

# MINUTES



## Executive Committee Meeting

1/8/2024

10:00 AM – 11:45 AM

### Attendees:

- Judy Aspling
- Kelly Klein
- Kerri Trubachik
- Dick Nystrom
- Dale Kelm

### Staff & Guests:

- Mari Kay-Nabozny
- Bella Potack-Rettler

### 1) Welcome and Opening Meeting Business

- a) Call to Order
- b) Roll Call
- c) Public Meeting Notice

NWWIB staff sent the meeting notice to regional Class A newspapers and regional library systems. In addition, the meeting notices were also posted on the Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board website and all social media outlets.

- d) Welcome and Introduction of Guests

### Previous Meeting Minutes

Review and Approve Meeting Minutes from October 10, 2023

Update meeting allowance to .67

**First: Dick Nystrom**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Kerri Trubachik**

**Motion carries unanimously.**

### Grant Funding Update | *Mari Kay-Nabozny*

Bremer Grant -received.

Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that the NWWIB received the Bremer Grant. The NWWIB originally wrote for \$40,000, the NWWIB received a total of \$10,000 from the grant. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that the NWWIB wanted the original amount of \$40,000 to pay for two years of a case managing software and for a new website.

Duluth Superior Community Fund - submitted.

Mari Kay-Nabozny moved into talking about the Duluth Superior Community Fund. The application for this was submitted December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Melissa Rabska wrote and submitted the application for the Duluth Superior Community Fund. Mari Kay-Nabozny explained that the NWWIB wrote for the Duluth Superior Community Fund to make up for the \$30,000 that did not get covered by the Bremer Grant. Kelly Klein had a question on what happens if the NWWIB does not receive the Duluth Superior Community Fund or the full amount that the NWWIB asked for? Mari Kay-Nabozny stated that the NWWIB would writing for more grant money, as the NWWIB would great improve from an updated website (which, is quoted to cost \$15,000 and a new case management software, which is about \$14,000 a year). Judy Aspling asked when the NWWIB would hear back from the Duluth Superior Community Fund. Mari Kay-Nabozny stated that it would be in March 2024.

Mari Kay-Nabozny asked for any further questions or comments, there were no more further questions or comments.

#### [NOAA Grant- in process.](#)

Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that the NOAA Grant is due February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. She shared that the Duluth Sea grant folks are doing a good job putting it together. She also shares that Jay Anderson put out letters last month, asking around for more community members who may be interested in partnering with the NWWIB on this grant. The NOAA Grant would fund the NWWIB with \$5,000,000 over the course of four years. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that it would be a great grant to have and would bring in new employers and partners to work with.

Kelly Klein wanted a refresher on what the NOAA Grant was exactly. Mari Kay-Nabozny explained that the NOAA Grant is all about preparing and finding solutions for the workforce relating to climate change. She used an example of this suspiciously dry winter and how the lack of snow has left the Northwest Region maritime industry having to adjust, with continuing to ferry lines and boat shipping later in the year. Kelly Klein and other members of the Executive Committee understood better what the NOAA Grant was all about and what the NWWIB wants to achieve with it.

Mari Kay-Nabozny began explaining the schematics of the grant, how the first year will be about talking to employers and the struggles they face in the maritime industry and climate change. Year 2 will be about working with community partners and institutions to put together training plans. And, finally, Years 3 and 4 will be about implementing the training plans and getting individuals upskilled and hired in the maritime workforce.

Judy Aspling asked if the money from the NOAA Grant would benefit only the Ashland area. Mari Kay-Nabozny responded the NOAA Grant money would be benefitting the whole Northwest Wisconsin region that deals with maritime folks, shipping or are located near bodies of water.

Kelly Klein had a question on if the NWWIB would be involving any tribes with the NOAA Grant. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that the NWWIB reached out to Red Cliff but didn't get a great response. Red Cliff pointed the NWWIB in the direction of their tribal governing council, but ultimately, the NWWIB made the decision that there just wasn't enough time to go through all the requirements and validation that would be needed to include Red Cliff.

Mari Kay-Nabozny asked for any other questions or comments, there were no further questions or comments.

