



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.



North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board

CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS Meeting

December 21, 2023 • 9:30 a.m.

Zoom

Minutes

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

CEO Members Absent: Ben Pierce (Langlade County), Richard Logan (Vilas 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 9:34am
2. **Announcements, Correspondence and Communications** – None
3. **Approve Agenda** – Haga moved to approve the agenda; it was seconded by Friske. Motion carried.
4. **Approve Chief Elected Officials' Minutes from October 19, 2023** – Hokamp moved to approve the amended minutes; it was seconded by McEwen. Motion carried.
5. **Approve NCWWDB Bylaws** – Haga moved to approve the presented NCWWDB Bylaw edits; it was seconded by Pease. Motion carried.
6. **Accept Treasurer's Report** – Haga moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented; it was seconded by Hokamp. Motion carried.
7. **NCWWDB Membership – Role of Chief Elected Officials** – Spencer updated the group that the board chair, Joe Kinsella, had announced his retirement at the last meeting. The chair position has been filled by Al Chaney. Spencer reminded the group of their role in regard to membership. Spencer is anticipating more retirements and will need the help from the CEOs to fill vacancies.
8. **Approve New Board Member Nomination Jodi Gruhn, Talent Acquisition & Employee Experience Manager for County Materials and Conney Edmondson, Executive Director**

for **CWIMA** – Haga moved to approve Jodi Gruhn and Conney Edmondson as new board members; it was seconded by Friske. Motion carried.

9. **NCWWDB Updates**

- **Program Year 2023 Job Center Agreements** – Spencer mentioned that all the job center agreements have been submitted to DWD and are in review. Once they are received and approved by the state, they will be brought back to the group for review and approval.
- **QUEST Grant** – Spencer updated the group of this newest grant to help build the childcare and education workforce. We have partnered with MSTC, NTC, and Nicolet, as well as Childcaring, Inc. Career Planners are out recruiting people for the programs that are starting in January. The grant is scheduled to end September 2024 and the training will need to be completed at that time.
- **Wisconsin Pathways Home 4 Grant** – We received this direct Department of Labor grant as of July 1st. It is a \$4 million, four-year re-entry grant. Currently two county jails have signed MOUs, but there are more interested parties.

10. **Discussion on Workforce Issues in Each County**

- **Marathon County** – McEwen reported they are getting a new car wash and have several new restaurants open. They are looking for correctional officers, they had 17 applicants and are conducting interviews. At the December 14th County Board Meeting they approved the Regional Forensic Science Center. It will go out for bids in late January and early February. It will be attached to NTC near the north end of their campus. There will be five or six new employees hired. They're experiencing issues with CNA and housing shortages like other counties.
- **Adams** – Pease reported things are going well. They are still struggling with housing. Economic development is trying to get a company from Europe to build a manufacturing plant. The population is increasingly elderly; therefore, it is difficult to lure younger workers to the area with a lifestyle. They are struggling with dispatchers and have vacancies in service-related industries.
- **Lincoln** – Friske reported they are focusing on housing and retention for businesses and their employees. They are rebranding the county to establish an identity; the county board came up with a mission statement and branding logo. They are targeting the younger population.
- **Langlade** – No report.
- **Forest** – No report.
- **Wood** – Hokamp reported they are struggling with their Post Office. Almost every two weeks there are posted positions. Many auto service facilities have auto mechanic positions open. They are in need of CNA and nurses; the senior living facilities and hospitals are short staffed. Norwood in Marshfield has six openings for

CNAs which are being filled by agency CNAs which is costing the county quite a bit of money.

- **Oneida** – Winkler reported they are the destination county, the people come then leave. They have a shortage of workers and have had businesses close due to not having workers. Post COVID, they have seen some workforce coming to the area from the larger cities. The largest population in the county are retired, they are working on tapping into that population to return to part-time work. They struggle to find qualified workers and also have a shortage of housing.
- **Portage** – Haga reported the city of Stevens Point has acquired the old ShopKo building and is looking to develop that area. The old Walmart has been converted to a Ross, Five Below and Big Lots Home. The new Wendy's is doing great in the Crossroads Commons area. Plover has just approved a new carwash. There are incubator buildings being built near MSTC for start-up businesses. Mullin's Cheese has continued to make improvements. McCain's is getting closer to completing their \$100 million addition. There will be a 98-unit high rise building in Plover.
- **Vilas** – No Report

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



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.



