



North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board

CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS Meeting

February 15, 2023 • 9:30 a.m.

Zoom

Minutes

CEO Members Present: Jim Winkler (Oneida County), Al Haga (Portage County), Rick Pease (Adams County), John Hokamp (Wood County), Richard Logan (Vilas County), and Don Friske (Lincoln County)

CEO Members Absent: Ben Pierce (Langlade County), Craig McEwen (Marathon County), and Cindy Gretzinger (Forest County)

Others Present: None

Staff Present: John Cokl, Peter Gelhar, Brian Kalish, Jane Spencer, and CJ Tangedal

1. **Call the Meeting to Order** – Winkler called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
2. **Announcements, Correspondence and Communications** – None
3. **Approve Agenda** – Friske moved to approve the agenda; it was seconded by Pease. Motion carried.
4. **Approve Chief Elected Officials’ Minutes from December 21, 2023** – Hokamp moved to approve the minutes; it was seconded by Friske. Motion carried.
5. **Accept Treasurer’s Report** – Friske moved to accept the treasurer’s report as presented; it was seconded by Logan. Motion carried.
6. **Review and Approve [PY23 Job Center MOUs](#)** - Pease moved to accept the PY23 Job Center MOUs; it was seconded by Hokamp. Motion carried.
7. **Discussion on April Elections** – The group discussed the possibility of new members after the elections in April. Spencer made note of which counties had competition and which members were not going to run again.
8. **Approve Special CEO Meeting prior to April 15, 2024** – Haga moved to reschedule the April 18th meeting to Thursday April 4th, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.; it was seconded by Friske. Motion carried.

9. **Approve Special CEO Meeting in May 2024** – Winkler moved to schedule the Special CEO meeting for Thursday May 16th at 9:30 a.m.; it was seconded by Friske. Motion carried.

10. NCWWDB Updates

- **Wisconsin Pathways Home 4 Grant** – The program is ready to start enrolling individuals; all contracts are in place with the four other workforce boards. There is a training being held next week. Adams, Wood, and Marathon County Jails have signed MOUs.
- **QUEST Grant** – Spencer provided an update on the program. To date, 54 individuals have been served. The original goal was 30 individuals. The grant runs until September 2024. The individuals are in training to become eligible to work in childcare facilities, as well as some are training to become in-home childcare providers. The next step will be to get those individuals placed in centers throughout the region.
- **WIOA Local Plan** – Staff are working on the plan and will come to the Committee for review and approval on April 4th.

11. Discussion on Workforce Issues in Each County

- **Marathon County** – No report
- **Adams** – Pease reported they are retaining their county staff, especially in Health and Human services. Rome is continuing to build; Sand Valley is opening two new restaurants. The County Board has eight contested seats out of 20.
- **Lincoln** – Friske reported they hired a new Lincoln County Economic Development Director. They are hosting an economic summit next month. They are hoping to see some growth as the population is aging. They are seeing some influx of work-from-home people coming back to the area. Half their board is contested. The major issue the board is looking at is owning and operating a skilled nursing facility. They are also working on their landfill issue.
- **Langlade** – No report.
- **Forest** – No report.
- **Wood** – Hokamp reported fewer open positions within their nursing homes, and the county raised the wage on dietary aids to match the fast-food establishments. They are seeing those positions filled. The highway department is fully staffed. The Post Office is still holding job fairs every two weeks.
- **Oneida** – Winkler reported the new Holiday Inn opened this past month. They are still seeing help wanted signs, but things are starting to stabilize. They are retaining most of their staff in the county structure. The Tri-County Human Service Center is being eliminated. Each county will take a Human Services role, so they can retain the staff. The lack of snow is hurting the tourism-related businesses.
- **Portage** – Haga reported the city of Stevens Point will tear down the old ShopKo building and will revitalize the area with small retail or apartments. The downtown

- area is looking at the ordinances for the library due to a recent incident. Two large, high rise apartment complexes with underground parking have been approved. The county is looking at purchasing 40 acres of land in the Plover area for a new law enforcement center. Highway B in Plover will be partially closed for improvements. The Post Office is looking for mail carriers. Over half the board seats are contested.
- **Vilas** – Logan reported the local economy is based on tourism, but the lack of snowfall has made it difficult this year. The county is doing well with retaining staff and filling positions. Four towns in Vilas County have formed a district to consider shared emergency medical services. They are unable to get enough volunteers; this model will allow full-time staff to provide services among the four towns. The major concern is the aging population.

12. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 11:01 a.m.