

**IRON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Iron County Courthouse**  
**Wednesday May 7, 2025**

*Approved: Minutes were approved at the July 2, 2025 regular committee meeting.*

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Larry Youngs.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Recited.
3. **Acknowledge proper meeting posting:** Larry Youngs acknowledged.
4. **Roll Call:**  
Melissa Copp, Melissa Teeple, Adam Tutt, April Doucette, Gary Pelkola, Brooke Gilbertson, Neil Gilbertson, Ken Saari, Autumn Hill, Joel Enking, Joseph Miller, Jamey Francis, Doug Swartz, Larry Youngs, Kurt Wolff, Paul Mullard, Karen Lauer, David Traczyk.
5. **Approval of minutes from March 24, 2025, Economic Development Committee Meeting:**  
Miller stated the March 24 minutes were missing pieces of information, specifically the roll call and motion/second to appoint J. Doucette to Northwest Regional Planning Commission Revolving Loan Fund Committee. Audio recordings and sign-in sheets will be used at future meetings to ensure accurate roll call and a new motion will be taken to appoint Doucette.  
  
Motion to approve with above amendments made by Enking, seconded by Saari. Motion carried unanimously.
6. **Public Comment:**  
Youngs thanked members of the committee for their time and efforts and added that each is a pillar of the community.
7. **Welcome new Hurley Chamber of Commerce Director, Melissa Teeple:**  
Teeple was welcomed by the committee and thanked Copp and the Mercer Chamber of Commerce for assisting with onboarding. B. Gilbertson emphasized the importance of a strong Chamber of Commerce and hopes the Economic Development Committee can help facilitate a strong relationship between the Hurley and Mercer Chambers.
8. **Information presentation from David Traczyk about Iron County Resource Development Association:**  
Traczyk spoke at length about the history of the Iron County Resource Development Association (ICRDA), a private 501(c)6 not-for-profit organization. The ICRDA has worked on various economic development projects in Iron County since 1963, including development of the Hurley Industrial Park. Traczyk gave background information on the Impact Seven housing development land and shared information on undeveloped lots in

Iron County for sale through the ICRDA.

**9. Information report from NWRPC Visions Northwest meeting:**

B. Gilbertson attended, thought the networking was valuable and shared some of the projects other counties have in the works. Members of Visions Northwest are primarily economic development professionals from the NWRPC 10-county area. Additional opportunities for networking were shared, including a WI Lt. Governor Small Business Academy in Hayward and elsewhere around the state, as well as the WEDC Fall Economic Summit in Green Bay this October. The committee discussed the value of attending meetings, conferences, and summits.

**10. Information Update on Revolving Loan Fund:**

Motion to appoint J. Doucette to Northwest Regional Planning Commission Revolving Loan Fund Committee made by A. Doucette, second by Saari. Motion carried unanimously.

No Revolving Loan Fund meeting has occurred yet. Wolff indicated that Iron County has not utilized the NWRPC Revolving Loan Fund much in the past and that the local model was transitioning to a regional model.

**11. Information report from Kurt Wolff, County Board Member and NWRPC Representative:**

Wolff talked about the NWRPC and the networking value of regional meetings. The NWRPC was formed in 1959 by 10 units of county government and Hurley is the northeastern edge. NWRPC is headquartered in Spooner and facilitates specialty projects in the region, including data gathering/surveys and revolving loan funds. Wolff mentioned a database of county and regional economic data, members of the committee expressed interest in accessing the data. Miller stated he would make it available electronically.

**12. Information presentation on NWRPC and Economic Development Resources:**

Tabled.

**13. Information update on USDA Rural Partners Network:**

Miller shared that the USDA Rural Partners Network office that provides services to Iron County released all of its staff through a resignation or termination decision. The office remains open, however there are no staff. Members of the committee expressed thanks to Iron County's RPN liaison Laura West-Kralcik.

**14. Information update on Wisconsin REV:**

Miller shared that Hurley was accepted into the Wisconsin REV cohort 2 and that he would send information about the kickoff meeting to members of the REV core team (Ken Saari, Julia Pusateri, Julie Doucette, Brooke Gilbertson, Neil Gilbertson, Rick Boes, Jamey Francis, Autumn Hill). Additionally, there will be an informal meet-and-greet

between REV cohort 1 and 2 in Wisconsin Rapids on June 16<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm.

**15. Discussion on Iron County logo, branding, and style guide:**

Youngs stated that Iron County staff and community members are developing new logos and branding materials. He shared some early concept designs and Miller shared information on the website update along with a layout example of what the new site will look like. Miller asked for volunteers to help guide content for the website. A. Doucette, B. Gilbertson, Enking, Copp, and Teeple volunteered.

**16. Determine next steps for Iron County waterfall brochure:**

The committee discussed the importance of the waterfall brochure and it was agreed that the committee should reprint the document with updated information. However, both Chambers of Commerce have enough stock on hand to make it through the summer and a rush to reprint is not necessary.

**17. Recommendation to Iron County Board of Supervisors to formally recognize Iron County Economic Development Committee members:**

Youngs invited members of the committee to an upcoming board meeting for recognition before the Iron County Board of Supervisors.

**18. Adjournment:**

Prior to adjournment, N. Gilbertson shared information and a scale model of two spec homes developed in Ironwood. The committee had previously expressed interest in the properties and Gilbertson contacted the developers to learn more.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm.

*Minutes recorded by Joseph Miller, reviewed by Rebecca Holm.*