



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 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.
- **September 12<sup>th</sup> 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.



North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board  
**CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS Meeting**  
October 17, 2024 • 9:30 a.m.  
**Marathon County Job Center - Oak Room**

**Minutes (Approved)**

**CEO Members Present:** Rick Pease (Adams County), John Hokamp (Wood County), Michael Tautges (Oneida County)(Zoom), Ron Skallerud (Forest County), Kurt Gibbs (Marathon County).

**CEO Members Absent:** Ben Pierce (Langlade County) Bill Bialecki (Lincoln County), Richard Logan (Vilas County), and John Pavelski (Portage 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** – Hokamp moved to approve the agenda; it was seconded by Gibbs. Motion carried.
3. **Approve Chief Elected Officials' Minutes from August 15, 2024** – Skallerud moved to approve the minutes from August 15, 2024; it was seconded by Hokamp. Motion carried.
4. **Accept Treasurer's Report** – Gibbs moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented; it was seconded by Hokamp. Motion carried.
5. **CEO Consortium Agreement** – Spencer let the group know that Langlade County has not signed the agreement. The group discussed the next steps.
6. **Approve New Board Member Nominations** – Skallerud moved to approve both Amy Yessa and Dan Kinsella as new board members; it was seconded by Hokamp. Motion carried.
  - **Amy Yessa, Executive Director, Wisconsin Automotive & Truck Education Association**
  - **Dan Kinsella, Executive VP/Owner, Pointe Precision**

## 7. WIOA Performance

- **Program Year 2023 (July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024) Annual Report** – Spencer and Kalish reviewed the charts that reflected WDA 6 is meeting or exceeding all measures to the 50% mark.
- **Program Years 2024 and 2025 Performance Negotiations** – Spencer reviewed the approved performance negotiations WDA 6 will be held to for the next two program years.

## 8. NCWWDB Updates

- **Cost Policy Statement** – Cokl reviewed the Cost Policy Statement regarding tracking direct and indirect costs. The Cost Policy Statement was approved by the Executive Committee on October 10, 2024.
- **401(k) Plan Conversion** – Cokl explained to the group the 401k conversion project to an independent plan under the WWDA umbrella. The process is ongoing and will relieve administrative work on staff.
- **Strategic Plan and Scorecard** – Spencer referenced the Strategic Plan that was included in the packet and posted on the NCWWDB website. The scorecard link will be sent to CEOs for review.
- **DWD monitoring in November** – Kalish let the group know that DWD will be monitoring WDA6 in November and explained the process.

## 9. Discussion on Workforce Issues in Each County

- **Marathon County** – Gibbs reported the county has completed its budget; the property tax rate is going to drop .20 cents per \$1,000 on evaluation. North Central Healthcare has Pinecrest Nursing Home and is moving forward with a potential sale. The challenge is the high turnover of CNAs and Nurses, and it's difficult to get contracted staff. They will have to limit intake due to lack of staffing. By 2030 the need for nursing home beds and care for the "Boomers" will grow exponentially and there is not enough staff to support that. The board approved a stipend to incentivize childcare workers and providers to help with the childcare crisis.
- **Adams** – Pease reported they voted on a balanced budget; they have a final meeting November 12, 2024. Net new construction is 2.21, which is \$390,000 this year. Mostly due to Sand Valley that has 12% net new construction. The only childcare center in the county closed this past week due to owner's retirement. They are looking for a court counsel. The wage study cost them \$634,000 of new monies for their people. They have two openings in Health and Human Services, they are fully staffed in patrol officers and at the county.
- **Lincoln** – No Report
- **Langlade** – No Report
- **Forest** – Skallerud reported they are in the final stages of their budget and dealing with the split and creating of their own Human Services Center. Forest County will take over the mental health element of the Human Service Center. In November, they will work on getting everyone at the Human Services Center certified and

licensed. Local sales tax is trending down since the previous winter didn't have many winter sports.