### [Families and Workers Fund- in process.](#)

Mari Kay-Nabozny reported on the Families and Workers Fund. It is a two-part grant. The first part of the grant is a letter of intent, in this letter, the NWWIB discusses what they plan to achieve or do with the Families and Workers Fund. After this letter of intent, the NWWIB will be invited to apply for the Families and Workers Fund.

The NWWIB has been talking to NWWIB Board member, Michelle Johnson, about partnering together with Enbridge for this grant. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared the reasoning behind this being that Enbridge has been running a program in Minnesota with a Native-owned company called Five Skys. Five Skys is a training provider. The issue that Enbridge has been running into however, is that even though they are partnered with Five Skys (who, as a reminder, is Native owned), there are still tribes that will not affiliate or work with them to put their tribal members through Five Sky's training courses, as they align it with taking Enbridge money. Tribes, like Bad River, have been very outspoken in how they feel about Enbridge, the pipeline, and will not work with them in any sense or situation (there is lots of tension).

Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that the NWWIB is planning to become a middleman for Enbridge and Five Skys. The NWWIB will partner with Five Skys and help with working with tribes, like Bad River, in getting their people enrolled to take Five Skys courses, without having to go through Enbridge or take their money. The NWWIB has also been in talks with bringing Five Skys training to Lac Courte Oreilles, partnering with NWWIB Board member, Elaine Ogilvie, in infrastructure training and support through Mathey Construction Company.

Mari Kay-Nabozny explained that Five Skys has already been in works with WDA 9- the Western Workforce Board, and they have nothing but great things to say about them. Five Skys would allow culturally appropriate training providers for tribal members. There is even the possibility to expand to other tribal communities in the area, besides Red Cliff, Bad River and LCO. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that Enbridge is currently paying for Five Skys to run a cohort in April 2024 for Red Cliff and will be bussing individuals residing in Bad River if they are interested in taking the courses.

Judy Aspling had a question on why Bad River would allow bussing for tribal members to Red Cliff for Five Skys training and not just allow there to be training courses hosted at Bad River? Mari Kay-Nabozny explained that it is very political for Bad River, so they will not host anything relating to Enbridge, but that doesn't mean that tribal members can't find transportation out to Red Cliff or that Red Cliff or Five Skys can't offer transportation out to their facilities.

Dick Nystrom made a comment that he thinks it is great that the NWWIB has individuals on the NWWIB Board from Enbridge and Mathey Construction Company but would love to see someone in the transportation (trucking) industry on the NWWIB Board. Mari Kay-Nabozny agreed that having an individual in transportation would be great to have on the NWWIB Board, however, there needs to be an opening to add another member. This then led to a discussion on how the NWWIB Board currently has a waiting list of possible candidates waiting to get on the NWWIB Board. There is an individual from Essentia who has been waiting for months, another individual in Burnett County, Mic Isham is waiting for the GLIFWC to officially approve his replacement and Brian Nelson will be retiring and appointing a new replacement, whom, Mari Kay-Nabozny shared, she will be meeting with next week.

Dick Nystrom asked whether there was any rule against expanding the NWWIB Board. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that there isn't, but that 51% of the NWWIB Board must be private sector, therefore, if the NWWIB Board would expand, that number and the individuals who represent the private vs. public sectors would have to be reevaluated. This then led to Kelly Klein, Judy Aspling and Mari Kay-Nabozny discussing how there is a rule on if a NWWIB Board member misses three meetings, that the NWWIB Board can rule to vote that individual off the NWWIB Board and replace them with another candidate. Mari Kay-Nabozny explained to Dick Nystrom that this may be a way to slide his NWWIB Board candidate on the Board from Howard Lines and get someone on from the transportation industry represented.

Mari Kay-Nabozny ended this portion of the meeting by sharing that the individual from Essentia who is interested in joining the NWWIB Board had a meeting with her last week, and that she and the individual from Essentia have another meeting lined up for next week. Mari Kay-Nabozny will continue to advocate for this individual to attend a NWWIB Board meeting in the future, as all NWWIB Board meetings are open to the public to join.

