



North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board
CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS Meeting
August 15, 2024 • 9:30 a.m.
Marathon County Job Center - Oak Room

Minutes

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

CEO Members Absent: Ben Pierce (Langlade County)

Others Present: None

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

1. **Call the Meeting to Order** – Pease called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.
2. **Approve Agenda** – Bialecki moved to approve the agenda; it was seconded by Gibbs. Motion carried.
3. **Approve Chief Elected Officials’ Minutes from June 20, 2024** – Skallerud moved to approve the minutes from June 20th, 2024; it was seconded by Bialecki. Motion carried.
4. **Accept Treasurer’s Report** – Gibbs moved to accept the treasurer’s report as presented; it was seconded by Tautges. Motion carried.
5. **WIOA Performance**
 - **Program Year 2023 (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024) Preliminary Report** – Spencer and Kalish reviewed the chart that reflected WDA 6 is meeting or exceeding in 11 of the 15 measures. Kalish is working on clean up with the Career Planners on some documentation on the three failed measures. Final report to come after September.
 - **Program Years 2024 and 2025 Performance Negotiations** – Gibbs moved to approve the board moving forward with countering the State’s proposal indicated on the worksheet; it was seconded by Tautges. Motion carried.
6. **NCWWDB Updates**
 - **8WPH4** – Spencer announced WDA8 (West Central) has terminated their contract after recent monitoring. Spencer and Cokl are working with WDA7

(Northwest) who is interested in taking on #8's current caseload and covering the west central area for the remainder of the grant.

- **Strategic Planning** – Spencer reviewed the PowerPoint slides with the group. The final draft will be presented at the September 12th Board meeting.
- **September 12th Board Meeting / Winning with Wisconsin's Workforce** – Spencer announced both events will occur on the same day at the Hilton Garden Inn. Board meeting at 10:00am, the awards and Winning event at 11:30am. Invitation to come next week.

7. Discussion on Workforce Issues in Each County

- **Marathon County** – Gibbs reported their biggest issue is the childcare and housing issues. They have a shortage of CNAs, RNs, and LPNs that are impacting nursing homes. There is space in the facilities, not the staff to support them.
- **Adams** – Pease reported the school district has hired six paraprofessionals without degrees as teachers through the emergency license. The county received a wage scale recently. The Sheriff's department is experiencing burnout with recent events.
- **Lincoln** – Bialecki reported The Pinecrest Nursing Home offer fell through due to a lawsuit. There is a resolution for a bidding referendum in November, asking taxpayers for \$5 million a year. There are 40 multifamily units to be completed by the end of the year. Single family homes are selling faster than they can be built. The Childcare of Central Wisconsin Coalition will take off soon, so employers can pitch in. They had to hire a replacement for Economic Development.
- **Langlade** – No Report
- **Forest** – Skallerud reported the county is only 10% taxable, they went to referendum and lost 70 to 30; there is a deficit of \$2 million for the county of 9,000. The Human Service Center is dissolving which was serving three counties. There is no full-time EMS or fire department service, it is all volunteer. They will approve five new county jobs at the next board meeting. The highway department is putting together a resolution for the CDL requirements for the plows and dump trucks.
- **Wood** – Hokamp referenced statistics from a recent Elevating the Workforce article highlighting the childcare and housing crisis the state and counties are experiencing; factors include the aging population, lack of housing, and lack of childcare, but an abundance of open jobs. The healthcare industry has issues as well, long wait times and providers aren't taking on new patients.
- **Oneida** – Tautges reported they are making progress on housing, but childcare remains an issue. The shops found the number of employees needed to operate in the summer season. All reported having a very good summer, especially after the tough tourist winter. Teachers are in short supply. The volunteer fire department has many retiring, causing a shortage of 15 members for an 80 square mile district.
- **Portage** – Pavelski reported there are many capital projects, including the new law enforcement building and courthouse remodel, and a recent flood event in the Health and Human Services building that needs to be prioritized causing a taxpayer

burden. The AMETA center opened six weeks ago and will be putting trained people directly into the workforce.

- **Vilas** – Logan reported the summer has been good, most businesses have kept their doors open. The county has a few openings but is doing well overall. Childcare and housing have remained the same, as the county has more than 50% of the population over 65.

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