



**Rusk County Community Resource Forum**  
**North Cedar Academy, 1500 Port Arthur Rd. Ladysmith, WI.**

**Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00 am – 12:30 PM**

**AGENDA: Session 1**

- **8:00 – 8:30 AM** Registration/Refreshments
- **8:30 – 8:40 AM** Welcome and County Updates – Andy Albarado
- **8:40 – 9:05 AM** WHEDA (Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority) - Affordable housing and economic/community development financing solutions – Rebecca Giroux, WHEDA
- **9:05 – 9:30 AM** DOA, Division of Energy, Housing, and Community Resources (DEHCR) - Tools available through DEHCR to support housing, downtown, and economic development - Dave Pawlisch, Bureau Director, DEHCR, Wisconsin Department of Administration
- **9:30 – 9:55 AM** Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) – BCPL serves as steward of public lands, moneys, and records held in trust for Wisconsin citizens. Tools for municipalities to use for the public good – Tom German
- **9:55-10:20 AM** USDA Rural Development – Products/Services available to local communities to assist in housing, economic, and community development – Kelley Oehler, Area Director, USDA Rural Development
- **10:20-10:30 AM** Break
- **10:30-10:55 AM** Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) – NWRPC provides a variety of community and regional services focusing on economic, community and business development – Kim Gifford, Housing Development Specialist, NWRPC
- **10:55-11:20 AM** Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) – Programs available through WEDC to lay the foundation for local municipal economic development -- Lance Ausing, WEDC Regional Economic Development Director
- **11:20-11:45 AM** Wild Rivers Habitat for Humanity –Access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions and for communities to eliminate substandard housing. Jennifer Johnson, Executive Director
- **11:45-12:30 PM** Lunch/Adjournment



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**Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup> 12:30 – 3:15 PM**

**AGENDA: Session 2**

- **12:30-1:00 PM** Registration/Refreshments
- **1:00-1:05 PM** Welcome and County Updates – Andy Albarado
- **1:05-1:25 PM** SBDC at UW-Eau Claire – Assists entrepreneurs succeed at any stage. SBDC offers many services for businesses, including confidential consulting and business education. – Luke Kempen, Center Director
- **1:25-1:45 PM** WHEDA (Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority) - Economic/community development financing solutions to help small and medium sized business – Rebecca Giroux, WHEDA
- **1:45-2:05 PM** USDA Rural Development – Economic development products and services to help rural businesses and communities. – Kelley Oehler, Area Director, USDA Rural Development
- **2:05-2:25 PM** WBD – Products and services offered to help bankers navigate the complicated process of SBA lending. – Mike Dieckman, Vice President, WBD
- **2:25-2:45 PM** Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NWRPC) provides a variety of services for business owners and entrepreneurs in Northwest Wisconsin. Ken Pearson, Loan Fund Manager
- **2:45–3:05 PM** Indianhead Community Action Agency- ICAA's Business Development offers several programs to assist entrepreneurs to achieve self-sufficiency through self-employment.
- **3:05-3:15 PM** Final Comments/Adjournment