[TEACH Grant- submitted.](#)

Mari Kay-Nabozny reported that the NWWIB submitted for the TEACH Grant on Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The TEACH Grant is for \$30,000 for over the course of one year. 20% of this grant funding would be used to pay for Ryce Davis's services. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that the TEACH Grant would work very similarly to the QUEST Grant in offering support services money for individuals enrolled in the Early

Childhood Program at UW-Superior. She stated that it would be a great way for the NWWIB to get their foot in the door within the UW-Space.

Mari Kay-Nabozny asked if there was any questions or comments. There were no questions or comments.

### Enbridge- in process.

Mari Kay-Nabozny reported that the NWWIB submitted for funding through Enbridge on Jan 2<sup>nd</sup>. The NWWIB is deciding what direction they want to go in, but the NWWIB does know for sure that they want to include in-school youth within the funding intentions. The NWWIB currently has a few meetings set up in place to run by ideas with NWWIB Board Member, Michelle Johnson, on what areas/avenues that Enbridge would be most curious or interested in exploring.

Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that one meeting agenda wasn't listed, and that was the Department of Labor-Critical Care Training Skills Grant. This grant can be for eldercare, childcare, anything related to healthcare. The NWWIB has decided that it would be best to stay away from childcare, however, as the NWWIB already has the QUEST grant up and running.

Kelly Kelin questioned whether the DOL-Critical Care Training Skills Grant would take over for the COW Grant. Mari Kay-Nabozny replied that, yes, the grant would take over for COW, as the COW Grant ends in 2025.

Mari Kay-Nabozny asked for any further questions or comments, there were no further questions or comments.

### Programming Highlights | *Mari Kay-Nabozny*

#### Gener8tor / Microsoft partnership

Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that the NWWIB will running another cohort with Gener8tor. She shared that the first cohort went well. There is currently seven individuals signed up for the 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort, and individuals have till January 24<sup>th</sup> to get enrolled. on spreadsheet now. Mari Kay-Nabozny also reported that she met with Gener8tor on Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and is pushing for them to send her a report on where the individuals who took the first cohort are currently working and the wages that they are making. She shared that this report will inform and be the deciding factor on if the NWWIB will continue working with Gener8tor and setting up this cohort.

Kelly Klein and Judy Aspling both commented that they found the Gener8tor cohorts to be very interesting. Judy Aspling had a question on if individuals who took the first cohort, and were using their skills to do side hustle jobs, if that would be recorded as employment? Mari Kay-Nabozny confirmed that they would be recorded as a form of employment. There were no further questions or comments.

## Upcoming Training Cohorts

Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that there are five QUEST cohort trainings starting this month. She shared that two of them are currently full. Mari Kay-Nabozny also shared that one of these cohorts is happening in the Wausau area through Northcentral Technical College. The NWWIB has a contract going with WDA 6 – the North Central Workforce Board, to help assist with their QUEST Grant work. Mari Kay-Nabozny also disclosed that the NWWIB had a contract with Northwest Connection Family Resources, but that the NWWIB ultimately decided to forego it, as there was no interest in the cohorts that they were planning to run.

Kelly Klein mentioned that he knew a woman who mentioned she was looking into starting and running a daycare, he asked Mari Kay-Nabozny what resources were available to her, to get going? Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that Indianhead could provide support from a business-venture-side-of-things, and then to reach out to the NWWIB and Jo Nowak-Thompson for further help through the QUEST Grant.

## WIOA | Mari Kay-Nabozny

### WIOA PY22 Monitoring Report

Mari Kay-Nabozny reported on the new WIOA PY22 monitoring report in the Executive Committee packet to NWWIB committee members. She shared that everything in this WIOA monitoring report was something that the NWWIB was already anticipating. The NWWIB has already been in contact with Northwest CEP on the areas they need to work on, per the monitoring report. Overall, for WIOA, the NWWIB received 14 findings. Seven of these related to Program and Governance findings, two related to Equal Opportunity and Civil Rights findings and five related to fiscal findings. In total, the questioning costs were \$5,338.45. As stated previously, all these findings have already been made aware to the NWWIB and the NWWIB have made the findings aware to Northwest CEP too. For the fiscal findings, Northwest CEP has been able to show receipts minus \$38.00.

Kelly Klein had a question on how long the NWWIB and Northwest CEP have to respond/remedy any mistakes that the WIOA monitoring report found. Mari Kay-Nabozny responded that they have 45 days to respond. There were no further questions or comments.

