

**City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Tuesday, December 4, 2025**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in a regular session on Thursday, November 6, 2025, 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, Derek Tysdal, Councilmember and Reba Gilliland representing the Battle Lake Arts Advisory Committee. A copy of the agenda was posted prior to the meeting stating there would be a quorum of the council in attendance. Mark Christensen was also attending.

Young made a motion to approve the agenda. Nudell seconded. MCU Bullard made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Casey seconded. Tysdal questioned the EDA's comments in the minutes on transparency stating that the proposal from Mark Christensen came in after the last EDA meeting. It was noted that the comment meant transparency related to the Glendalough property purchase and other land options in general. The EDA was not aware of the plan that Mark Christensen presented to the council ahead of time. MCU Nudell made a motion to approve the financials as presented. Casey seconded. MCU

A letter from Attorney Cline was distributed to the council members in attendance. Through Attorney Cline's email to Martin, he suggested between the Mayor and Councilmember Quammen, the recommendation in the letter should be made known to the EDA. The letter said that the Council and EDA need to strictly adhere to the Open Meeting law and all action involving the Stich or Swedberg properties be paused due to some complaints of Open Meeting Law violations. The Commissioners decided to only discuss the proposed swap and will make no recommendations either way.

Land Purchase – Martin described the proposed land swap between the Stich property and a piece of property owned by Swedberg's which was proposed by Mark Christensen at the last council meeting. The price for infrastructure was received from Jade Berube, City engineer, for both the Stich and Swedberg property. Mark Christensen was present and contributed to the conversation. A synopsis of what was discussed is below with no recommendations being made.

- Christensen plans to present a formal proposal to the City Council next week which includes a land swap and cash component. He provided his opinion on the advantages of the swap.
- The proximity to infrastructure on both properties was discussed and the importance of City services to some developers.
- The need for housing development to address school declining enrollment and attract families was discussed.
- There was a discussion on the benefits and challenges of city services with some personal preferences to possibly include larger lots with private wells and septic systems.
- There was an emphasis on the importance of making well-informed decisions to maintain good relationships with stakeholders.

The CEDA application was completed and submitted for Business Retention and Expansion.

The EDA is a member of Otter Tail Lakes Country and that membership includes getting data reports that track things like number of visitors to the community at a specific time. The EDA can receive four reports a year with Casey suggesting that a marketing flyer using this data to attract businesses might be helpful. The commissioners agreed to get the raw data and discuss the use of the data at the next EDA meeting.

Upcoming:

- Tri-City Collaborative Meeting, Monday, December 8th 6 pm–Henning Community Center
- BL Community Design Event - Wednesday, December 10 6-8 pm – School Commons
- Next EDA Meeting January 8, 2026 (First Thursday is a holiday)
- Joint EDA/Council Work Session – Tuesday, January 27, 2026
- Annual Meeting Thursday, February 5, 2025 – School Commons Area – Ben Winchester, Speaker
- **2026 Community Roundtables:**
 - January 21
 - April 15
 - September 16
 - November 18

Adjourn at 8:05 a.m.



Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer