

SE MN Workforce Development Board

January 7, 2016, 2:00 PM

Workforce Development, Inc.
Rochester, Minnesota

Minutes

Members Present: Jeff Custer (Chair), Randy Johnson (Executive Director), Gordon Adamek, Brandon Dansie, Guy Finne, Cheryl Gustason, Mike Haney, Roy Harley, Russell Hess, Nancy Hoffman, Jean Larson, Lonnie Otterson, Julie Nigon, Kris Pierce, Michelle Pyfferoen, Mark Shaw, Diane Simon, Wayne Stenberg, Dawn Thompson, Andy Toft, Tami Walker, Marcia Ward, Jodi Yanda, Jill Miller (Note Taker)

Others Present: Abdi Alasow, Christine Bauman, Sonji Davis, Beth Goskesen, Dallas Groten, Wanda Jensen, Vicky Koehn, Barry Platt, Mike Postma, Jinny Rietmann, Jakki Trihey

A quorum was present and Jeff Custer called meeting to order. **Mike Haney moved to approve the agenda and the November meeting minutes, Gordon Adamek seconded, and the motion passed.**

Introductions: Lonnie Otterson (Training Manager), McNeilus Companies – Dodge Center.
Kris Pierce (Plant Manager), Alamco Wood Products, Inc. – Albert Lea.
Jill Miller (Executive Secretary), Workforce Development, Inc. – Rochester.

One-Stop Consortium – Wayne Stenberg

The One-Stop Consortium continues to work on WIOA regional plan.

Management Committee – Guy Finne

Audit – The audit is complete to 2014. The final report will be presented to the Board for review and approval on March 3rd.

Fiscal Report – Approved. We are receiving additional funds for The Rural Career Counseling Coordinator Grant of \$190,000 over two years. It was decided that copies of the Fiscal Report will be forwarded to WDB members in advance of each monthly Board meeting. **Mike Haney moved to approve the Fiscal Report, Diane Simon seconded, and the motion passed.**

Renewals and Insurance – Open enrollment is done. Randy Johnson advised that there will be no increase to employee insurance premiums.

Dislocated Worker's Report – Bard Medical – Reports indicate that Bard (the former Rochester Medical) will be closing their facility in Stewartville by the end of 2016, with cuts in April, July, and September 2016. The Rapid Response Team from DEED, as well as Carla Nelson have been notified.

Youth Report – Step-Up/Hire Up Youth Initiative: Currently working on developing a program to increase youth involved in summer work experience, targeting private business to add temporary work experience internships for disengaged youth.

Scholarship Policy Amendment –

Randy Johnson requested an amendment in the WIOA policy to upgrade the scholarships awarded from up to \$3,000 to up to \$4,000 per semester. **Mike Haney moved to approve the amendment in the WIOA policy, Diane Simon seconded, and the amendment was approved.**

Sector Reports

Manufacturing – Sonji Davis

Gordon Adamek noted that National Manufacturing Week will be first or second week of October. This is a time where employers can go into schools. Spent the majority of the meeting discussing the Labor Shortage/Workforce Skills Shortage Solutions worksheet.

Healthcare – Julie Nigon

The group discussed healthcare training initiatives for students and employers. Discussed the WDI Healthcare Academy class schedules in Austin/Albert Lea/Owatonna. There was a LPN/CNA/PA Taskforce Update from Kathy Richie. The Registered nursing program at Riverland has been temporarily suspended

due to some testing issues with the program. Bridges to Healthcare Update: Grant application for additional dollars to create a LPN track in Rochester is due January 14th and is now being worked on

Service & Trades – Russell Hess

Discussed the Chicago Cook Retail Grant and various careers that are considered retail. Jodi Yanda reviewed the YouthBuild Program.

Emerging Technology and Economic Development – Randy Johnson

Group had a discussion by phone with Joe Mahon and Angie Eilers from the Federal Reserve. When we roll out the WIOA Plan in June, we will plan for the Federal Reserve representatives to come.

Director's Report – Randy Johnson

Congressional Update

Working with Andy Reed and Paul Ryan on a deal through 2017. Possibly nothing new.

Legislative Update

Decision tomorrow on special session. We have been reaching out on getting funding for WorkForce Center career counselors to go into schools

Regional Activities

WSA Joint Officers meeting – January 7th. Randy indicated that we have a broad-based service delivery area, which includes the SE WDI ten counties plus Winona County. Five rural areas will get funding for The Rural Career Counseling Coordinator Grant. The grant is for \$190,000 over two years, as part of the Minnesota Youth Program.

Information Sharing

Vicki Koehn – Spoke about the Business Services Shared Work Program. There is been an increase in wages from \$11.00/hour to \$14.00/hour.

Area Managers:

- Jinny Rietmann – Working on outreach to underemployed. Two counselors have been added, including an intern, Abdi Alasow. Outreach – Working on career awareness and retention strategies.
- Dallas Groten – WDI, the Caledonia School District, and local charities have teamed up to collect slightly used winter coats and make them available to those needing coats.
- Beth Goskesen – Received a Pipeline Grant of \$3,000 to assist one student at Kingsland School with training in IT Safety and Security.
- Sonji Davis – Spoke briefly about the YouthPrise Reboot in Red Wing and Faribault.

Dates

WDB Orientation Session – February 4. (No WDB Meeting in February)

Next Workforce Development Board/Committee Meetings – March 3.

Best Places to Work Banquet – April 21.

Mike Haney moved to adjourn the meeting, Tim Gabrielson seconded. The motion carries, and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Miller

Workforce Development, Inc.