

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

COUNTY BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 21, 2023

CHIPPEWA COUNTY COURTHOUSE, RM 302

6:00 PM

NOTE: THE COUNTY BOARD MEETING WILL NOT BE LIVE STREAMED ON YOUTUBE DUE TO THE MEETING BEING A CLOSED SESSION

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE**
3. **ROLL CALL**

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived	Departed
Dean Gullickson	Chippewa County	District 5 (Chair)	Present		
Ken Schmitt	Chippewa County	District 3 (Vice-Chair)	Present		
James Flater	Chippewa County	District 1	Present		
Harold Steele	Chippewa County	District 2	Present		
David Bischel	Chippewa County	District 4	Present		
Glen Sikorski	Chippewa County	District 6	Present		
Jason Bergeron	Chippewa County	District 7	Present		
James Ericksen	Chippewa County	District 8	Present		
Joel Seidlitz	Chippewa County	District 9	Present		
Matthew Peterson	Chippewa County	District 10	Present		
Roger Calkins	Chippewa County	District 11	Present		
Charles Bomar	Chippewa County	District 12	Present		
Caden Berg	Chippewa County	District 13	Present		
Robert Teuteberg	Chippewa County	District 14	Present		
David Eisenhuth	Chippewa County	District 15	Absent		
Ronald McGill	Chippewa County	District 16	Present		
George Rohmeyer	Chippewa County	District 17	Present		
Annette Hunt	Chippewa County	District 18	Present		
Chuck Hull	Chippewa County	District 19	Present		6:23 PM
Dean Mueller	Chippewa County	District 20	Present		
Kari Ives	Chippewa County	District 21	Present		

Others present in room 302 were Lori Zwiefelhofer, Randy Scholz, Doug Clary, Todd Pauls, Traci Bremness, Jaclyn Sadler, Charlie Walker and Dan

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

County Board

Minutes
Special Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

February 21, 2023
6:00 PM

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Charles Bomar, District 12
SECONDER:	David Bischel, District 4
AYES:	Gullickson, Schmitt, Flater, Steele, Bischel, Sikorski, Bergeron, Ericksen, Seidlitz, Peterson, Calkins, Bomar, Berg, Teuteberg, McGill, Rohmeyer, Hunt, Hull, Mueller, Ives
ABSENT:	Eisenhuth

5. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO BE HEARD

There were no members of the public wishing to be heard.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Res. 11 - 23 : Resolution to Authorize Participation in the BEAD Grant Program

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Chuck Hull, District 19
SECONDER:	Ronald McGill, District 16
AYES:	Gullickson, Schmitt, Flater, Steele, Bischel, Sikorski, Bergeron, Ericksen, Seidlitz, Peterson, Calkins, Bomar, Berg, Teuteberg, McGill, Rohmeyer, Hunt, Hull, Mueller, Ives
ABSENT:	Eisenhuth

2. Closed Session - The County Board will convene in Closed Session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statutes Sec. 19.85(1)(e) "Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public properties . . . or conducting other specified business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session" (Report on potential site location(s) for future business park).

The County Board went into closed session. The following people went into closed session with the County Board Supervisors: Randy Scholz, Lori Zwiefelhofer, Doug Clary, Todd Pauls, Traci Bremness, Charlie Walker and Jaclyn Sadler

RESULT:	APPROVED [19 TO 0]
MOVER:	Jason Bergeron, District 7
SECONDER:	Annette Hunt, District 18
AYES:	Gullickson, Schmitt, Flater, Steele, Bischel, Sikorski, Bergeron, Ericksen, Peterson, Calkins, Bomar, Berg, Teuteberg, McGill, Rohmeyer, Hunt, Hull, Mueller, Ives
ABSTAIN:	Seidlitz
ABSENT:	Eisenhuth

3. The County Board will reconvene to open session to continue with the agenda

County Board

Minutes
Special Meeting

Chippewa County Courthouse, Rm 302

February 21, 2023
6:00 PM

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Glen Sikorski, District 6
SECONDER:	Jason Bergeron, District 7
AYES:	Gullickson, Schmitt, Flater, Steele, Bischel, Sikorski, Bergeron, Ericksen, Seidlitz, Peterson, Calkins, Bomar, Berg, Teuteberg, McGill, Rohmeyer, Hunt, Mueller, Ives
ABSENT:	Eisenhuth, Hull

7. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

8. ADJOURN

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Ericksen, District 8
SECONDER:	David Bischel, District 4
AYES:	Gullickson, Schmitt, Flater, Steele, Bischel, Sikorski, Bergeron, Ericksen, Seidlitz, Peterson, Calkins, Bomar, Berg, Teuteberg, McGill, Rohmeyer, Hunt, Mueller, Ives
ABSENT:	Eisenhuth, Hull

