MEETING MINUTES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
September 14, 2026

Members Present: Steve Maier, Joel Zalewski, Thomas Bauknecht
Members Present by Conference: None
Members Excused: Tammy Walrath, Warren Wagner
Others Present: Melissa Kieper, Keri Beck, Kelly Bowman

Meeting was called to order by Vice President Joel Zalewski at 4:15 pm.

Introductions: Introductions were conducted to introduce the Spring 2026 Entrepreneurial Training Program Graduate, Kelly Bowman.

Public Comment: None

Minutes of Previous Economic Development Executive Committee Meeting: Motion by Bauknecht, second by Maier, to approve the minutes from June 1, 2026. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Langlade County Economic Development Corporation:

A. **Spring 2026 ETP Business Plan Presentations:** One Spring 2026 ETP Business plan was presented to the LCEDC Executive Committee to be considered for the ETP Business Start Up Grant. SOARCE founder Kelly Bowman.
B. **Entrepreneurial Program Update:** Kieper updated the LCEDC Executive Committee that there are seven businesses that are registered for the Fall 2026 ETP program. The fall Tuesday night 9-week ETP program starts on September 15 with graduation on November 10.
C. **Recommend Business Plan ETP Grant Award:** The LCEDC Executive Committee discussed SOARCE's business plan presentation. The committee valued the business concept, but the anticipated return on investment to Langlade County did not meet the criteria for a Business Start Up Grant.

Motion by Maier, second by Zalewski to decline investment into SOARCE for a Spring 2026 Business Start Up Grant. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

D. **Entrepreneurial Hub Update:** Kieper updated the LCEDC Executive Committee that there were twenty-one (21) Women in Business participants, ten (10) registered for the White Lake "Understanding Your Business" workshop, eighteen (18) women attended the Women in Business Brunch on September 12th, three (3) kids registered for the Lemonade Stand Competition with only one (1) showing up for the event. SBDC consulted eleven (11) people in August. The Business Network of Langlade County (BNLC) had four (4) people attend the 5 C's of Credit presentation. Kieper emailed BNLC participants to get feedback on how to get more business owners involved. The responses so far have been to have meetings at lunchtime or after 4 pm and to offer a virtual option.
E. **LCEDC Revolving Loan Fund Update:** Kieper reviewed the Revolving Loan Fund Report with the LCEDC Executive Committee. All loans are current to date.
F. **Review and Approve payments of Bills for August 2026**: Kieper reviewed August 2026 LCEDC invoices with the LCEDC Executive Committee.

Motion by Maier, second by Bauknecht to recommend to the LCEDC Board under the consent agenda to approve the August 2026 LCEDC invoices as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

G. **Review of Budget vs Actual:** Kieper reviewed the budget versus actual to the LCEDC Executive Committee. Kieper is working on new revenue streams.
H. **LCEDC 2026 Budget Review.** Kieper informed the LCEDC Executive Committee that she has given 15 LCEDC sponsorship packets to local businesses with no response to date. She will be following up with these businesses. Kieper has applied for $245,000 in grants with potentially $30,000 LCEDC administration income. Kieper reported that two (2) have been denied as the submission did not meet the criteria. Kieper will be presenting Langlade County United Way on September 23rd for $25,000 to fund a Good Starts Pilot Program and Adapt-A-Provider Program.
I. **Approve of use of LCEDC Reserve Acct:** Kieper informed the LCEDC Executive Committee that LCEDC staff has met with the former LCEDC Executive Director to review LCEDC current financial status. Due to the WEDC Women in Business Grant being a onetime reimbursement grant and LCEDC needing to contract with SBDC services to implement the program through the Executive Director transition, LCEDC will not have enough money in the operating bank accounts until the WEDC Women in Business Grant expenses are reimbursed.

Motion by Bauknecht, second by Maier to recommend to the LCEDC Board under the consent agenda to approve a temporary $50,000 LCEDC CoVantage Credit Union Reserve Fund savings

account transfer to LCEDC's BMO Harris Operating Savings account to be paid back ideally by December 31, 2026, or by the end of the first quarter in 2027. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

LCEDC will review banking requirements and account options to help ensure funds remain accessible and are not unnecessarily restricted. Kieper is exploring an alternative funding source that could potentially support local tourism marketing efforts instead of the funds coming from LCEDC's operating fund.

J. **LCEDC 2027 Budget Process:** Kieper updated the LCEDC Executive Committee that LCEDC staff is working on LCEDC 2027 budget. Health insurance estimates will not be available until October.

K. **Review & Approve of LCEDC's Non-Discrimination Policy:** Kieper presented the new LCEDC Non-Discrimination Policy to the LCEDC Executive Committee.

Motion by Bauknecht, second by Maier to recommend to the LCEDC Board under the consent agenda to approve the LCEDC Non-Discrimination Policy as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

L. **Board Member Update:** Kieper reviewed with the LCEDC Executive Committee that Jay Patel resigned in August from the LCEDC Board of Directors as Patel will be moving from the area at the end of October. LCEDC will try to recruit another lodging facility owner or manager to serve on LCEDC Board of Directors.

M. **Tourism Update:** Beck updated the LCEDC Executive Committee that the Welcome Center has had 1,703 visitors year-to-date, with 1,167 informational items distributed. The Museum will begin winter hours October 1st. The 2026 Discovery Guide are running low. LCEDC is starting to plan the 2027 Discovery Guide and Recreation Map. Fall tourism marketing includes fall videography, promotion of the October Mammoth Hike Challenge, the Antigo · Langlade County Welcome Center participation in the Mammoth Hike Challenge Trail Magic, fall advertising, and updates to Travel Wisconsin's Fall Color Report. Beck participated in potential of building a Thomas Dambo Troll in Langlade County. The Board was informed of a recent visitor incident.

N. **Other Economic Development Corporation Activities:** No activities provided.

O. **Roundtable Updates:** No updates provided.

Old Business: None.

New Business and set date for next meeting: The next LCEDC Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for 4:15 pm on Monday, October 5, 2026.

Adjourn: Motion by Maier, second by Bauknecht to adjourn at 5:49 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted, Keri Beck, Recording Secretary