North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board
CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS Meeting
May 16, 2024 • 9:30 a.m.
NTC Room A165/Zoom

Minutes

CEO Members Present: Rick Pease (Adams County), John Hokamp (Wood County), Michael Tautges (Oneida County), John Pavelski (Portage County)(Zoom), Bill Bialecki (Lincoln County), Ron Skallerud (Forest County), and John Hokamp (Wood County)

CEO Members Absent: Ben Pierce (Langlade County), Kurt Gibbs (Marathon County), and Richard Logan (Vilas County).

Others Present: Stephanie Elmer (DWD) and Sean Jackett(DWD)(Zoom)

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

1. **Call the Meeting to Order** – Pease called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
2. **Approve Agenda** – Skallerud moved to approve the agenda; it was seconded by Hokamp. Motion carried.
3. **Approve Chief Elected Officials’ Minutes from February 15, 2024** – Bialecki moved to approve the minutes; it was seconded by Pease. Motion carried.
4. **Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act Governance – Stephanie Elmer, Bureau of Workforce Training, Division of Employment & Training, Depart of Workforce Development.** – Stephanie Elmer presented a Power Point of a high level of WIOA and the CEO’s role.
5. **Overview of NCWWDB** – Jane Spencer presented a PowerPoint overview of the functions of NCWWDB.
6. **Accept Treasurer’s Report** – Skallerud moved to accept the treasurer’s report as presented; it was seconded by Hokamp. Motion carried.
7. **Review and Approve Program Year 2024 draft Budget** – Bialecki moved to approve the Program Year 2024 draft budget as presented; it was seconded by Skallerud. Motion carried.

- 8. PY23 WIOA Contract Reviews** – Spencer provided a results from the Mid-Year Contract Reviews for Youth, Adult, and Dislocated Worker and the One-Stop Operator Assessment and recommends to the group to renew both contracts for Program Year 2024.
- 9. PY24 WIOA Contract Renewals**
- **Youth, Adult, Dislocated Worker** - Hokamp moved to approve the PY24 Contract renewal for WIOA Youth, Adult, and Dislocated Worker; it was seconded by Skallerud. Motion carried.
 - **One-Stop Operator** – Skallerud moved to approve the PY24 contract for the One-Stop Operator; it was seconded by Tautges. Motion carried.
- 10. Approve New Board Member Nomination – Eva Scheppa, Director of Health Services, Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc.** – Hokamp moved to approve Eva Scheppa as a new board member; it was seconded by Tautges. Motion carried.
- 11. Chief Elected Officials’ Consortium Agreement** – Spencer reviewed the current consortium agreement from two years ago, that will need to be renewed by the current group of CEO’s. Spencer will be sending it out to the group and will need to go to the board chairs for signatures.
- 12. Discussion on Workforce Issues in Each County**
- **Marathon County** – No report
 - **Adams** – Pease reported that the tourism is thriving in the county. Sand Valley is looking for employees, it is currently the economic driver in the county right now. They are opening two new restaurants and building a village. While it is helping the county economically, it is taking workers away from other businesses with competitive pay. Housing is an issue; school district staff don’t live in the county due to lack of available houses and apartments.
 - **Lincoln** – Bialecki reported the Lincoln County Economic Development Director has resigned and they are looking to fill that position again. The summit in March was successful. They have advanced their housing, have built 50 – 60 single family units and are working on townhouses and multi family units. Their biggest concern is daycare, some are barely making it.
 - **Langlade** – No report.
 - **Forest** – Skallerud reported their tourism business was hit due to the mild winter weather, affecting the sales tax, their projected revenue is down. There are issues with the logging industry and the sawmills and the Old Growth Executive Order effecting in June. One has recently shut down. Housing is an issue, looking to build a multiplex. The referendum lost 70 to 30 and the budget will need to be reduced by \$1.4 million.

- **Wood** – Hokamp reported a paper mill in Biron that a company in China owns, they shut down 25 paper machines, displacing 70 employees. Some local restaurants have closed due to lack of workers. Two of the Wood County Health facilities are short CNAs, as well as childcare facilities are short workers.
- **Oneida** – Tautges reported they have one of the fastest aging populations in the state. The county populations are increasing, but it is mostly retirees, putting more demands on services, but the working age population is decreasing. They are approved to put 50 town homes as well as 112 apartment units for rent. They recently got approval to build J1 housing to accommodate the seasonal workers.
- **Portage** – Pavelski reported they had six individuals replaced on the county board. They are looking for communication officers for the sheriff's department. The HHS department is looking for 10-14 people and mental health professionals as well as CNAs. A potato processing plant is looking to move into the area and plans to employ 100 employees.
- **Vilas** – No report.

13. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.



North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board
CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS Meeting
June 20, 2024 • 9:30 a.m.
Marathon County Job Center - Oak Room

Minutes

CEO Members Present: Rick Pease (Adams County), John Hokamp (Wood County), Michael Tautges (Oneida County), Bill Bialecki (Lincoln County), Ron Skallerud (Forest County), Kurt Gibbs (Marathon County), Richard Logan (Vilas County), John Hokamp (Wood County)

CEO Members Absent: Ben Pierce (Langlade County), John Pavelski (Portage County)

Others Present: None

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

1. **Call the Meeting to Order** – Pease called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
2. **Approve Agenda** – Gibbs moved to approve the agenda; it was seconded by Bialecki. Motion carried.
3. **Approve Chief Elected Officials’ Minutes from May 16, 2024** – Skallerud moved to approve the minutes from May 16th, 2024; it was seconded by Hokamp. Motion carried.
4. **More information on NCWWDB** – Jane Spencer reviewed the information in the orientation folders with the group. Discussion followed.
5. **Accept Treasurer’s Report** – Gibbs moved to accept the treasurer’s report as presented; it was seconded by Tautges. Motion carried.
6. **Election of Officers:**
 - **Chair** – Bialecki nominated Pease. Bialecki moved to approve Pease as Chair of the CEO’s; it was seconded by Gibbs. Motion carried.
 - **Vice Chair** – Skallerud volunteered. Bialecki moved to approve Skallerud as Vice Chair of the CEO’s; it was seconded by Tautges. Motion carried.
 - **Secretary/Treasurer** – Pease nominated Gibbs. Hokamp moved to approve Gibbs and the Secretary/Treasurer of the CEO’s; it was seconded by Skallerud. Motion carried.

- **Liaison to Executive Committee** Skallerud nominated Tautges. Skallerud moved to approve Tautges as Liaison to Executive Committee; it was seconded by Gibbs. Motion carried.

7. **Approve 2024-2027 Local Plan** - Skallerud moved to approve the 2024-2027 Local Plan; it was seconded by Bialecki. Motion carried.

8. Discussion on Workforce Issues in Each County

- **Marathon County** – Gibbs reported there are more jobs open than people to fill them. They are having a hard time filling corrections position. They had to close sections of the jail due to lack of staffing. Housing and childcare issues are on-going in the county.
- **Adams** – Pease reported there are a lot of jobs openings, but people are leaving due to lack of housing. People in the county are leaving for jobs outside of the county.
- **Lincoln** – Bialecki reported Church Mutual, their largest employer, is recruiting and running into issues finding people due to lack of childcare. Housing has made great gains in the area.
- **Langlade** – No Report
- **Forest** – Skallerud reported corrections and dispatch are struggling to find and keep people. They had to collapse the dispatch center into the jail to maintain staffing. It has been separated recently as staffing improved, but they are unable to utilize the referendum funds. They are recruiting a financial administrator for the county. Housing and broadband are struggles in the county. Spectrum just pulled out of the rural and underserved areas, most of Forest County. The big project is partnering with Forest, Oneida, and Vilas to have dissolution of the Human Service Center to create a center up and running by January 1st.
- **Wood** – Hokamp reported they are building the new jail, projected to be occupied by February 2025. They need eight or nine more correctional officers. There haven't been any more job fairs at the Post Office, so they have most positions filled. At the last highway meeting, they wanted the county to do the road maintenance going forward. They need to work with the townships to hire more truck drivers. The surrounding golf courses are trying to keep up with Sand Valley, they are losing workers to the competitive wages.
- **Oneida** – Tautges reported that Minocqua is setting up a TIF district. The Economic Development Director is retiring at the end of the month. Local employers seem confident to get through the summer with staffing. There is a shortage of workers in the trades, construction workers, electricians, and plumbers.
- **Portage** – No report
- **Vilas** – Logan reported the past winter was tough on the tourism industry, as it's the economic driver in the county. It is picking up now that it's summer. Most businesses have adequate staffing. The housing shortage is a problem. The highway department is still looking for a mechanic. They have struggled to find a deputy administrator.

9. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.