**STATEMENT OF EXPLANATION**

Resolution No. 11 - 23

**RES. 11-23: RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION IN THE
BROADBAND EQUITY, ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) LOCAL
PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM - RANDY SCHOLZ**

1 Passage of this resolution will formally authorize Chippewa County to opt into the
2 Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Local Planning Grants program. The total
3 grant funding is \$1.5 million dollars and is part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
4 and will be allocated to Wisconsin counties and federally recognized Tribes that opt into the
5 program. It is estimated that Chippewa County would receive between \$12,000 - \$16,000
6 dollars to be used to generate locally informed analysis of broadband needs and develop each
7 community's vision for broadband development. Local planning activities may include a needs
8 assessment, outreach and stakeholder engagement, and a strategy for broadband deployment.
9 County and Tribal planning activities will inform Wisconsin's Five-Year Broadband Action Plan
10 and future grant funding for broadband infrastructure projects across the state.

11 The BEAD Local Planning Grants are not competitive grants, but rather based on formula
12 funding to determine the allocation for each applicant that elects to participate in the program.
13 Participation is not required, however if Chippewa County chooses not to participate, then the
14 county may lose the opportunity to access future broadband funding. The grant funding will be
15 distributed equally to all participating counties and Tribes, and entities choosing to collaborate
16 in Regional Development Organizations (REDO's) will receive an additional 10 percent of the
17 base allocation. Chippewa County's REDO is Momentum West. The County Administrator is
18 recommending that Chippewa County opt in to the BEAD grant program collaboratively with
19 Momentum West. The online BEAD Local Grant Program Participation Form must be submitted
20 by March 7, 2023. The attached PSC letter regarding the BEAD program provides further
21 details.

Resolution No. 11 - 23

**RES. 11-23: RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE PARTICIPATION IN THE BROADBAND EQUITY,
ACCESS AND DEPLOYMENT (BEAD) LOCAL PLANNING GRANT PROGRAM - RANDY SCHOLZ**

WHEREAS, the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program provides \$42.45 billion to expand high-speed internet access by funding planning, infrastructure deployment and adoption programs in all 50 states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

WHEREAS, on February 1, 2023, the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) approved allocation of this formula funding to Wisconsin counties and federally recognized Tribes in the amount of \$1.5 million for those counties and Tribes that opt into the program; and

WHEREAS, the purposes of the BEAD grant funding is to generate locally informed analysis of broadband needs and develop Chippewa County's vision for broadband development; and

WHEREAS, to fulfill the purpose of the BEAD grant funding, Chippewa County may need to complete a needs assessment, do outreach and stakeholder engagement, and develop a strategy for broadband deployment; and

WHEREAS, these BEAD grant funded local planning activities will be completed statewide to inform Wisconsin's Five-Year Broadband Action Plan, including future grant funding for broadband infrastructure projects across the State; and

WHEREAS, the BEAD grant funding will be distributed equally to all participating counties and Tribes, and entities choosing to collaborate in Regional Development Organizations (REDO's) will receive an additional 10 percent of the base allocation; and

WHEREAS, Chippewa County's REDO is Momentum West and it is the County Administrator's recommendation that Chippewa County opt in to the BEAD grant program collaboratively with Momentum West as Chippewa County does not have the resources to complete these broadband planning activities; and

WHEREAS, to be eligible for the BEAD Local Planning Grant funding, Chippewa County must submit a BEAD Local Planning Grant Program Participation Form to the Broadband Office of the PSC by March 7, 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Chippewa County hereby authorizes participation in the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Local Planning Grants

program and commits to complying with all related grant requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Administrator is authorized to be the primary point of contact regarding the BEAD Local Planning Program and is authorized to complete and file the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program Participation Form with the Broadband Office of the Public Service Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Administrator provide periodic updates to the County Board regarding the BEAD Grant program, how the County is intending to use the BEAD grant funding, how the funding is being applied, and any strategy that is developed for broadband deployment in Chippewa County as part of the BEAD grant funding program.

Forwarded to the County Board by the Executive Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact to Chippewa County by passage of this resolution, however passage will lead to grant funds being awarded to the County.

02/21/2023 County Board

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Chuck Hull, District 19

SECONDER: Ronald McGill, District 16

AYES: Gullickson, Schmitt, Flater, Steele, Bischel, Sikorski, Bergeron, Ericksen, Seidlitz, Peterson, Calkins, Bomar, Berg, Teuteberg, McGill, Rohmeyer, Hunt, Hull, Mueller, Ives

ABSENT: David Eisenhuth

Approved as to Form:

Todd A. Pauls
Todd A. Pauls, Corporation Counsel

2/14/2023

Lori Zwiefelhofer
Lori Zwiefelhofer, Finance Director

2/14/2023

Randy B. Scholz
Randy B. Scholz, County Administrator

2/14/2023



Department of Administration

Randy B. Scholz, County Administrator

February 13, 2023

TO: County Board Supervisors

FR: Randy Scholz

RE: Wisconsin Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Local Planning Grant Program

On Wednesday, February 8, 2023, we received a letter from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) regarding upcoming funds for broadband initiatives. This is the first information we received about these funds and unfortunately there is a short turn-around for the County to respond.

The BEAD funds will be available to all counties and federally recognized Tribes. The BEAD Local Planning Grants are not competitive grants. They use formula funding to determine the allocation for each applicant that elects to participate in the program. Participation is not required. However, if we chose not to participate then we may lose the opportunity to access funding. Funding will be distributed equally to all participating counties and Tribes, and those collaborating in groups will receive an additional 10 percent of the base allocation.

If we want to participate then we **need to submit the letter of intent by March 7, 2023.**

If the County wishes to participate, the only way we will meet this timeline is to have an Executive Committee meeting on February 21st, prior to the special County Board meeting. This will allow us the ability to bring forward a resolution for approval.

Attached is a copy of the letter we received along with a map of Wisconsin Regional Economic Development Partners.

At this time the details of this program are not fully known, which is frustrating, as they are forcing us to meet an aggressive timeline, or possibly miss out on an opportunity for funding in Chippewa County. The PSC will be releasing more information and the online application form. The Wisconsin Broadband Office will then inform those participating when the formula has been processed and the application is open, likely by March 13, 2023.

Sincerely,

Randy Scholz
County Administrator

Attachment (2)

- PSC Letter
- WEDC Regional Economic Development Partners Map (REDOs)

February 8, 2023

Dear County Officials, Representatives, and other Staff,

Please review the attached letter and participation form regarding upcoming funds for broadband planning available to all counties and federally recognized Tribes through the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin's Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) Local Planning Grant program.

Thank you for your partnership and support as we all work to make high speed internet service accessible and affordable for all Wisconsinites.

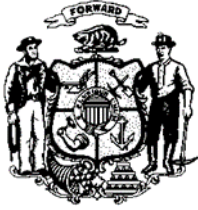
Sincerely,

Wisconsin Broadband Office

Division of Digital Access, Consumer and Environmental Affairs

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

PSCStateBroadbandOffice@wisconsin.gov



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Chairperson
Ellen Nowak, Commissioner
Tyler Huebner, Commissioner

4822 Madison Yards Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

February 7, 2023

Dear County Executives, Administrators, and Administrative Coordinators:

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin is committed to making high-speed internet accessible and affordable for all Wisconsinites. Throughout 2023, the Commission's Broadband Office will be engaging with a wide range of stakeholders to develop a Five-Year Action Plan for broadband and State Digital Equity Plan under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) and Digital Equity programs. These statewide plans will serve as Wisconsin's roadmap to the implementation of high-speed internet for all.

It is a federal requirement that 5-year action plans must be informed by collaboration with local and regional entities. Local governments will be key partners in the planning process. Successful broadband deployment requires inclusive and comprehensive engagement, and local leaders have knowledge, passion, and vision that are essential to Wisconsin's planning. The Commission is committed to supporting local planning and [recently approved](#) \$1.5 million in formula funding to Wisconsin counties and federally recognized Tribes under the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program in docket [5-BP-2023](#). These resources are being made available to support efforts to define the need, vision, and strategy for deployment of broadband in your communities. In addition to formula grants, the Commission is working collaboratively with the University of Wisconsin-Extension and the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation to provide technical assistance and coordination which could support your planning efforts.

To be eligible for this funding, Counties have the opportunity to opt into the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program by submitting the attached letter of intent by March 7, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. Counties may elect to participate individually, or work collaboratively through a [Regional Economic Development Organization \(REDO\)](#) and receive a 10 percent increase to the county allocation. A county planning to partner with a REDO may choose to engage with the local organization early to ensure coordination throughout the application process.

Following March 7th, the Commission will contact counties and relevant REDO partners that opt into the program with further guidance on receipt of funding. In the coming weeks, the Commission's Broadband office plans to make available additional information regarding BEAD Local Planning Grants, including details on program requirements, planning activities, project timelines, and eligible expenditures. Further information is also available as part of [UW-Extension's webinar series](#) on BEAD Planning for Wisconsin Counties and Tribes. For

Wisconsin Broadband Office

Page 2

continued updates on the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program process, please subscribe to this [email list](#).

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of the Commission's Broadband Office. Please contact us at PSCStateBroadbandOffice@wisconsin.gov.

Sincerely,



Joe Fontaine
Administrator

Division of Digital Access, Consumer and Environmental Affairs

JF:AK:RT:MM:kle DL: 01926914

cc: County Board Chairs; County Board Supervisors; County Clerks; Regional Economic Development Organization Directors; County Economic Development Directors; County Land Information Officers.

BEAD Local Planning Grant Program – Letter of Intent

Election to participate and receive formula funds



6.1.b

Section I: Overview

Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Local Planning Grants are available in the form of formula funding of \$1.5 million under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to Wisconsin counties and federally recognized Tribes to generate locally informed analysis of broadband needs and develop each community's vision for broadband development. The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (Commission) approved the allocation of this formula funding in docket 5-BP-2023 on February 1, 2023. Local planning activities may include a needs assessment, outreach and stakeholder engagement, and a strategy for broadband deployment. County and Tribal planning activities will inform Wisconsin's Five-Year Broadband Action Plan and future grant funding for broadband infrastructure projects across the state.

BEAD Local Planning Grants are not competitive grants but rather formula funding that will be allocated to each applicant that elects to participate in the program. Counties that elect to participate in the program may opt to (1) collaborate regionally through their respective [Regional Development organization \(REDO\)](#) or (2) participate independently. Tribes that elect to participate may opt to (1) collaborate regionally with a REDO, (2) collaborate with the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, or (3) participate independently.

Funding will be distributed equally to all participating counties and Tribes, with those collaborating in groups receiving an additional 10 percent of the base allocation. Participation is not required, and the total grant allocation amount for each participating entity will be formulated following the submission deadline of this participation form. If a REDO or the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council coordinates on behalf of multiple counties or Tribes, it will receive and administer funding directly.

By completing this form, counties and Tribes are certifying their intent to participate in the program, including complying with related grant requirements. A subsequent grant agreement will delineate eligible costs for use of funding, applicable federal grant compliance requirements, and project deliverables. Each entity that opts in will be responsible to ensure compliance with applicable federal and state requirements related to this funding.

Following the Commission's Wisconsin Broadband Office's announcement of formula grant awards, those counties and Tribes that elected to participate individually and participating collaboratives will complete a brief application in the Commission's Online Grants System that describes planned activities and the intended use of funding among cost categories. Further details on completing the online application will be made available in forthcoming grant instructions available on the Commission website. The Wisconsin Broadband Office will inform participating REDOs, Tribes, and individual counties when the formula allocation has been processed and that the application is open in the online grants system, likely by March 13, 2023.

This BEAD Local Planning Grant Program Participation Form must be uploaded to the Commission's [Electronic Records Filing System \(ERF\)](#) by March 7, 2023, 1:30 P.M. For help uploading documents to ERF, see the [ERF user manual](#) or contact PSCStateBroadbandOffice@wisconsin.gov for assistance.

Attachment: PSC Ltr RE BEAD Local Planning Grant Program 02-08-2023 (11 - 23 : Resolution to Authorize Participation in the BEAD Grant

BEAD Local Planning Grant Program – Letter of Intent

Election to participate and receive formula funds



6.1.b

Section II: Election to Participate

Please select whether your county or Tribe elects to:

Participate in the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program collaboratively with a Regional Economic Development Organization (REDO)	
Specify REDO: _____	
Participate in the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program collaboratively with the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council	
Participate in the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program independently	
Not participate in the BEAD Local Planning Grant Program	

Section III: Primary Point of Contact

The primary point of contact will be the recipient of further communication from the Wisconsin Broadband Office regarding the BEAD Local Planning Program and need not be the authorized representative signing below.

