

Wisconsin Brownfields Study Group
October 10, 2019 | 10:00am – 3:00pm
Oshkosh Waterfront Hotel and Convention Center
K.M. Hutchinson Room
1 North Main Street | Oshkosh, Wis. | 54901
Conference Call Option: 1-855-947-8255 | Passcode: 6612 745#

WEDC Update

- Missy Hughes, Secretary and CEO
 - Formerly General Counsel and Chief Mission Officer with Organic Valley, an organic food brand and independent cooperative of organic farmers based in La Farge. Organic Valley is the nation's largest farmer-owned organic cooperative and one of the world's largest organic consumer brands.
 - Started October 1
 - Currently on a Listening Tour with WEDC's nine regional economic development partners - Visions Northwest; Momentum West; 7 Rivers Alliance; Prosperity Southwest; Grow North; Centergy; the Madison Regional Economic Partnership; the New North, and Milwaukee 7. – and with local government officials, business leaders, educators, and other state, local and regional economic partners.
 - Monday, Oct. 7: Rhinelander, Wausau and Phillips
 - Tuesday, Oct. 8: Stevens Point and Green Bay
 - Wednesday, Oct. 9: Green Bay, Manitowoc, Appleton and Waukesha
 - Thursday, Oct. 10: Milwaukee and Madison
 - Friday, Oct. 11: Eau Claire
 - Monday, Oct. 14: La Crosse and Prairie du Chien
- Community Development Program Budgets Approved by the WEDC Board and Opportunity Zone Incentives
 - Site Assessment Grant - \$1,500,000
 - OZ - match reduced from 50% to 20% of award
 - Brownfields Grant - \$3,000,000
 - OZ - match reduced from 70% to 50% pf project costs
 - Community Development Investment Grant - \$6,000,000
 - OZ - applicants may apply for more than one grant per year based on available funding
 - Idle Sites Redevelopment Grant - \$2,500,000
 - OZ - commercial site size is reduced to five acres from ten acres
- Business Development Program Opportunity Zone Incentives
 - Business Development Loan Program – lower interest rate
 - Business Development Tax Credits – credits may exceed amount as determined by calculating the amount that could be earned through Job Creation or Capital Investment

- Workforce Training Grant – percentage of costs reimbursed increased from 50% to 75%
- Demand for Programs
 - Extremely high for Community Development Investment Grant
 - High for Brownfields Grant and Idle Sites Redevelopment Grant
 - Will be looking at possible reallocation of funds in January or February to meet the demand.
- The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) is launching a new website to help connect new and existing businesses in Wisconsin with the buyers, suppliers and service providers they need.
 - The new Wisconsin Supplier Network (WSN), which can be found at www.wisconsin-supplier-network.com will take the place of the previous Wisconsin Supply Chain Marketplace site. It features a free online directory of suppliers and services as well as a communications platform that provides regular newsletters and alerts to promote new business opportunities, supplier development resources and industry networking initiatives.
- In response to a requester from Governor Evers earlier this year, the WEDC Board of Directors has named 15 members to a new Entrepreneurship and Innovation Committee. The committee will be co-chaired by Joe Kirgues, co-founder of Milwaukee-based Gener8tor, and Rebecca Cooke, owner of Eau Claire-based Red's Mercantile and founder of the Red Letter Grant. Both are also members of the WEDC Board of Directors.
- WEDC is currently accepting applications from nonprofit and community-based organizations for the Entrepreneurship Support Program. This program, which is designed to advance the statewide climate for entrepreneurship, provides financial assistance of between \$10,000 and \$100,000 for projects that promote entrepreneurship and provide Wisconsin entrepreneurs with key resources, including training, mentorship, and business development and financial services.
- For the fourth consecutive year, WEDC will be awarding grants to school districts for Fabrication Laboratories or Fab Labs. This is an extremely popular program that supports STEM or Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics curriculum in Wisconsin middle and high schools. The maximum grant is \$25,000 and it must be matched by the school district. The application period will open on October 15 with applications due by December 12. Grants will be awarded in March or April of 2020.