- **Wood** – Hokamp reported the county's two nursing homes have many CNA and Nursing positions open. Currently, those are being filled with contracted agencies, which is costing the county more money. The highway department just hired a truck driver, there are no openings in that department. The Sheriff is optimistic they'll find additional correctional officers. Winebrenner Shoe Company announced a new building initiative adding 35 new employees. It will be a manufacturing facility as well as a retail store. The housing market seems to be slowing down, homes are on the market longer and going for below asking prices.
- **Oneida** – Tautges reported the area is wrapping up summer and hoping for snow to boost the area economy since last year they saw very little snow. The county has been going through annual budget meetings. The county will take over the Human Services Center in Oneida County from the three involved counties. They will add 50 new employees to the county payroll.
- **Portage** – No Report
- **Vilas** – No Report

**10. Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.



North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board  
**CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS Meeting**  
February 20, 2024 • 9:30 a.m.  
**Virtual via Microsoft Teams**

**Minutes (approved)**

**CEO Members Present:** Rick Pease (Adams County), Ron Skallerud (Forest County), Michael Tautges (Oneida County), John Pavelski (Portage County), Richard Logan (Vilas County), and John Hokamp (Wood County).

**CEO Members Absent:** Ben Pierce (Langlade County) Bill Bialecki (Lincoln County), and Kurt Gibbs (Marathon County).

**Others Present:** None

**Staff Present:** John Cokl, Brian Kalish, Ginger Keymer, and Jane Spencer.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order** – Skallerud called the meeting to order at a.m.
2. **Approve Agenda** – Hokamp moved to approve the agenda; it was seconded by Logan. Motion carried.
3. **Welcome new Chief Elected Official for Marathon County – Stacey Morache**
4. **Approve Chief Elected Officials' Minutes from December 19, 2024** - moved to approve the minutes from December 19, 2024; it was seconded by . Motion carried.
5. **Accept Treasurer's Report** –moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented; it was seconded by. Motion carried.
6. **Mid-Year Monitoring of Contracted Provider**
7. **NCWWDB Updates**
  - **WIOA Reauthorization** – WIOA has not been reauthorized. A partial shutdown may be coming.
  - **Job Center Updates & Certification** – Job Centers need to be certified every three years and meet guidelines based on whether it is an affiliate or comprehensive site. WDA 6 Job Centers are certified through June 30, 2025. In January, Spencer and Kalish will begin the recertifying process. Some changes are likely in the months ahead.
  - **Staff & Board Member Updates** – CJ Tangedal, Office Manager for NCWWDB has taken another position in the area. Ginger Keymer, who helped cover in the past, has been filling in since early December. Keymer accepted the position and will officially start after the first of the year. Board Member, Matt Murphy is planning for retirement;

he will resign from the Board in March 2025. He has some suggestions for a replacement. Ideas from other CEOs are welcome as well. Spencer officially announced her retirement for April 2025. She is working with the Executive Committee on next steps for a search.

- **\*Opioid Crisis Grant Update\*** - The Support to Communities opioid crisis grant ended in August. The State Department of Workforce Development has another opioid crisis grant and wanted to get it out to all eleven Boards. However, the Department of Labor cut the grant from \$13 million to \$4 million. To distribute the grant as well as possible, NCWWDB partnered with the Northwest Board to submit a proposal where Northwest would be the grant recipient and then they would contract with NCWWDB to provide the services. The grant has been awarded; the Northwest Board will serve the northern counties, such as Vilas, Oneida, and Forest County. NCWWDB will take the southern part of the region, which includes Wood County.

## 8. Discussion on Workforce Issues in Each County

- **Adams** – Pease reported a developer has recently built two homes in the City of Adams and may possibly build more. Legal counsel has successfully been hired. The County is no longer supporting their local food pantry. With 70% poverty in their school district, Pease is concerned local children will suffer with this change.
- **Forest** – Skallerud reported that County was able to pass their budget with few cuts to services. The County is working with the Sokaogon Chippewa tribal community on some broadband projects. Expanding broadband access has been a huge issue in Forest County. The Sokaogon Chippewa Tribe is waiting for a grant announcement. If successful, tribal members in a three-county area will have fiber internet to homes on and off the reservation. Forest County could then piggyback off those pathways. If all funding sources come through, the regional community would be using those grants to build the best network possible, with the most coverage, making sure to alleviate redundancies. The ARDC and Human Services Center is now finalized with all state approvals. The four or five dislocated workers have been absorbed by the County. Forest will be contracting with Oneida County for some human services but providing mental health crisis services on their own. Like Vilas, there is not enough snow to open trails, and the County is eager to begin their winter tourism season. Summer tourism went well in Forest County, but now the County sales tax is trending behind. If the region continues having winters with less snow for snowmobiling, etc., that will affect tourism dollars going forward. The County is continuing to look for other ways to generate revenue.
- **Langlade** – No Report
- **Lincoln** – No Report
- **Marathon County** – No Report
- **Oneida** – Tautges reported that employers are in high spirits with the onset of the cold and snow. They are comfortable with staffing situations for tourism-focused businesses. He has heard many repeated comments of customers having pent up demand and dollars; they're



