

**City of Battle Lake  
Economic Development Authority  
Tuesday, October 9, 2025**

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in a regular session on Thursday, October 9, 2025, at 7:00 a.m. with Randy Dorn, Rich Bullard, Rob Nudell, Steve Young, Sharon Casey, Josie Thomopolous, Rob Nudell and Majorie Quammen 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. Young seconded. MCU Casey made a motion to approve the minutes. Quammen seconded. MCU Nudell made a motion to approve the financials as presented. Bullard seconded. MCU

**Business Improvement Program.** The commissioners discussed the Business Improvement Program, including additional applications that came in after the funding was distributed along with a future application to the CDA with matching funds. Martin suggested making a request to the City Council to add an amount for the Business Improvement Program for matching funds. The City's alley paving project will affect several of the applications because they must be done in conjunction with each other. It doesn't appear that the paving will happen this fall. The program guidelines state that the project must be completed within one year of the date that the grant was approved by the EDA. Young made a motion to extend the deadline for the 2025 projects to be completed by September 30, 2026. Dorn seconded. MCU

**EDA Annual Meeting**

- Thursday, February 5, 2025
- Location – School Commons Area – Possibly using the auditorium for the program
- Food – First choice is Shoreline – Second choice is Battle Lake Boathouse. Martin will work on this.
- Program – Ben Winchester, U of M talking about housing statistics

**EDA Authority & Review of Bylaws and Enabling Resolution**

The meeting focused on reviewing funding tools available through the Economic Development Authority (EDA), including traditional funding methods like the EDA levy, CDA, WC Initiative Fund, and Minnesota Investment Fund. Val said the limitations of the EDA are listed in statute along with the enabling resolution and bylaws. Information from Traci Ryan, financial advisor, that provided some ideas that All these ideas need to have council approval. The group also discussed the pros and cons of implementing a loan program, with Randy noting that City Attorney, JJ Cline has expressed caution based on past city losses, while others noted West Central Initiative's success with gap financing. The conversation ended with a discussion on the potential risks and benefits of a loan program, emphasizing the need to consider community needs and the city's risk tolerance. The group also had a conversation related to developing an "Angel Investor" loan program. This program would be funded through investors that choose to finance projects and developments in the community.

**Joint City Council and EDA Meeting** – Commissioners propose a date/time of October 28<sup>th</sup> starting at 5:00 p.m.

**TriCity is holding a community collaborative meeting on Monday, October 27, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ottertail Community Center. EDA members are encourage to attend.**

**Community Economic Development Strategies**

The group discussed economic development strategies for their community, focusing on attracting new businesses and supporting existing ones. They explored ideas like winter marketing campaigns, utilizing community spaces, and collaborating with other towns.

The commissioners reviewed updates on property purchases and long-term planning with a suggestions to the council. They also discussed upcoming events and presentations, including the Christmas tree lighting, Battle Lake Craft Fair, Tour of Homes, Santa Day, etc. The group agreed to continue exploring opportunities and tourism initiatives to boost year-round economic activity.

The next meeting was scheduled for November 6, 2025 at 7:00 a.m.

Adjourn at 8:02 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Valerie J. Martin".

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Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer