

BARRON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Wednesday April 9th, 2025 8 am- 9 am

2ND Floor East Conference Room
Barron County Government Center
330 E Monroe Ave, Barron WI 54812

MINUTES

ATTENDEES- Armstrong, Okey, Dodge, Gerber, Heller, Lentz, Krug, Westphal, Boldig, Leschisin, Nordby, Stanford

1. Call Meeting to Order **8:03 am**
2. Public Appearances/Comments **NONE**
3. Review Minutes of Previous Meeting **Dodge/Krug Approved**
4. Treasurers Report – **Review next month**
5. Brandi to update on Governor's Fishing Opener Event- **Looking for boat guides 5/19 spaces filled. Family Fishing held in Veterans Park with 100 swag bags for first come, first serve.**
6. Report From The Executive Director on Recent Activity
 - a. Start ups
 - i. 31 in process- **International Companies calling 2 per week inquiring about property and potential facility sites**
 - ii. Locations Barron, Rice Lake, Cumberland, Cameron and Chetek
 - b. Mfg. Relocations, Expansions update
 - i. Business purchases- 5
 - ii. **Wood company to look at sand plant as intermodal facility could facilitate relationship with Cranberries Growers Association**
 - c. Alcatraz update – Bruce Markgren – **Dave Working on DNR Brownsfields clean up program for BESSE site as potential grant**
 - d. City Updates- **Haugen is working on Historic BID districting**
 - e. Childcare updates- Rice Lake facility moving from 8-40 , student center to 150 kids. Cameron School District – Faith Lutheran Kids Center staying

open. Cumberland discussions- Ardisam, 3M, Cumberland Health, and School

- f. Housing update
 - i. Developer Activity – Eau Claire looking at Barron and Rice Lake areas single homes and 4plex.
 - 1. Multifamily activity – Discuss
 - 2. Single Family – discuss
- g. Broadband Update – Mosaic- **COO Preston Pearson CPF grant updates. Chetek/Barron completed. RL spring 2025 completed.** USDA Community Connected Awarded- design, engineering, and permitting process. **BEAD Update timeline announcements anticipated for August. RL City copper conversion project 2025**
- h. Meeting Updates
 - i. Pending Chetek, Village Presidents- Cameron, Turtle Lake. Purpose- establish goals with each community.
 - ii. Haugen Village Board meeting
 - iii. Employers
 - 1. **Henry set to meet**
 - 2. **RL Weighing met**
 - 3. In process- **setting up face to face meetings with employers throughout the county.**
 - i. Questions? **Discussion about Governor's Fishing Opener and having a business BCEDC credit card to facilitate purchases for events. Leschisin made motion, Gerber 2nd, brief discussion of cardholders Brandi and Dave under the Business BCEDC and voted in favor. Motion carried**
- 7. Board member comments/questions **August 19-24th RILIFA Accordion Orchestra coming to Rice Lake and Cumberland for concert.**
- 8. RBF Update- **Lending again. Good sign**
- 9. Adjourn 9:10 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