

BARRON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

January 8th 2025 8:00 am

Google Meets Meeting

Wednesday, January 8 · 8:00 – 9:00am

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/cfd-rhwo-abs>

Or dial: (US) +1 551-900-1435 PIN: 796 065 854#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/cfd-rhwo-abs?pin=1495212219356>

MINUTES

Attendees Present: Skinner, Fowler, Armstrong, Beaudette, Heller, Lentz, Krug, Boldig, Miller, Stanford, Westphal, and Leschisin.

- 1. Call Meeting to Order 8:00 AM**
- 2. Public Appearances/Comments NONE**
- 3. Review Minutes of Previous Meeting- WILL BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED IN FEBRUARY**
- 4. Treasurers Report- WILL BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED IN FEBRUARY**
- 5. Report From The Executive Director on Recent Activity**
 - a. Start ups- Still going well**
 - i. 18 in process- continue to be steady; confident all will go through once financials are completed.**
 - ii. Locations Barron, Rice Lake, Cumberland, Cameron and Chetek**
 - b. Mfg. Relocations, Expansions update**
 - i. Business purchases – 2 purchases scheduled to be final in a week, 1 purchase scheduled to be final in 3 weeks. Currently working on reinvigorating the Pulp industry within Barron Co**
 - c. Alcatraz update – Bruce Markgren- no update**
 - d. Housing update- no updates at this time**
 - i. Developer Activity – Updates to discuss**
 - 1. Multifamily activity – Discuss**
 - 2. Single Family - discuss**
 - e. Childcare recap- working with an inhome childcare to get financing for daycare facility for up to 40 children**
 - f. Broadband Update – Mosaic continuing to provide activations within the builds, BEAD applications open next week, and Mosaic has been awarded a Community Connect Grant to the Comstock area scheduled for 2025/2026.**
 - g. Meetings planned:**
 - i. Mayors - Rice Lake, Cumberland, Barron, Chetek, Village Presidents – Cameron, Turtle Lake. The purpose is to establish goals with each community. Individual Goals will be assessed**
 - ii. Employers – I am working on setting up face to face meetings with employers throughout the County. At a minimum, I will meet at a minimum, the top 3-5 employers in each City and Village. The primary purpose is business retention and to gain insight from each as to how they see BCEDC, what priorities each have for their business and how we can assist. All discussion and will be crucial in the discovery to determine the county pulse, growth needs, and how it will affect employment in Barron County.**
 - h. Questions? None.**

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.

6. Board member comments/questions? **Fowler commented on his appreciation to Dave for meeting with the new city administrator and creating a relationship. Lentz confirmed Chetek has approved SC Swiderski for 100+ rental units over next 2 years. Heller provided an update from the property committee that the college student union property is moving forward and they are clarifying specific language and responsibilities among the organizations for the daycare facility to provide care for up to 150 children.**
7. RBF Update- **Representative Pam Fell- Dave Armstrong to reach out to Pam and the RBF for meeting minutes to be reported at the BCEDC meetings going forward.**
8. Adjourn **by President Beaudette at 8:38 am**

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

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