

BARRON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

March 13th, 2024. 8:00 AM

**Room 2311- East Conference room
335 Monroe Ave, Barron, WI 54812**

Attendees: Armstrong, Westphal, Skinner, Stanford, Okey, Markgren, Boldig, Heller, Williams, Trembley, Neuman, Norby

1. Call Meeting to Order 8:02 am
2. Public Appearances/Comments- None
3. Review Minutes of Previous Meeting—Motion to approve Skinner, Seconded Krug
4. Treasurers Report—Motion by to approve Norby, seconded by Stanford approved
5. Report From The Executive Director on Recent Activity
 - a. Start-ups
 - i. 23 in process—Armstrong briefed on the status of the projects and in time will move forward with most if not all.
 - b. Mfg. Relocations, Expansions update
 - i. Business expansions -1
 - ii. Business purchases - 3
 - c. Workforce Initiatives
 - i. Applying for Workforce grants – 2
WEDC Business Tax Credits incentive passed assembly and senate
 - d. Alcatraz update – Markgren/Armstrong still working through the clean up of the property.
 - e. Housing update
 - i. Developer activities
 1. Multifamily activity – Cumberland broke ground 20 new units
 2. Single Family- discussed with Neuman reiterating the difficulty she is seeing as a realtor to find inventory that is affordable.
 - f. Placemaking – Barron is on hold until road construction is completed, Cumberland- will reach out to for scheduling and Rice Lake will be contacted after the election
 - g. Barron County Tourism
 - i. 2024 Marketing schedule
 - ii. Tourism Book- Discover WI B Roll footage coming to be utilized in social media campaigns through APG Media.
 - h. Childcare- Survey and meetings in the county- half way done doing surveys
 - i. Spring HR Meeting – UWEC-BC looking for interns/job opportunities may delay HR to summertime
 - j. Spring Tourism Meeting-
 - k. Broadband Update- Mosaic Westphal provided an update on the Barron Co awarded grants including Prairie Lake, Barron area, and Rice Lake east by WI PSC. ACP discontinued. Mosaic is looking for opportunities to support bridging the digital divide.
6. Board member comments/questions? Heller brought up the Wild River Trailhead is in need of signage in Rice Lake. There is a committee collecting donations and need a fiscal agent. Motion by Skinner to have the BCEDC act as the fiscal agent for the Wild River Trails signage. Seconded by Williams. Heller abstained to vote; the motion carried.
7. RBF Update- a very large amount of requests 3-4 to review. 3 delinquent. The loan panel continues to work with clients to keep them in good standing.
8. Adjourn Trembley, Seconded Standford

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.