



North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board

Hilton Garden Inn
151401 County Road NN
Wausau
Salon C2 Meeting Room
Thursday, September 12, 2024 · 10:00 a.m.

Minutes *(Approved)*

WDB Members Present: Al Chaney, Angie Close, Angela Eberhardt, Dave Eckmann, Conney Edmondson, Paula Erickson, Paul Herold, Jeremy Higgins, Ron Karl, Jodi Gruhn, Tim Norlin, Casey Nye, Kristine Porter, and Eva Scheppa.

WDB Members Present by Zoom: Thad Brockman, Matthew Murphy, and Anthony Negani

WDB Members Absent: Kate Ferrell, Patty Noland, Diane Sennholz, and Andy Thompson.

WDB Staff Present: John Cokl, Brian Kalish, Jane Spencer, Jennifer Reinert, Rob Golla, Peter Gelhar, Amy Hoppa, and CJ Tangedal

Others Present: Mitchell Rupp, Colt Nicklaus, Kristin Derrie, Briane Wolfe, Lisa Omen, Amy Yessa, Mark Jochem (Zoom), Michael Tautges, and Tim Smith.

- 1. Call to Order-** Chaney called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.
- 2. Announcement of Quorum-** There was quorum.
- 3. Approval of Agenda** – Erickson moved to approve the agenda; it was seconded by Nye.
Motion carried
- 4. Approval of Minutes from June 13, 2024** – Close moved to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2024, meeting; it was seconded by Edmondson. Motion carried.
- 5. Approval of Treasurer’s Report** – Norlin moved to approve the treasurer’s report as presented; it was seconded by Higgins. Motion carried.
- 6. Announcements from the Chief Elected Officials** – Tautges reported the CEO’s approved the WIOA performance negotiations. The workforce issues in the areas are lack of teachers, and county employee wages. Others reported on healthcare industry short on workers and childcare being an issue.
- 7. Announcements from the Chair** – None

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8. 2024 – 2028 Strategic Plan – Spencer presented the strategic plan PowerPoint slides the NCWWDB staff completed with the aid of Tim Smith. Nye moved to approve the 2024-2028 strategic plan; it was seconded by Eckmann. Motion carried.

9. Workgroup/Program Summaries

- **Executive Committee** – None
- **Program Updates** – Kalish reviewed the WIOA performance results included in the packet. All measures all being met by WDA 6. NCWWDB staff, along with the CEOs, completed the performance negotiation process for program years 2024 and 2025. Colt Nicklaus from Forward Service Corporation reported on the WIOA activities from the report included in the packet. Nicklaus highlighted a participant story from the Support to Communities Grant.

Spencer highlighted the two Reentry Programs - Windows to Work and Wisconsin Pathways Home. The Windows to Work Program is facilitated in the Adams and Wood County Jails. The Wisconsin Pathways Home Program is more focused on the individuals returning to the region from State Institutions.

10. Partner Reports

- **OSO** – None
- **CWIMA** – Conney Edmondson reported their recent welding and machine tool competitions for the smaller rural schools where they involved 90 students in 26 schools. CWIMA awarded nearly \$36,680 in scholarships. CWIMA raised nearly \$49,000 during their annual golf outing in August. The annual Heavy Metal Tour is scheduled for October 2, 2024, where 8th graders will tour area manufacturing facilities. This year there are 1,000 students registered and 52 manufacturers to host tours. CWIMA is currently working on capturing data for students who participate in the program and who stay in the state to work for a manufacturing business.
- **WATEA** – Amy Yessa reported they started a grant for training automotive technicians in February of this year. In August, they had their first training classes.

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This program will run until March of 2026. Their goal is to upskill technicians that are already in the field. The Commute to Careers program has four shuttle vans running Monday – Friday with multiple locations. They provided nearly 37 total trips in the first month.

- **Boys and Girls Club** – Jeremy Higgins reported they are doing Workforce Wednesdays to celebrate workforce development month. They held many career camps over the summer led by industry professionals. They also created four camps to highlight careers in natural resources and outdoor recreation.

11. Adjournment – Close moved to adjourn the meeting; it was seconded by Norlin. Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.