CALL TO ORDER
Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Jeff Wrobel, President of the LADCO Board, thanked the EDF Committee for allowing LADCO members to share information at the last meeting and for the County’s financial support of LADCO. They continue to work with the synergy efforts; collaborate on various efforts to recruit and retain recent college grads in the area; and have been in communication with representatives from 7 Rivers to discuss workforce development.

Bob Burg, Director and member of the LADCO Board was also present to give a brief update of LADCO’s 2019 Work Plan. The four items on this plan for 2019 are:

1. Reinstate Customer Call Program and WISE Workforce Development Program
2. Assist the Synergy Partners in providing administrative support
3. Focus on economic development including criteria for determining the impact of that development on tax revenues for the County and the municipalities
4. In collaboration with LIPCO, they have started a strategic plan to repurpose the malls in La Crosse County that are struggling.

Mr. Burg also thanked the County for their support.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 4, 2018 LA CROSSE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND, INC. MEETING
MOTION by Holtze/McKenney to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2018 La Crosse County Economic Development Fund, Inc. meeting. Motion carried unanimously; Kruse, Augustine, Weidenbach and Wettstein excused.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON 2019 BUDGET
The 2019 Budget was introduced and discussed at last month’s meeting. Included in the packets were the Business Park Non-TIF and TIF Budgets, as well as the Economic Development budget. Brian Fukuda explained that the Workforce Projects line item is basically a placeholder and allows us to budget for workforce projects. If money is not spent, it stays in excess sales tax reserve. Committee members suggested that staff report back to the EDF Committee when the membership dues are actually paid out to the various organizations. There were discussions regarding the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission, which is a 9 county region, and how much of these funds have been spent in La Crosse County and surrounding municipalities.

MOTION by Giese/Hampson to make a recommendation to approve the proposed economic development budgets on to the Executive Committee. Motion carried; O’Malley abstained; Kruse, Augustine, Weidenbach and Wettstein excused.
REQUEST FROM HOLISTIC HOME CARE TO AMEND LOAN CONDITION
At the time the agenda went out, Holistic Home Care had requested an amendment. At this point, Lee Vue has decided to withdraw the request.

REQUEST TO SERVE AS APPROVAL BOARD FOR WEDC DISASTER RECOVERY MICROLOAN PROGRAM FOR LA CROSSE COUNTY
WEDC has created a new Disaster Recovery Microloan Program and has asked MRRPC to administer that program in this region. This program provides a short-term source of funding to assist impacted businesses with immediate needs following a disaster. Greg Flogstad distributed the Disaster Recovery Microloan Business application. MRRPC is requesting that the LCEDF Board serve as the review and approval board for applications to this program that are located within La Crosse County. 120 businesses have been identified that were flooded; 3 are in La Crosse County. There is $600,000 available in funding. MOTION by Mckenney/Holtze to approve the request for the La Crosse County Economic Development Fund, Inc. to serve as the review committee for the Disaster Recovery Microloan Program; Motion carried unanimously; Kruse, Augustine, Weidenbach and Wettstein excused.

CDBG – CLOSE UPDATE
Brian Fukuda touched base with the State, and they have not heard back from HUD on the proposal, so there is no update on the timeline and potential structure for the program. During this timeframe, until we actually start the CLOSE process, we are still able to make loans out of this fund. Staff has reached out to Skipperliner Acquisitions to try to gauge the risk of buying that loan out – it appears that we have a fairly solid security position on that loan. It would be an “all or nothing” deal; either buy out all 3 loans or none of them.

AGENCY UPDATES:
- Tommy Thompson will be speaking at the LADCO annual meeting; Patti Balacek will send out information to the committee.
- The 7 Rivers Alliance will be holding their State of the Region Annual Meeting on November 14th at the AmericInn.

NEXT MEETING – December 6, 2018 – 7:30 A.M.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS – CDBG CLOSE Updates

ADJOURN
There being no further business, MOTION by Holtze/Miller to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 a.m. Motion carried unanimously; Kruse, Augustine, Weidenbach and Wettstein excused.

APPROVED January 3, 2019 - Terri Pavlic, Recorder