actively looking to find a reason to spend for winter activities.

- **Portage** – Pavelski reported that on Tuesday night, the County Board decided to put together an ad hoc committee to look at the sale of the County Healthcare Center. Several buyers are interested, as there are only so many licenses available for skilled nursing facilities. Portage County currently has 48 licensed beds. The City of Stevens Point will have a new low-income housing complex, scheduled to begin construction in 2025 and reach completion in 2026.
- **Vilas** – Logan reported the County Zoning department and committee have been working on changes to their zoning ordinance to facilitate the building of some affordable housing. County would like more snow for the tourism industry. A childcare center closed in the western part of the County that served a lot of residents. Work is being done to find another location and reopen. A local church is serving as an interim center. Childcare is one of the biggest hurdles that County faces, along with affordable housing. The Gogebic Iron and Vilas County Network just received a federal HRSA planning grant to look at gaps in health care access throughout the region. Vilas County, Gogebic and Iron all struggle with having healthcare and hospitals within reasonable driving distance. They're starting the planning process to identify the needs and figure out where they can fill some of the gaps. The region has an older population as well. Logan stated that employment levels are good in Vilas County. Unemployment is low.
- **Wood** – Hokamp reported the local Post Office needs workers to deliver local mail. The Wood County HR Department filled 165 positions in 2024 with 1659 applicants. The County is attracting employees interested in working for Wood County. Quite a few employees were lost in 2022. Salaries were raised in early 2023 to match other counties in the area. Wood County Crisis Center no longer funded by County but will be contracted out. About 15 employees have been displaced but may be hired by an independent contractor. Recently held a ribbon cutting for their new jail. The Sheriff's Dept is scheduled to move into the new jail in January with inmates projected to arrive in February. Jail is on schedule but slightly over budget.

9. **Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 10:13 a.m.



North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board  
**CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS Meeting**  
February 20, 2025 • 9:30 a.m.  
**Virtual via Microsoft Teams**

**Minutes** **Approved**

**CEO Members Present:** Rick Pease (Adams County), Ron Skallerud (Forest County), Bill Bialecki (Lincoln County), Stacey Morache (Marathon County), Michael Tautges (Oneida County), Richard Logan (Vilas County), and John Hokamp (Wood County).

**CEO Members Absent:** Ben Pierce (Langlade County) and John Pavelski (Portage County).

**Others Present:** Kurt Gibbs (Marathon County Board Chair) and Lance Pliml (Wood County Board Chair).

**Staff Present:** John Cokl, Ginger Keymer, and Jane Spencer.

1. **Call the Meeting to Order** – Pease called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.
2. **Approve Agenda** – Bialecki moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Hokamp. Motion carried.
3. **Welcome new Chief Elected Official for Marathon County – Stacey Morache**  
Stacey Morache, District 6 Supervisor for Marathon County, was introduced and welcomed to the group.
4. **Approve Chief Elected Officials' Minutes from December 19, 2024** – Bialecki moved to approve the minutes from December 19, 2024; it was seconded by Hokamp. Motion carried.
5. **Accept Treasurer's Report** – John presented the Treasurer's report, highlighting a strong balance sheet with over \$500,000 in cash on hand, an increase in grant receivables, and the deployment of laptops to program participants. Skallerud moved to accept the treasurer's report as presented; it was seconded by Tautges. Motion carried.
6. **Mid-Year Monitoring of Contracted Provider** - Jane reported on the annual monitoring of Forward Service Corporation, noting their good performance and recommending the renewal of their contracts for the next program year, July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Jane explained the Executive Committee's decision to waive the fiscal policy to align all program contracts on the same schedule, due to the dissolution of LETC and the transition with the Executive Director.
7. **Program Year 2025 Provider Contracts (Youth/Adult/Dislocated Worker)** - Motion to approve by Hokamp; seconded by Skallerud. Motion carried.
8. **Board membership Updates** - Motion to approve membership by Tautges; seconded by Morache. Motion carried.
  - Jeremy Higgins – Moved from the Boys & Girls Club of Portage County to UW Stevens Point. He expressed his interest in staying with the Board to represent Youth Services.
  - Jodi Gruhn – Transitioned from County Materials to Westphal Staffing, also wished to remain on the Board and continue her involvement. Gruhn was recently appointed to the Executive Committee.

