

City of Battle Lake
Economic Development Authority
Tuesday, February 6, 2025

The Battle Lake Economic Development Authority held its annual meeting on Tuesday, February 6, 2025, at noon at the Battle Lake School Media Center with Rich Bullard, Randy Dorn, Rob Nudell, and Majorie Quammen present. Absent was Josie Thomopolous. Val Martin, Clerk/Treasurer/EDA Director, was also present. Approximately 60 people were in attendance with lunch being served by the Rusty Nail.

Welcome by Superintendent Rob Nudell.

Attendee introductions were made. Randy Dorn introduced the members of the EDA.

Guest Speaker, Ian Carlstrom from West Central MN SBDC spoke on their services. They provide a no-cost, one-on-one, consulting for startups and existing businesses to help with financing, marketing, business planning, and more. They have other programs beyond the one-on-one training such as webinars, assistance to Economic Development partners, and low-cost workshops.

Sharon Casey from the Lake Area Community Center spoke on their projects.

- Reviewed the activities they worked on in 2024.
 - Ninja Everywhere – Kickoff to Summer brought in 500 kids and families
 - Wenonga Days
 - Jack-o-Lantern Jubilee
 - Kites on Ice
 - Business promotions in the spring and fall – “Hop into Spring” and “The Hunt is On,”
- In 2025 they reframed their goals and mission. With that, they officially changed their name to Lakes Area Community and Commerce.
- They will continue to work on their four pillar events
- A new website has been created – LakesConnect.org. This website has an easier calendar option along with a business directory that allows each business to connect its information to the website.

Superintendent Rob Nudell and Principal Ryan Syverson provided an update on the upcoming school building project.

Kristi Kuder provided an update on Art of the Lakes and the work at the Creative Arts Center. They are working to connect with other age groups by offering a different variety of art classes. The added movement has helped increase their membership. They have partnered with the school to offer classes for some of the younger students and also partnered with the Andrea Theater to provide theater productions at the CAC. Many new things are coming in the future. They continue to write grants to help support Art of the Lakes and the Creative Art Center but more help will be needed and they will be requesting donations from the community to fill the gap.

Superintendent Nudell reported that the City and the school have been cooperatively working on a grant application for a Safe room (tornado shelter). It would be connected to the school and would be a multi-use facility. The pre-application has been submitted and another application will be required if we are chosen in the first round.

Randy Dorn provided an overview of the Year in Review with the meeting ending at 1:30 p.m.

Valerie Martin