



NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

NCWWDB leads, innovates, and supports the development and retention of a skilled workforce.

Executive Committee

Thursday, October 9, 2025

Minutes (approved)

Members Present: Al Chaney, Angela Close (9:08 a.m.), Paul Herold, Jodi Gruhn, and Michael Tautges

Members Absent: Paula Erickson

WDB Staff Present: Brian Kalish, Ginger Keymer, John Cokl, and Libby Heidmann.

- 1) **Call the Meeting to Order** - Chaney called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
- 2) **Executive Minutes from July 10, 2025** – Gruhn made a motion to correct the agenda and approve the August 14 Minutes, included in the meeting packet; it was seconded by Herold. Motion carried.
- 3) **Approval of Amy Yessa as new Executive Committee Member** - Gruhn motioned to approve Yessa as a member of the Executive Committee; it was seconded by Tautges. Motion carried.
- 4) **Treasurer's Report** – Herold made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report; it was seconded by Close. Motion carried.
- 5) **Review and Adopt DWD Policies** <https://dwd.wisconsin.gov/wioa/policy/> - Heidmann explained that these policies are all edits and updates to fiscal categories, most minor or clarifying in nature. Herold made a motion to adopt the new and updated DWD policies; it was seconded by Close. Motion carried.
- 6) **Review and Approve Local Policies: Employee Handbook Revisions/Updates** - Cokl provided an overview of the updates and changes, highlighted in the packet memo. Chaney motioned to table, pending review by Paula Erickson, MRA Milwaukee, or HR Specialists provided by insurance carriers; Gruhn Seconded. Revisions are tabled until next meeting on December 18, 2025.
- 7) **Government Shutdown** – Kalish sent an email to all staff on the first day of the shutdown, Oct 1, stating our leadership doesn't anticipate any major changes in day-to-day operations. At the moment, our ability to draw down federal funds has not been significantly impacted. Our current understanding is that the entire Pathways Home 4 grant allotment should be accessible, regardless of the shutdown length, as the grant has formally been appropriated. There has been up to a two-week delay in the time funds are requested and actually released. Currently business as usual and communicating new information to staff as we receive it.

8) NCWWDB Updates

- a. **Grant Application Success for LifeWork\$ Project** – LifeWork\$ is a classroom and work experience program for youth with disabilities. This is a past partnership with DVR we are looking to reintroduce in Summer 2026. Kalish reported three grant requests have been submitted. Of those, one has been awarded, one not, and one pending. The first grant we received is from North Central Community Foundation for \$5,000 toward Start Up costs for LifeWork\$. Awaiting determination of our Wausau Impact Grant request for \$20,000.
- b. **Langlade County CEO Update** – Steve Maier is the new Chair of the Langlade County Board of Supervisors, replacing Ben Pierce, who resigned July 1, 2025.
- c. **Wisconsin Rapids and Marathon County Job Center Updates: Leases** – In addition to the summary memo in the packet, Kalish and Cokl provided a detailed overview of the evolving situation at the Job Centers. Gruhn made a motion to terminate the NCWWDB portion of the lease at the Marathon County Job Center effective immediately. Herold Seconded. Motion carried. Gruhn made the motion to end Rapids lease agreement with the understanding that we seek another in-person partnership location as soon as we can. Herold Seconded. Motion carried.
- d. **New Jobs on the Block/Marshfield Job Fair Recap** – Both will be annual events. Wausau Area Chamber has really embraced the NJOTB event. MSTC would like to make the Marshfield Job Fair centralized in a similar way in Marshfield.
- e. **Rebranding Updates** – Just received full logo files in scalable form. The next phase will be revamping the entire website.
- f. **Awards of Excellence: November 12** - The Awards for grant recipients will be an evening event held in the Commons Atrium, at our Stevens Point offices, from about 5:30-7:00pm. Board members, CEOs, families of the participants, and community partners will be invited to attend. Light appetizers and soft drinks will be provided.
- g. **Designee to WWDA** – Looking for Board member to attend one annual WWDA event annually. Meeting date and location are not yet set. In the past these took place in Bayfield in August.

9) Adjourn

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