## 9. NCWWDB Updates

- **Executive Order** – Jane mentioned the rescission of a budget memo and the upcoming reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA), with no new updates.
- **Marshfield Job Center** - Jane announced the City Council's decision to fund the resource room Associate only until the end of March, with the lease not renewed. Staff are exploring alternatives with Mid-State Technical College.
- **New Grants** – Jane announced **forWRD**, a new opioid crisis grant which involves collaboration with the Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Board. NCWWDB will serve Wood and Adams, Northwest will serve northern counties. Remaining ARPA funds going to WDB's across the state in the form of **WAI 2.0**. Proposals are due March 1, focusing on areas such as tourism, construction, manufacturing, entry-level healthcare, and childcare.

## 10. Discussion on Workforce Issues in Each County

- **Adams** – Pease discussed the contentious transition to a county administrator, the reduction of staff in various offices, and the defunding of the local food pantry, which has led to increased demand at Second Harvest food distributions.
- **Forest** – Skallerud noted the increase in mental health service calls due to localized services and the positive impact of snow on tourism. He also mentioned the integration of their human services department and the need for CNAs.
- **Langlade** – No Report
- **Lincoln** – Bialecki reported on the static workforce, the formation of an ad hoc committee to address long-term facility needs, the ongoing sale of Pinecrest, and the positive impact of snow on tourism. He also mentioned the challenges in childcare and the progress in broadband expansion.
- **Marathon** – Morache reported on efforts by Economic Development Committee to amend codes and create an ordinance that encourage new homestead properties, workforce housing, and long-term rentals. Difficulty with CNA recruitment in the County. A joint City and County housing taskforce bringing recommendations to the County Board on emergency shelters. Cohort scholarship with Childcaring has nine participants, with goal of 30 within two years, opening 240 slots.
- **Oneida** – Tautges reported that snowmobile trails are open, businesses are happy and breathing a sigh of relief. Good progress in housing. DNR Hiring Fair, struggling to find Foresters, not enough volunteers to lead hunting and boating safety courses. Nicolet College recently added flight training course in 2023; they are also working with high schools on a youth apprenticeship program.
- **Portage** - No Report
- **Vilas** – Logan highlighted the positive impact of snow on tourism and the development of an early childhood center in Manitowish Waters to serve NW Vilas County and SE Iron County.
- **Wood** – Hokamp reported on the expansion of the Weinbrenner shoe factory and the redevelopment of their old factory into an 80-unit apartment complex. He also mentioned the potential redevelopment of the Northern Steel Casting foundry site and the ongoing need for nurses and CNAs in county facilities.
- **April Meeting** – The next meeting was scheduled for April 17th, 2025, and will be held in person at the Marathon County Job Center.

## 11. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.



North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board  
**CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS Meeting**  
April 17, 2025 • 9:30 a.m.  
**Marathon County Job Center, Wausau, WI**

**Minutes** **Approved**

**CEO Members Present:** Rick Pease (Adams County), Ron Skallerud (Forest County), Bill Bialecki (Lincoln County), John Pavelski (Portage County) virtual via Teams, Stacey Morache (Marathon County), Michael Tautges (Oneida County), and John Hokamp (Wood County).

**CEO Members Absent:** Richard Logan (Vilas County) and Ben Pierce (Langlade County).

**Staff Present:** Brian Kalish, Ginger Keymer, Jane Spencer, John Cokl, and Peter Gelhar.

- 1. Call the Meeting to Order** – Pease called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and announced quorum.
- 2. Approve Agenda** – Bialecki moved to approve the agenda; seconded by Tautges. Motion carried.
- 3. Approve Chief Elected Officials' Minutes from February 20, 2025** – Skallerud moved to approve the minutes from December 19, 2024; it was seconded by Hokamp. Motion carried.
- 4. NCWWDB Executive Director** – Jane announced that Brian Kalish accepted the position of Executive Director and will officially take over on May 4th. Jane will assist with the transition until April 30th and will continue to support Brian as needed to ensure a smooth transition. Brian expressed his gratitude to Jane and appreciation for everyone's support.
- 5. Audit Results** – John Cokl presented the audit results, which showed an increase in total assets, net asset growth, and grant receivables. The audit opinion was unmodified, indicating a clean audit with no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Specifically, John reported net asset growth from \$837,000 to \$888,000, and a significant increase in grant receivables from \$214,000 to \$653,000. The audit opinion was unmodified, indicating a clean audit with no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. The organization was compliant with all grant-related requirements. The auditors evaluated the internal controls and found no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies, confirming the organization's low-risk status.
- 6. Accept Treasurer's Report** - John Cokl provided the Treasurer's report, highlighting that the organization is under budget by a fair margin and has a \$22,000 unrealized gain driven by investment accounts. Year-to-date, the organization has spent approximately 56% of the budget, while being 67% through the fiscal year, indicating a healthy financial status. John explained the importance of being under budget with the ability to carry money into the next fiscal year, especially since the next year's funding comes in two portions, with the first portion being relatively small. Skallerud moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; it was seconded by Bialecki. Motion carried.
- 7. Board Membership: Bradley Berglund of Wisconsin Public Service/We Energies** – Jane announced that Matt Murphy from WPS/We Energies has retired and nominated Bradley Berglund as his replacement representing private sector utilities. Morache moved to approve Bradley Berglund for Board Membership; seconded by Hokamp. Motion carried.

**8. Program Year 2024 Quarter Two Performance** - Brian reviewed the performance results for Program Year 2024, Quarter 2. The organization is on track with each program, and the numbers are expected to improve as the year progresses with more people being served in the adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs.

**9. Discussion on One-Stop Operator and System**

- Jane discussed challenges with the One Stop Operator contract, as the Department of Workforce Development has decided to pull out, necessitating a competitive bid to find a new operator. Jane mentioned that the monitoring tool used to ensure the consortium's compliance will still be utilized, despite the department's withdrawal.
- The Marshfield Job Center on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street closed on March 27th due to the lease not being renewed and the city ending its funding for the resource person. A new access point at Mid-State Technical College's satellite office in Marshfield is now open where Gary will assist individuals three days a week. Jane mentioned the possibility of adopting a similar access point model for the Adams Job Center, which currently operates three days a week with support from the local economic development board.

**10. NCWWDB Updates**

- **Board Certification:** Ginger and Brian have started the process of board certification, which occurs every two years. The process is underway and in good shape.
- **FORWRD Grant:** Jane and Brian discussed the new FORWRD Grant, which focuses on opioid recovery. The grant will be managed in collaboration with the Northwest Workforce Board and will cover the northern and southern areas of both regions.
- **Worker Advancement Initiative 2.0:** The Board received \$1.06 million with this grant. It is funded with remaining ARPA dollars from the State. Have until June of 2026 to invest these funds in workforce initiatives.

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

- **Adams** – A report generated by the North Central Regional Planning Commission indicates a need for smaller housing in Adams County for an aging population and residents with incomes rarely above \$100,000. It's been difficult to get Housing developers to build in the County. The Adams County Board recently approved a County Administrator position. Golf courses are open and looking for workers.
- **Forest** – WD Flooring in Laona, WI closed operation affecting 45 employees. Major highway construction this spring/summer with US Hwy 8/WI 55 detoured from Crandon to Laona. This will likely affect local businesses/the County economy which rely on tourist dollars during the summer season.
- **Langlade** – No Report
- **Lincoln** – Bialecki spoke of the success of County TIF Districts and growth in housing in the County. Lincoln County contracting with the State DOC to house prisoners from Green Bay Correctional Institution at the Lincoln County Jail, adding about a million dollars to the County budget annually.
- **Marathon** – Morache reported continued need for housing, unavailable land, and lack of developers willing to take on the risk of development. County is seeking \$84 million in congressional spending to replace Rothschild Dam. County has invested \$12 million in the project which is in dire need of full reconstruction. Ringle is updating their solar and wind energy ordinances.
- **Oneida** – Working on a County wide Housing Study with the Central WI Regional Planning Commission. Typically expect 100 responses and they received 700. First housing developer in the new Minocqua TIF District to build 112 units. The WEDA funded project in Woodruff has foundations in place. They are building 50 townhomes there. Severe need for housing in the County. A new hire for Finance Director of the School District turned down the job as they could not find housing in the area. Hodag Dome in Rhinelander is supposed to be back up and running in May.

