Barron County Economic Development Corporation

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Date: August 12, 2026
Time: 8:00 a.m.

Attendance

Present:
Beaudette, Fowler, Lentz, Anderson, Stanford, Krug, Dodge, Gerber, Leschisin, Williams, Heller, Markgren, and Fitzgerald

Also Present:
Armstrong, Holub, Oakey, and Bob Z. (Media)

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1. Call to Order -Heller called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

2. Public Appearances/Comments-None

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion: Fowler moved to approve the minutes as presented.
Second: Beaudette
Result: Motion carried.

4. Treasurer's Report

Motion: Beaudette moved to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.
Second: Dodge
Result: Motion carried.

5. Executive Director Report

a. Startup and Business Development Activity

Startups: 51 projects in process, including 6 new opportunities and 2 additional prospects.

Business Assists: 2 active projects, with 1 new opportunity under consideration.

Manufacturing Relocations/Expansions: 3 projects currently in financing.

b. Alcatraz Site Update

SEH is holding another meeting regarding the project.

c. WEDC Ignite Program

Participated in a meeting focused on development of the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

d. Repurposing Former Northern Industrial Sands Property

The project is no longer being considered in Dovre Township.

Alternative locations are being explored in the City of Barron.

e. Opportunity Zone Application Completed

Two sites are being considered:

South half of Rice Lake

Area west and north of Cumberland

f. Housing Update

Continued housing development interest in Rice Lake and Barron.

g. Broadband Update

Broadband Expansion Grant application has been submitted.

The Mosaic Showroom is open.

h. Tourism Update

Tourism dashboard updates were reviewed.

Discover Wisconsin will be visiting Barron County.

Career Day is scheduled for September 17.

i. Economic Development 101

Event will be held jointly with Rusk and Sawyer Counties.

Scheduled for September 22 at 3:00 p.m. at 6/4 Accord.

j. Website RFP

The proposal timeline has been extended due to added interest.

k. Business Retention & Expansion (BRE)

Meetings with large employers are planned following the start of the school year.

l. Equipment Request

A request was presented for a laptop purchase for Brandi, with BCEDC's share estimated at $1,500.

Motion: Fowler moved to approve the expenditure.
Second: Dodge
Result: All members voted in favor; motion carried.

m. Business Awards Banquet

Scheduled for October 2 at 6/4 Accord.

n. Community Strategic Reviews

Strategic community review materials will be distributed via email for discussion at the September meeting.

o. Manufacturing Outreach Center (MOC)

The MOC, which provides manufacturing training and support services, will be sharing BCEDC office space.

p. Priority Discussion

The Board discussed BCEDC's top priorities and how Executive Director Dave Armstrong's time should be allocated: Area identified included: No action taken

Housing development

Startup support

Large-scale development projects

Adjournment: 9:08am

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Fitzgerald
Secretary, Barron County Economic Development Corporation