



North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board

Marathon County Public Library

Wausau Community Room, 2nd Floor
300 N. First Street, Wausau, WI

Thursday, September 11, 2025 • 10:00 a.m.

Minutes (Approved)

WDB Members Present: Bradley Berglund, Janessa Brickner-Ress, Al Chaney, Angela Eberhardt, Dave Eckmann, Paul Herold, Jeremy Higgins, Ronald Karl, Patty Noland, Casey Nye, Mitch Rupp, Amber Stancher, and Amy Yessa.

WDB Members Present by Teams: Dan Kinsella, Anthony Negani, and Kristine Porter.

WDB Members Absent: Kyle Alters, Thad Brockman, Angie Close, Conney Edmondson, Paula Erickson, Tim Norlin, Eva Scheppa and Diane Sennholz.

WDB Staff Present: John Cokl, Justin Fraser, Peter Gelhar, Rob Golla, Libby Heidmann, Amy Hoppa, Brian Kalish, Ginger Keymer, and Stephany Tatro.

Others Present: Zoe Kujawa, Colt Nicklaus, Michael Tautges, and Brian Wolfe.

1. **Call to Order-** Chaney called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. **Announcement of Quorum-** There was quorum.
3. **Approval of Minutes from June 12, 2025 –** Nye moved to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2025, meeting; seconded by Herold. Motion carried.
4. **Approval of Treasurer's Report –** Higgins moved to approve the Treasurer's report; seconded by Yessa. Motion carried.
5. **Announcements from the Chair –** Chaney announced the need for a new Executive Board member in 2026. Paula Erickson will be stepping down at the end of the year. Chaney encouraged Board members to participate in the Executive Committee. Both he and Kalish will be reaching out to Board members to fill the upcoming vacancy.
6. **Announcements from the Chief Elected Officials -** Tautges reported a solid year for the region, despite the uncertainty surrounding Federal and state funding. No significant adverse impacts have yet been felt. Tautges remarked on the low unemployment rate in the region and shared that the primary, most pressing issue facing the counties is the need for housing.

- 7. Announcements from the Executive Director** – Kalish announced two new Board Members: Kyle Alters and Janessa Brickner-Ress. Alters could not be present. Kalish welcomed Brickner-Ress and she introduced herself to the Board. Job Center MOU routing for signatures with only two of the thirteen signatories left to sign. DWD will be awarding the RFP to monitor the One-Stop-Operator consortium to NCWWDB. Monitoring is underway. Thanks to the efforts of Jane Spencer, prior to retirement, NCWWDB will again be a sub-recipient of the next iteration of Wisconsin Pathways Home (WPH 6 grant) beginning in January 2026. Wisconsin Pathways Home 4, (WPH4) will end in December of this year. Awards of Excellence will be held Wednesday, November 12th from 5:30-7:00pm at the Community Non-Profit Center at 2801 Hoover Rd in Stevens Point. Board members were encouraged to attend.
- 8. Workgroup/Program Summaries** – The Executive Committee approved the relaunch of LifeWork\$, a program providing classroom instruction and work experience for high schoolers with disabilities. Prior to COVID, NCWWDB ran this program for four or five years. Kalish pointed to Summer 2026 as the relaunch goal. Heidmann reviewed the performance numbers included in the packet. Final numbers will be presented in December. Colt Nicklaus reported on the WIOA activities from the report included in the packet.
- 9. Partner Reports**
- **OSO** – Contract is being finalized and signed, Ginger Keymer, with NCWWDB, will serve as the One Stop Operator for the Consortium, beginning this fall.
 - **CWIMA** – Edmondson was not present to provide an update.
 - **WATEA** – Yessa shared that they are still running Wheels to Work even though they have not seen any funding reimbursement this year. WATEA partnering with the Build My Future event on Wednesday, September 24th at the Kolbe East location on Thomas St in Wausau. The Auto Collision Program will run again this year, in October, at Wausau East High School, in partnership with Northcentral Technical College. NTC and WATEA will cover tuition costs for students to participate. Limited number of seats. WATEA will host their annual meeting on October 14th at the Hilton where they will announce a large, new initiative.
- 10. Rebranding** – Kalish announced the new name and logo: Advance Wisconsin Employment.
- 11. Adjournment** – Eckmann moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Herold. The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

NCWWDB is an equal opportunity employer and service provider
A proud partner of the  **americanjobcenter** network