- **Portage** – The County is rewriting their subdivision ordinance to encourage smaller lot sizes to reduce housing costs. An Ad Hoc Committee established to sell the Portage County Health Center. Marus & Millichap, same broker that Lincoln County used, selected to seek buyers. County just approved \$3.5 million on schematic design for the remodel of the Courthouse and the new Jail and Law Enforcement Center.
- **Vilas** – No Report
- **Wood** – Hokamp reported that the Sheriff Department and inmates have moved into the new Wood County Jail with a successful transition. Demolition of the old jail will begin in May and create a new parking lot. Wood County District Attorney is looking for two assistants. County Highway Department is now fully staffed after major understaffing last year. Reports of a \$200 million AI computing and data storage center to be built in Wisconsin Rapids, employing 5-20 people, and opening next year. Marshfield Clinic reportedly cutting 96 administrative and leadership positions due to the merger and integration with Sanford Health.

**June Meeting** – The next meeting is scheduled for June 19, 2025, and will be held in person at the Marathon County Job Center.

**11. Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.



North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board  
**CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS Meeting**  
June 19, 2025 • 9:30 a.m.  
**Marathon County Job Center, Wausau, WI**

**Minutes** **Approved**

**CEO Members Present:** Rick Pease (Adams County), Ron Skallerud virtual via Teams (Forest County), Stacey Morache (Marathon County), Michael Tautges virtual via Teams (Oneida County), and John Hokamp (Wood County).

**CEO Members Absent:** Ben Pierce (Langlade County), Bill Bialecki (Lincoln County), John Pavelski (Portage County), and Richard Logan (Vilas County).

**Staff Present:** Brian Kalish, Ginger Keymer, John Cokl, Libby Heidmann, and Peter Gelhar.

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** – Pease called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and announced quorum.
2. **Approve Chief Elected Officials’ Minutes from April 17, 2025** – Morache moved to approve the minutes from December 19, 2024; it was seconded by Hokamp. Motion carried.
3. **Review and Approve Audit Results** – Morache moved to approve the Audit results; it was seconded by Hokamp. Motion carried.
4. **Accept Treasurer’s Report** – Hokamp moved to accept the Treasurer’s Report; it was seconded by Morache. Motion carried.
5. **Approval of Program Year 2025 Budget** – Morache moves to approve the PY 25 Budget; it was seconded by Hokamp. Motion carried.
6. **Approval of new Board Member: Mitchell Rupp, Regional Economist** – Tautges approved Mitchell Rupp as new Board Member; it was seconded by Morache. Motion carried.
7. **Election of Officers**
  - **Chair** – Hokamp nominated **Rick Pease as Chair**; it was seconded by Skallerud. Motion carried.
  - **Vice Chair** - Hokamp nominated **Ron Skallerud as Vice Chair**; seconded by Tautges. Motion carried.
  - **Secretary/Treasurer** - Skallerud nominated Stacey Morache as Secretary; seconded by Hokamp. Morache politely declined due to her new arrival on Consortium. Skallerud amended his motion to nominate **John Hokamp as Secretary/Treasurer**; Hokamp seconded and accepted. Motion carried.
  - **Liaison to Executive Committee** – Skallerud nominated **Michael Tautges** to continue in role as Liaison to the Executive Committee; it was seconded by Hokamp. Motion carried.
8. **Program Year 2025 One-Stop Operator**
  - Kalish reviewed the challenges with the One Stop Operator contract, as the Department of Workforce Development has decided to pull out, necessitating a competitive bid to find a new operator.

