

**City of Battle Lake  
Economic Development Authority  
Thursday, January 8, 2026**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in a regular session on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 7:00 a.m. with Randy Dorn, Rich Bullard, Rob Nudell, Steve Young, Sharon Casey, Josie Thomopolous, Marjorie Quammen and Rob Nudell were present. Also present were Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director, and Reba Gilliland representing the Battle Lake Arts Advisory Committee.

Nudell made a motion to approve the agenda. Quammen seconded. MCU Young made a motion to approve the minute. Casey seconded. MCU Nudell made a motion to approve the financials as presented. Dorn seconded. MCU

**Election of Officers**

Nudell made a motion to approve the following slate of officers for the next three months: President – Randy Dorn, Vice President – Steve Young, and Val Martin, Secretary/Treasurer. Casey seconded. MCU Dorn has agreed to remain president for the first quarter of the year. He plans to resign/retire from his position at the March meeting after 10 years of service.

**Business Improvement Program**

No updates other than the Lions Club have decided not to donate the second round as it's not something they normally contribute to.

**Annual Meeting**

- Annual Meeting Thursday, February 5, 2025 – School Commons Area – Ben Winchester, Speaker and we will have a burger bar from Shoreline
- The agenda was reviewed for the meeting

**CEDA Application Funded – Follow-Up Information**

- Initial Meeting set for Friday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. at City Hall
- The program is a 12-week project starting January 8<sup>th</sup> that will provide 135 hours of technical assistance to the EDA. There are two consultants who will be working on the project and have expressed interest in getting community input before expanding the group. The group discussed potential participants for the project, including local business owners and healthcare professionals. Val agreed to follow up with some contacts to gauge their interest in joining the initiative

**EDA/Council Work Session – Discussion on Topics/Goals**

- Discussion on what to discuss/what the EDA's authority is, etc.
- The commissioners decided to change the work session, contingent on Council approval and availability, to March 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.
- Review and discussion on goals and the Council's strategic plan
  - reviewed the city's strategic plan and identified housing and childcare as priority areas.
  - The Commissioners decided to send a letter to Sanford regarding Sanford's future plans for the additional property they own. The letter will be signed by both Dorn and Martin.
  - Childcare – there is still a shortage, especially for infants.
  - A community space came up as an important addition. The LACC is still exploring these options.
  - They also discussed the idea of adding a sales tax for community center funding, though this would require further investigation.

- Casey and Martin have met with Otter Tail County to discuss what we would like included in the survey information.
- Nudell reviewed school updates, including ongoing construction projects and facility improvements.
- Casey reported exploring a \$50,000 grant opportunity for auditorium improvements and noted upcoming volunteer appreciation event.

- **Upcoming:**

- Thursday, January 15, 2026 – The Lincoln Apartments Open House 3-4:30 p.m.
- Monday, January 26, 2026 – TriCity Collaborative Meeting (Rescheduled)
- Joint EDA/Council Work Session – Tuesday, January 27, 2026
- Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup> – Lakes Veterinary Clinic Ribbon Cutting
- ESMC Event – February 11<sup>th</sup> 6-8 p.m.
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- **2026 Community Roundtables:**

- April 15
- September 16
- November 18

Adjourn at 8:15 a.m.



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Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer