

City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Tuesday, August 7, 2025

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority met in a regular session on Thursday, August 7, 2025, at 7:00 a.m. with Rich Bullard, Rob Nudell, Steve Young, Sharon Casey, Josie Thomopolous, and Majorie Quammen present. Absent was Randy Dorn. Also present were Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director, and Reba Gilliland representing the Battle Lake Arts Advisory Committee.

Bullard made a motion to approve the agenda. Nudell seconded. MCU Casey made a motion to approve the minutes. Young seconded. MCU Nudell made a motion to approve the financials as presented. Bullard seconded. MCU

Visitors: University of Minnesota Extension Presentation

Fernando, a community economics educator with the University of Minnesota Extension, presented on available programs and resources.

- **Details**
 - **Fernando:** Introduced himself as the regional educator for the West Central region covering 11 counties, originally from Colombia
 - **Fernando:** Presented various programs including economic impact analysis, business succession planning, retail trade analysis, workforce development, and tourism assessment
 - **Fernando:** Emphasized that Extension can facilitate community discussions and strategic planning sessions
 - **EDA Commissioners** expressed interest in regional collaboration between communities
 - **Consideration of** bringing together planning, economic development, and council for strategic alignment.
- **Conclusion**
 - Extension offers numerous resources that align with Battle Lake's current initiatives
 - Fernando will share his presentation with the group for reference
 - Extension can help facilitate community discussions about growth and development

Business Improvement Program Update

- Reported that one grant has been paid out for Dairy Queen
- Noted there were three additional applications after the program closed with Seip Drug starting their project very soon.
- Alley Project - the bids have been opened, and the City Council will award the bid next week. Timing of construction will be either fall or next spring dependent on the availability of the concrete workers.
- Discussed if there could be additional funding to continue the program
- Request the Council consider budgeting annually for these types of projects

School Updates

The school superintendent provided updates on the upcoming school year and strategic initiatives.

- Confirmed school will start on September 2nd despite construction rumors
- Discussed marketing campaign to increase enrollment
- Reported on meeting with homeschool families to explore collaboration
- Shared information from meeting with Native American liaisons regarding mascot concerns. Battle Lake is not on any list requiring mascot changes
- Discussed potential collaboration with Ashby School on activities, staff, sports and robotics
- School construction is progressing well

LACC Updates

Sharon provided updates on LACC activities.

- Announced an end-of-summer event on August 30th at the former Stub Slot
- Described the event as a "last dance at Stubbs" with a DJ playing music from the 50s-70s
- Mentioned future plans to potentially hold similar events at the airport

Community Roundtable

Brief discussion about the upcoming community roundtable event.

- The community roundtable will be held on September 17th at the Shoreline
- Consider sharing results from the business survey
- Tourism data will be presented at the November roundtable meeting

Empowering Small Minnesota Cities Program - Update on the housing visioning project.

- The housing visioning meeting will be held on August 20th
- It was noted that about 20 people are part of the core group currently meeting.
- Commissioners suggested expanding the visioning beyond housing to include other community needs

Property Acquisition - The City Council is looking at property acquisition for possible commercial and housing development

Adjourn at 8:02 a.m.



Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer