



North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board  
**CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS Meeting**  
October 19, 2023, • 9:30 a.m.  
**Marathon County Job Center/Zoom**

**Minutes**

**CEO Members Present:** Jim Winkler (Oneida County), Craig McEwen (Marathon County), Al Haga (Portage County)(Zoom), Richard Logan (Vilas County)(Zoom), Cindy Gretzinger (Forest County), and Rick Pease (Adams County)

**CEO Members Absent:** Ben Pierce (Langlade County), John Hokamp (Wood County), and Don Friske (Lincoln County)

**Others Present:** None

**Staff Present:** John Cokl (Zoom), Peter Gelhar, Brian Kalish, Jane Spencer, and CJ Tangedal

1. **Call the Meeting to Order** – Winkler called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.
2. **Announcements, Correspondence and Communications** – Spencer asked the group to please RSVP to future meetings as Zoom or in-person.
3. **Approve Agenda** – McEwen moved to approve the agenda; it was seconded by Haga. Motion carried.
4. **Approve Chief Elected Officials' Minutes from June 15, 2023** – Haga moved to approve the amended minutes; it was seconded by Logan. Motion carried.
5. **Accept Treasurer's Report** – Haga moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented; it was seconded by McEwen. Motion carried.
6. **Approve New Board Member Nomination – Jeremy Higgins, Director of Workforce Development, Boys & Girls Club of Portage County** – Haga moved to approve of new board member, Jeremy Higgins; it was seconded by Pease. Motion carried.
7. **NCWWDB By-Laws** - Spencer brought the changes highlighted in the packet to the group to meet the 10-day review requirement. It will be on the agenda for approval at the next CEO meeting in December.
8. **NCWWDB Updates**
  - **Program Year 2023 Job Center Agreements** – Spencer announced that Brian has completed the Job Center Agreements and submitted the

documents to DWD for review. Once completed they will be reviewed and approved by the CEOs.

- **Board Certification** – Every two years the NCWWDB is required to go through a certification process. The certification letter from DWD is in the packet. Spencer also announced the recent board resignation from Tait Strand. She will work on getting that spot refilled.
- **QUEST Grant** – Spencer informed the CEOs of this newest grant to help build the childcare and education workforce. There are some projects in the works, with MSTC, NTC, and Nicolet. The grant is scheduled to end September 2024 and the training will need to be completed at that time.
- **Wisconsin Pathways Home 4 Grant** - North Central is the grant recipient for the \$4 million, four-year grant. NCWWDB will subaward amounts to four other workforce boards. It is similar to the Windows to Work reentry program; working with individuals releasing from incarceration. It is NCWWDB's first direct Department of Labor grant.

## 9. Discussion on Workforce Issues in Each County

- **Marathon County** – McEwen reported they are close to being able to fund the Forensic Science Center, which will be attached to NTC. Several new restaurants have opened and he hopes they'll be successful.
- **Adams** – Pease reported they are questioning if they should continue to fund the Chamber of Commerce, currently paying \$35,000. With heavy tourism, the money is well spent. Sand Valley continues to expand, they will have three full golf courses by next year. There is a proposal to build a solar farm, a meeting will take place next week.
- **Lincoln** – No Report
- **Langlade** – No report
- **Forest** – Gretzinger reported they are still having a problem staffing at local businesses. There are no places to rent in the county, which is causing a problem when hiring people.
- **Wood** – No Report
- **Oneida** – Winkler reported they are facing childcare issues and affordable housing. They have started looking into grants to help outlying communities with emergency care.
- **Portage** – Haga reported the city of Stevens Point is looking to buy the old ShopKo building and create some housing. The McCain's project is almost wrapped up; they were trying to add 100 employees. There have been approvals for the old Foremost Farm's building to upgrade its onsite treatment for the new Mullin's Cheese. The AMETA Center is coming along nicely, they have started working on the interior.
- **Vilas** – Logan reported about 40% of the county's population is over 65. They are having trouble finding people to volunteer for the emergency medical services. They

are looking into a county wide EMS service. It is hard for working-age people to find affordable housing and childcare.

**10. Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.