



North Central Wisconsin Workforce Development Board
CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS Meeting
August 21, 2025 • 9:30 a.m.
Marathon County Job Center, Wausau, WI

Minutes **Approved**

CEO Members Present: Rick Pease virtual via Teams (Adams County), Bill Bialecki (Lincoln County), Ron Skallerud virtual via Teams (Forest County), Steve Maier virtual via Teams (Langlade County), Michael Tautges (Oneida County), and John Hokamp (Wood County).

CEO Members Absent:

Stacey Morache (Marathon County), John Pavelski (Portage County), and Richard Logan (Vilas County).

Staff Present: Brian Kalish, Ginger Keymer, John Cokl, Libby Heidmann, and Peter Gelhar.

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call** – Skallerud called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. and announced quorum. Vice Chair Skallerud volunteered to run the meeting as Chair Pease was having connectivity issues.
2. **Approve Chief Elected Officials' Minutes from June 19, 2025** – Hokamp moved to approve the minutes from June 19, 2025; it was seconded by Bialecki. Motion carried.
3. **Accept Treasurer's Report** – Hokamp moved to accept the Treasurer's Report; it was seconded by Morache. Motion carried.
4. **Approval of new Board Members, Janessa Brickner-Ress and Kyle Alters** – Bialecki moved to approve the new Board Members; it was seconded by Hokamp. Motion carried.
5. **Changes to June Meetings Dates for Board & CEO** – Keymer explained the necessary changes and the CEOs noted the change.
6. **Program Year 2025 One Stop Operator** – Kalish reported that NCWWDB has responded to DWD's Request for Proposals (RFP) and is awaiting a formal response.
7. **Job Centers**
 - **Memorandum of Understanding** – This is an agreement between all partners in our three DWD Job Centers on what services will be delivered at each location. The MOU has been approved by DWD and is currently routing for signatures.
8. **NCWWDB Updates**
 - Mitchell Rupp formally appointed to Board by DWD
 - The September Board Meeting & New Jobs on the Block on September 11, 2025. The Board Meeting will be held in the downtown Wausau branch of Marathon County Public Library. The Hiring event will take place on the 400 block of downtown. Board members are invited and encouraged to attend both. Vouchers for lunch will be provided for use at local food trucks.
 - NCWWDB is collaborating with Mid State on a Hiring Event on September 17. The event will be in Marshfield at the Mid State on Central satellite site for MSTC. Working on raising awareness of both the new job center access point for services as well as Mid-State's satellite office.

- Awards of Excellence on November 12
- Internal Strategic Plan Review
- Internal Review of Employee Handbook underway. Some changes include payout of PTO at termination, change in match date for employee 401K contributions from annual to biweekly,
- Rebranding, new regulation on mileage reimbursements. Changes and updates will be completed by August 30, 2025.
- New name and logo will be revealed at the September 11th Board Meeting.

9. Discussion on Workforce Issues in Each County

- **Adams** –Sales tax and summer tourism are up. The County’s Solid Waste department will have some challenges and increased costs dealing with leachate. A new pumping station is needed.
- **Forest** – Nicolet Hardwoods and DW Flooring are both closed. At least one restaurant in Crandon has closed. Sales tax is up this year, despite reroutes for Hwy 8 construction leading drivers out of Forest County. The County is working directly with National Forest Services on some potential partnerships and collaborations to make up for lost revenue on non-taxable land, increase stewardship, outdoor recreation, tourism, and local revenue.
- **Langlade** – County has received a WEDC grant of \$1 million to bring electric vehicles into a non-operating facility. The project will lead to five full-time jobs. Langlade has increased the number of miles of fiber network from 165 to 212 and is promoting utilization of its TIF District.
- **Lincoln** – Bialecki stated that Senate Bill 291 should be a bipartisan issue. Merrill is still doing great on housing. In the past five years, the City and County have added more than 65 single family homes and over 95 multi-family units. Lincoln is currently undergoing a Facility Study, looking for site, size, and scope of a new Highway Department building. The County finalized the sale of Pine Crest Nursing Home for \$9.5 million; one million more than last year’s price.
- **Marathon** – No report.
- **Oneida** – Oneida has had a great summer with records levels of tourism in the area. Lots of housing projects are currently underway.
- **Portage** – No Report
- **Vilas** – No Report
- **Wood** –The County is still short on childcare providers. Wood is in the midst of its annual budget process. The Data Storage project fell through as the site was ultimately deemed not suitable. A few Rapids restaurants are closed due to lack of staffing. The State Water Ski Championships brought in tens of thousands of spectators to South Wood County Park. The Bluff-to-Bluff Road Bicycle Race in Arpin had 200 participants from around the country. The 50-mile race ran from Powers Bluff to Cary Bluff and back.

October Meeting – The next meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2025, and will be held in person at the Marathon County Job Center.

9. Adjourn – Meeting adjourned at 10:24 a.m.