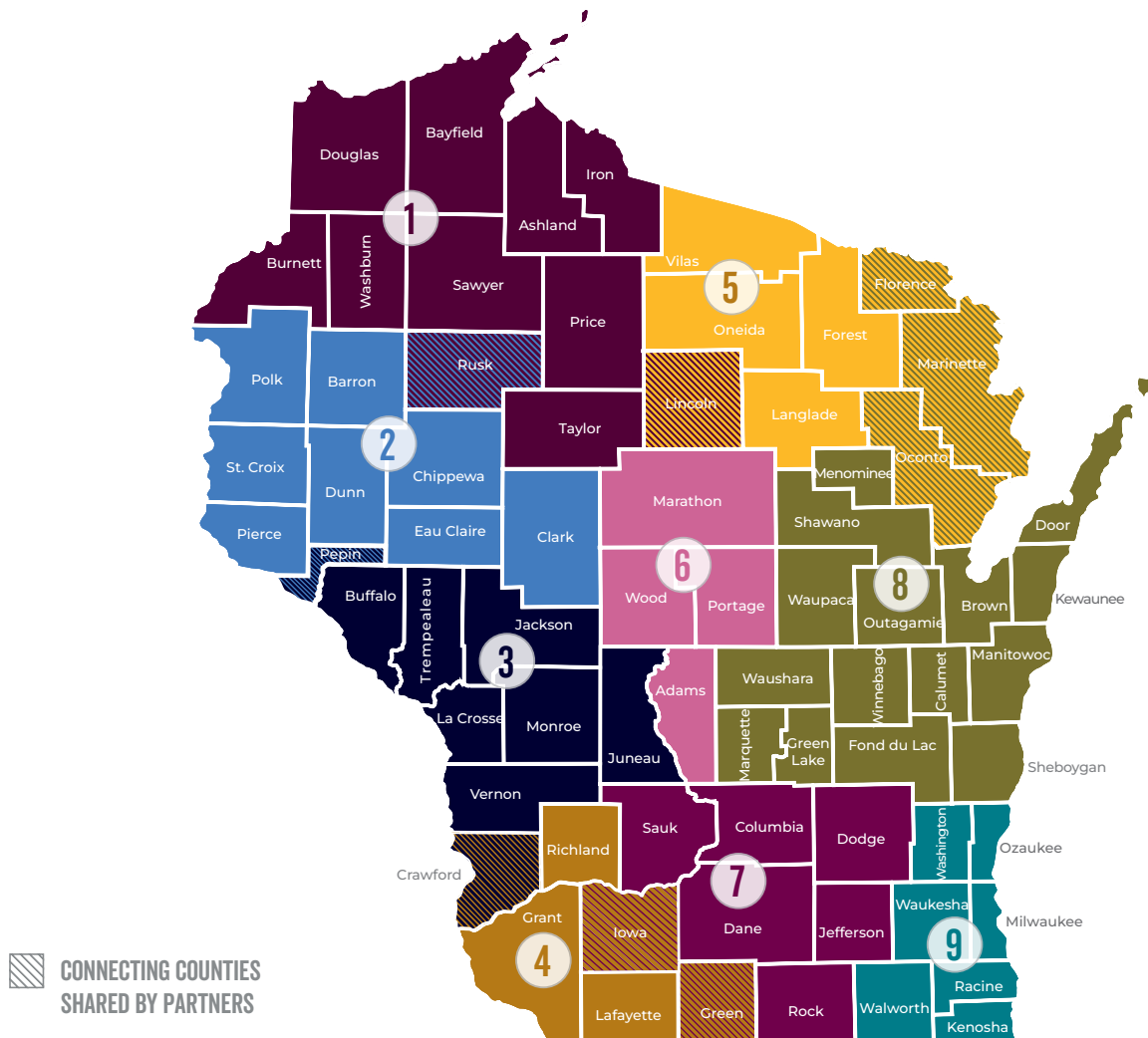
1. Name	2. Position
3. Email	4. Phone

Section IV: Certification from Authorized Representative

Please sign below to declare your county or Tribe's intent to participate in the BEAD Local Planning Program. The authorized representative could be a local elected official or executive of Tribal or county government and must be authorized under applicable laws to act on behalf of the entity related to receipt and administration of federal funding. By signing below, you are affirming and certifying that you are an authorized representative of your county or Tribe and are authorized to act on behalf of the county or Tribe related to this funding. If you have questions regarding whether as an authorized representative, you are authorized to act on behalf of the county or Tribe, please consult your legal counsel.

Signature below does not constitute an obligation of a county, Tribe, or its collaborating partners to comply with any terms or conditions of the grant program. For entities submitting this letter of intent, a grant agreement will be provided for review and signature.

1. Name	2. Position
3. Email	4. Phone
5. Signature	6. Date



1 VISIONS NORTHWEST

Sheldon Johnson
Executive Director
715.635.2197
sjohnson@nwrpc.com

2 MOMENTUM WEST

Steve Jahn
Executive Director
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3 7 RIVERS ALLIANCE

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4 PROSPERITY SOUTHWEST

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5 GROW NORTH

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6 CENTERGY

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7 MADISON REGION ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

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8 NEW NORTH

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9 MILWAUKEE 7

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