### Dislocated Worker to Adult Transfer (approved via email on 12/19/23)

Mari Kay-Nabozny re-shared what was discussed at the NWWIB Board Meeting. The NWWIB Board has approved to transfer WIOA Dislocated Worker funds to WIOA Adult funds. This was approved via email on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Developments, has already been made aware of this transfer of funding too. There were no further questions or comments.

## WIPFLI | Mari Kay-Nabozny

### 990 Update

Mari Kay-Nabozny reported on the fact that the NWWIB has received official communication from WIPFLI that the 990 is coming. She also shared that moving forward, the NWWIB will be coding the meeting allowance and mileage that NWWIB Board members submit, separately. Bella Potack-Rettler and Mari Kay-Nabozny will work together on getting a new process started for this, and a list of NWWIB Board Members who have pushed the \$600 threshold for meeting allowances. This is because NWWIB Board Members can get taxed on meeting allowances if they go over \$600, but will not be taxed for mileage (it is non-taxable)

### 2023 Audit Update

The NWWIB will have their 990 filed soon for the Wegner Audit. The NWWIB is still working through the final pieces of the audit. The last thing that is needed is that NWWIB client files will need to be tested. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that Wegner gave Dawn Knapp 40 client PIN numbers to comb through. Dawn Knapp has not reported any issues to Mari Kay-Nabozny yet, but Mari Kay-Nabozny will continue to give updates when needed. There were no further questions or comments.

### APLOS / WDBSCW

Mari Kay-Nabozny reported that the NWWIB is testing the financial software called APLOS. She shared that the NWWIB was able to get a demo with it and will continue exploring future possible financial solutions, outside of WIFLI. She reminded the committee that the NWWIB was previously looking into contracting fiscal services through the WDBSCW to move away from WIFLI, but there has been no further updates or processions regarding it. Mari Kay-Nabozny asked for any comments or questions, there were no further questions or comments.

### A Stronger Workforce for America Act (ASWA) | *Mari Kay-Nabozny*

Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that a Stronger Worker for America Act (ASWA) is the new legislation that is going in to replace WIOA. She also mentioned that there are a few problems with ASWA. The biggest concern is what ASWA wants to do with its funds. Currently, ASWA asks for 50% of funding to go towards training. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that there hasn't been any clarification on what that means exactly (does this mean supportive services, staff time, there's a lot that goes into that training portion). As a result, there are some concerns on how ASWA will impact WIOA budgets. Another issue with ASWA is that redesignation of workforce boards is on the table.

Judy Aspling raised concerns about the "redesignation" portion of the ASWA, and asked Mari Kay-Nabozny what that could mean. Mari Kay-Nabozny explained that it would mean the shifting of counties that the NWWIB serves, which would then directly affect the NWWIB and who on the NWWIB Board is represented. Mari Kay-Nabozny explained, however that there is currently no interest in redesignation happening. All of the other workforce boards in Wisconsin are opposed to it, and so are the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Mari Kay-Nabozny reassured that redesignation is a possibility, but there is very little chance that, that part of ASWA will pass.

Mari Kay-Nabozny also shared another negative about ASWA. This being that currently, with WIOA, there is 10% that is taken off the top for the governor. ASWA would be 25%. Mari Kay-Nabozny explained that this could also affect and hit board budgets negatively.

Kelly Klein asked what the governor does with his share? Mari Kay-Nabozny responded that it is not apparent to the public. She explained that the money just kind of sits there and it is up to governor where it goes. For example, Roadtrip Nation was funded using the governor's share because it was underspent.

Kelly Klein had another question and asked when ASWA will get acted on. Mari Kay-Nabozny shared that it was introduced right before Christmas and nothing has happened yet, because government entities have not been back yet. She also shared that, that ASWA must go through the House first. Kelly Klein asked if there was a possibility that it would be going through this year. Mari Kay-Nabozny responded that, yes, it will most likely go through this year.

There were no other comments or questions after.

### **Partner Updates and Comments | All**

There were no partner updates and comments.

### **Adjourn**

Next Meeting date: February 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am or at the call of the Chair.

### **Additional Instructions:**

Related meeting items are included in the packet for your review prior to the meeting. Thank you.