewski, Joel Zalewski

Members Present by Conferenced:

Members Excused: Warren Wagner, Andrew Hessedal, Tim Kassis

Others Present: Angie Close, Keri Beck

Meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by President Tammy Walrath.

Introductions: No introductions were needed.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Approve the Minutes of previous meeting (12/01/25): Motion by Matuszewski, second by Bauknecht to approve the minutes from December 1, 2025. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Consent Agenda: Motion by Bauknecht, second by Zalewski to approve the Consent Agenda. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Economic Development Corporation:

- a) **Approve LCEDC Budget vs Actual and Financial Reports:** Close presented the budget vs actual with approved budget amounts and a column with suggested amended budget amounts due to 2025 carryovers, tourism payroll duplication, and actual amounts received from the Suick Family Foundation and hotel/motel destination marketing to the LCEDC Board.

Motion by Zalewski, second by Matuszewski to approve the LCEDC budget vs actual as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

LCEDC Reserve Certificate of Deposit will come due May 2, 2026. Renewal discussion will be held at a future meeting.

- b) **LCEDC Revolving Loan Fund/CWED/New Business Update:** Close reviewed the January 2026 LCEDC Loan Fund report. Close informed the Board that Mosaic Massage RLF loan was paid in full and LCEDC subordinated to CoVantage Credit Union on Wes Klemann, LLC RLF loan. Close read a thank you note from Gina Losser. CWED closed on Inspire ABA microloan. Gearhead Archery has relocated from southern Wisconsin to the Antigo Industrial Park. Sun Prairie Bank is taking over Banner Bank. Bauknecht has met with the new owners of Dixie Lunch.
- c) **State, Federal and Local Grants Programs:** Close reported that the WEDC Diverse Business Development Grant is at the underwriters. This grant will assist with entrepreneurial class offerings and the technical assistant hours for the White Lake REV program. The Neva Idle Site Grant recipient is holding a tour of the facility. They have submitted paid invoices to the Town of Neva. Once approved by the Town of Neva, LCEDC will be submitting the draw request to WEDC. WEDC is finalizing Robbin Flooring Tax Credit Grant. LCEDC has submitted the City of Antigo EDA Saratoga Street Grant, Waste Water Treatment Plant OEI Solar Project Grant, and Safe Drinking Water (watertower) Loan Program project closeout documentation to the respective organizations. The City of Antigo will not be apply for a 2026 CDBG Public Facility Project as the income surveys did not meet the threshold, so LCEDC will have no new 2027 grant administration income.
- d) **LCEDC 2026 Measurements Presentation:**

Business Network of Langlade County: Close updated the LCEDC Board that the Business Network of Langlade County is meeting on the 2nd Thursday of the month for Thrive Thursdays. February the network learned about Google Productivity. In March, Microsoft Productivity will be the topic. The Network is expanding to night offerings at 5:30 pm on March 12th. Toastmasters International has been holding 8:30 meets on the first and third Thursday of the month. The group is working on obtaining 20 members. The Business Network of Langlade County is holding the Langlade County Local Business Expo at the Langlade County Fairgrounds on April 25. Registration is open.

Workforce Development: The Education/Industry meetings are halted for now. NTC is working with the Unified School District of Antigo for specific trainings. LCEDC is working with the White Lake and Elcho School District. Close will be meeting with the White Lake School District on Monday. The HR Committee is meeting quarterly. The human resource committee participants are reporting a steady workforce. LCEDC is working on youth entrepreneurship by connecting with the school.

Broadband: Langlade County's \$13.89 million in BEAD BOB Funding for cellular and 6-mile radius for fixed wireless is in the preliminary grant agreement stage.

Child Care: LCEDC received the United Way \$10,000 Adapt A Provider Award to order supplies for the child care providers. The Dream Up Task Force is still meeting. They report that in 2026 child care will cost \$226 per week.

Housing: Close is working with the City of Antigo on two housing developments. The City and Close went to Merrill to tour their single-family housing development. There is a bill at the state level that would create TID districts for single housing developments.

