

BARRON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

February 14th 2024. 8:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/83743279547?pwd=laMQsQJLIUzwtkl4lbbu9RauN0uVaT.1>

Meeting ID: 837 4327 9547

Passcode: JMKy42

Attendees: Armstrong, Beaudette, Westphal, Skinner, Stanford, Okey, Gerber, Boldig, Heller, Williams, Trembley, Miller

1. Call Meeting to Order 8:02 am
2. Public Appearances/Comments- None
3. Review Minutes of Previous Meeting—Motion to approve Heller, Seconded Trembley
4. Treasurers Report—Motion by Stanford, seconded by Heller approved
5. Report From The Executive Director on Recent Activity
 - a. Start-ups
 - i. 23 in process—Armstrong mentioned “incredible start to the year including acquisitions and every one of them will work.”
 - b. Mfg. Relocations, Expansions update
 - i. Business expansions -2
 - ii. Business purchases - 3
 - c. Workforce Initiatives
 - i. Applying for Workforce grants – 1
 - d. Alcatraz update – Continuing to work towards funding to support exploration and suggestion to fix to complete the study and make the property whole once more.
 - e. Housing update
 - i. Developer Activity – Updates to discuss no update at this time.
 - ii. Multifamily activity – will discuss Tour of area with Multifamily developer
 - f. Placemaking – Barron, Cumberland and Rice Lake – start discussion for spring
 - g. UW-Madison – LaFollette focus Group in Barron County report
 - h. Refugee discussion- BCEDC works with employers to bring in specific immigrant and utilizes the PERM Program. County Administrator French is meeting with World Relief and Tammy Baldwin's office to understand what is happening.
 - i. Disaster declaration discussion- potential FEMA dollars to support those adversely affected by lack of snow.
 - j. USDA Grant discussion- Opportunities for funds to support the financial forecast work
 - k. Questions? Armstrong mentioned a project to support timber pulp processing through EDA, potentially WEDC and work to support this expansion in Northern WI
6. Board member comments/questions? Adam asked about childcare within the county. Armstrong continues to work on it. Trembley for a grant to have a MN contact support building rehabs throughout the area to support startups and expansions.
7. RBF Update- no update today Meeting February 20th Rice Lake will have 1-2 opportunities.
8. Adjourn 8:29 am. **Beaudette, Westphal**

PLEASE CALL 715-637-6871 IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND

cc: Metcalf, Nordby, Boldig, Skinner, Markgren, Krug, Williams, Fonfara, Gerber, Westphal, Trembley, Baudette, Miller, Stanford, Williams, County Administrator, Corporation Counsel, Co. Clerk, Webmaster & Public Postings

Any person who has a qualifying disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act and requires the meeting or materials at the meeting to be in an accessible format must contact the County Clerk's office at 715/537-6200 at least 24 hours prior to the meeting so that arrangements may be made to accommodate your request.