

NCWWDB is transitioning to a NEW name  
Advance Wisconsin Employment



North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board  
**CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS Meeting**  
Marathon County Job Center, Wausau, WI  
October 16, 2025 · 9:30 a.m.

## Minutes (approved)

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

**CEO Members Absent:** Steve Maier (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 9:31 a.m. and announced quorum.
- 2) **Approve Chief Elected Officials' Minutes from August 21, 2025** – Morache moved to approve the minutes from August 21, 2025; seconded by Hokamp. Motion carried.
- 3) **Welcome to Steve Maier, Chair of Langlade County Board of Supervisors** – Chair Pease welcomed Supervisor Maier to the Consortium.
- 4) **Accept Treasurer's Report** – Hokamp moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; it was seconded by Tautges. Motion carried.
- 5) **Consideration and Action on Termination of Leases at:**
  - a) **Marathon County Job Center** – Morache moved, Hokamp seconded to terminate the Wausau lease effectively immediately and provide 30-day notice to landlord. Motion carried.
  - b) **Wisconsin Rapids Job Center** – Skallerud moved, Tautges seconded to terminate the Wisconsin Rapids lease and work with tenant partners on effective date. Motion carried.

6) **Government Shutdown** – Kalish sent an email to all staff on the first day of the shutdown, Oct 1, stating our leadership does not anticipate any major changes in day-to-day operations. 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 released. Currently business as usual and communicating latest information to staff as we receive it.

## 7) 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) **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 centered in the heart of Marshfield, like the Wausau event.
- c) **Rebranding Updates** – Just received full logo files in scalable form. The next phase will be revamping the entire website.
- d) **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.

## 8) Discussion on Workforce Issues in Each County

- a) **Adams** – Chula Vista looking at a large expansion to their current building, as well as developing additional housing, Landowner donated several parcels to the City of Adams. The parcels would need sewer and water, which is expensive to establish. County budget looks good this year.
- b) **Forest** – Ribbon cutting on Oct 16 for the official reopening of Hwy 8. Despite the rerouting of traffic, sales tax revenue is a little ahead this year from last year. ATV and separate UTV trails will also be opening with tunnels underneath Hwy 8 to allow access for tourism and the local community.
- c) **Langlade Report submitted by Maier prior to meeting** - Assisting Robbins Flooring on applying for a Fast Forward Training Grant for implementation of their new state-of-the-art rip-line equipment with retraining of 9 employees and new job creation of 3, once implemented. Held Industry and Education Roundtables to increase partnerships and youth apprentice opportunities within Antigo and Langlade County. Working with Grow North on Regional Career Pathways Program and Inspire Wisconsin through CESA 8 and CESA 9. Working with NTC Workforce Training and Special Development Team Lead, Chris Kautza, on WAT Grants for customized training for businesses. Working with Peter at NCWWDB on possible Job Fair/Job Pod at Antigo Library; still in discussion
- d) **Lincoln** – No report.
- e) **Marathon** – Morache reported two new family childcare centers with a total of 16 new slots. Grand total of 120 slots generated by the ARPA funded County program. DoubleTree has taken over the former waterpark owned by Bantr with the intention of developing a Convention Center. Marathon County put \$150,000 towards the creation of a Wisconsin Regional Aviation Development Fund. Fund needs \$500,000 total to attract another carrier to the region. Portage County is also contributing. Marathon also contributing \$5000 towards a regional site readiness evaluation.
- f) **Oneida** – Business owners had a great year in Oneida County. Things are relatively stable for now. The primary workforce issue in the County has been the need for additional housing. Aspen Grove Minocqua, an 112-unit apartment project, will break ground this month. The Woods Hollow, 50-unit townhome development in Woodruff, is about to start renting units.

**g) Portage** – No Report

**h) Vilas** – No Report

**i) Wood** – Reported on local and regional need for retirees to reenter the workforce, part time and full time at retail establishments. Another restaurant may be closing in Wood County due to lack of employees.

**9) Adjourn** – Morache motioned, Hokamp seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

**December & February Meetings** – The next two meetings scheduled for December 18, 2025, and February 19, 2026, will be held virtually via Microsoft Teams due to the unpredictability of winter travel.