**Approved by CEOs on August 21, 2025**

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## 9. Job Centers

- **One Stop Operator Certification** – DWD approved our Job Centers, so we are compliant with the state for that current certification process. Thanks to Libby for her work on that process.
- **Memorandum of Understanding** – This is an agreement between all of the partners in our three DWD Job Centers on what services will be delivered at each location. Once reviewed and approved by DWD this MOU will be good for the next three years.

## 10. NCWWDB Updates – Kalish introduced Libby Heidmann, the new Workforce Services Director.

Libby comes to NCWWDB with two decades of experience in higher education as an academic advisor, advising supervisor, and career counseling. In addition to Heidmann, NCWWDB also has two new WPH4 Career Coaches who began working this spring. Similar to Marshfield, the Adams Job Center will transition to an Access Point for Job Services on July 1, 2025. This is a change in name only. Same services will be provided; this just removed administrative oversight from the DWD umbrella. Kalish also provided an overview of the WAI 2.0 grant. This grant will provide \$1.06 million in funding. This grant will cover training expenses for 85 participants in several different training cohorts, including a culinary group, welding, massage therapy, CNA and phlebotomy training, renewable energy, CDL and collision repair. This funding must be spent by June 30, 2026.

## 11. Discussion on Workforce Issues in Each County

- **Adams** – Adams has a 7% growth in tourism and according to a recent report, Adams ranked #1. Most of that is likely attributable to Sand Valley which continues to expand. They are now up to 7200 acres and have already paid off the last two TID districts. In southern Adams, Chula Vista is expanding. County Administrator is adjusting well to her new role. County is looking for developers willing to build new housing.
- **Forest** – Biggest tourism event of the season, the Brush Run Road races will be held June 20-22. Not anticipating Hwy 8 construction will impact that too greatly. Reroutes for Hwy 8 construction lead drivers out of Forest County. Waiting to see if this will impact tourism and sales tax revenue in the area. Looking at some of the Executive Orders going out, upgrading stewardship, the rural partner program and increasing lumber output. As two-thirds of Forest County is National Forest, may have an impact on the local forest products industry. County working directly with National Forest Services on some potential partnerships to make up for lost revenue on non-taxable land. Undertaking a bonding issue to increase access to broadband internet. The initial approval of the BEAD projects has been pulled back and may need to reapply. Upgrades being made to the courthouse to provide better access and security, as well as improved staffing and community space. Shortage of CDL drivers which is impacting staffing at the municipal and county level. Looking at a potential operational shortfall in the county budget.
- **Langlade** – No Report
- **Lincoln** – No Report
- **Marathon** – Morache reported on a TIF resolution being issued by Marathon County to provide direction to their representative on the Joint Review Board. Some contention as to whether the ten standards set up by Dept of Revenue are being followed. Discussions and possible approval of a new Central Wisconsin Regional Aviation Development Fund. CWA asking for \$500,000. Marathon County could put in \$150,000 with the hope that Portage County would put in the same. County also purchased more land in Kronenwetter for the future expansion of the Highway Dept. No plans on when building would begin, just acquiring the land.



- **Oneida** – Tourism season has officially kicked off. Construction delays are easing up. Law enforcement roles have been difficult to fill in Minocqua. Students on J1 Visas are returning to the area for employment in summer camps. Not as many of those workers have been able to return, due to changes at the Federal level. A new hotel is coming, and a good number of housing projects are currently underway.
- **Portage** – No Report
- **Vilas** – No Report
- **Wood** – Wood County has also recently purchased land for a Highway Dept expansion. The County is still short on CNAs and other nursing positions. There's a lot of demolition in progress in Wisconsin Rapids; former Emmanuel Lutheran Church being raised for a new parking lot adjacent to an elementary school; former jail is being torn down, as well as some older buildings around the Court House which will become additional parking, street consolidations, and hopefully a large new central park, similar to downtown Wausau. Former elementary school in Vesper was recently renovated into 11-unit apartment building. Possible duplex development in Rudolph.

**August Meeting** – The next meeting is scheduled for August 21, 2025, and will be held in person at the Marathon County Job Center.

**11. Adjourn** – Meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.