- e) **LCEDC Agreements/Contracts:** Close informed the LCEDC Board that Langlade County approved and signed a 3-year agreement for LCEDC services.
- f) **Board Member Update:** Close informed the LCEDC Board that LCEDC is reviewing possible nominations for the open tourism seat.
- g) **Audit Review Update:** Close informed the LCEDC Board that the financial review will be on Monday, March 9th. Per the 5-year Tourism Promotion and Destination Development Agreement with the City of Antigo Hotel/Motel Tax Commission that starts January 1, 2026, LCEDC will need to separate destination tourism in the financial review.
- h) **Annual Meeting Date:** Close informed the LCEDC Board that LCEDC Annual Meeting will be on May 18, 2026. Calendar invites were sent at the beginning of the year. Due to appointments and elections, Kassis is not running for office, so the City will appoint a new person to the LCEDC Board. Maier and Wagner are running for their positions. After elections, they will need to be reappointed to the LCEDC Board.
- i) **Board Meeting Dates:** Close informed the LCEDC Board that the LCEDC 2026 Board meetings are set for May 18, August 17, and November 16. Additional meetings maybe scheduled as needed. Calendar invites were sent at the beginning of the year.
- j) **Tourism Update:** Beck informed the LCEDC Board that the Welcome Center in 2025 had 2,074 people come through. With School Tours and Santa, there was a total of 3,215 people that passed through the doors in 2025. There were 2,101 items taken from the brochure racks. Langlade County: The County of Trails has seen a large increase in social media traffic because of the opening and closing of the snowmobile trails. The five posts opening and closing of the trails posts had 205,029 views with 305,760 viewers with 10,652 engagements, 434 shares, and 9,399 link clicks for the full trail report. Beck reported that the closing of the trials posts saw the best results. The Everbridge has been utilized to send out notification to over 1,449 people for all snowmobile trail opening and closings. LCEDC staff has been updating the 12 Travel Wisconsin Snow Reports multiple times per week in addition to all the trail reports on the Langlade County Tourism trail report page. Beck provide the half page ad in the December/January and February/March/April issues of the Up North Action Magazine. Beck is working with Konect on the website redesign with a possible launch date of mid-March. The 2026 Langlade County Recreation Maps were provided to LCEDC Board members. An electronic Discovery Guide is being discussed. Beck has given reports at the January Langlade County Snowmobile Council meeting and the January & February Forestry Committee Meetings. The North Central Wisconsin Tourism Partnership has a new logo and tagline. The Partnership had a double booth at the Green Bay RV & Camping Show. Beck worked on Thursday. Show attendees took 520 Langlade County Recreation Maps and 321 other items during the show. The Partnership will have an informational booth at the Madison Fishing Expo on February 27-March 1. Beck will be working Saturday afternoon and all-day Sunday. Beck was interviewed for Langlade County's winter road routes open to ATVs and UTVs for an article in the upcoming WATVA Trail Tales Magazine. WATVA selected Langlade County to host Governor Evers for a winter UTV ride from Jack Lake down Pence Lake Road. On January 22nd, Beck presented a Langlade County Tourism information packet to the Governor.
- k) **Update on Other Economic Development Corporation Activities:** No additional activities were provided.
- l) **Roundtable Update:** Maier updated the LCEDC Board that the Forestry Committee is looking at all options regarding administration of the Langlade County Fairgrounds. The Langlade County Forestry, Parks, and Recreation Committee will be meeting with the users of the fairgrounds on March 5th. Zalewski informed the LCEDC Board on the Senior Center of Langlade County offerings. Westphal shared with the LCEDC Board information on WPS' Focus on Energy, Foundation, and Sponsorship.

Old Business: No old business was discussed.

Future Agenda Items and set date for next meeting (action item): No future agenda items was brought forward. The next LCEDC Board meeting will be LCEDC Annual Meeting at 4:15 pm on May 18, 2026.

Adjourn: Motion by Westphal, second by Matuszewski to adjourn at 5:50 p.m. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted, Tammy Walrath, President

