

**Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board, Inc. Meeting
Thursday, March 5, 2015 – 10:30 a.m.
Niblick's Bar & Grill – Ashland, WI
Meeting Minutes**

Present

Chuck Gottschall
Cindy Rouzer
Mike BeBeau
Tom Draghi
Jim Kehoe, Jr.
Richard Nystrom
Brad Gingras
Kelly Klein
Bruce Lindgren
Toby Johnson
Mary McPhetridge
LeRoy Forslund
Pamela Guthman
Bambi Pattermann
Ashley Moore
Jack Wichita
PC Rasmussen, Jr.

Excused

Jenna Casey
Bobbi Damrow
Mic Isham
Judy Aspling
Jerre Eckes
Norm Voorhees
Walt Jaeger
Jerry Hembd
JoAnne Jacobsen
Angela Hupf
Wanda Grew-Jasken

Others Present

Jenny Decker
Mari Kay-Nabozny
Melissa Burris
Marcy Pratt

Call Meeting to Order

LeRoy Forslund called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken. Members present constituted a quorum. Jenny reported that the public meeting notice was published in two class a newspapers and aired on area radio stations in the WDA.

Approval of the 12/18/14 Meeting Minutes

The September, NWWIB meeting minutes were reviewed.

James Kehoe JR. made a motion to approve the 12/18/14, meeting minutes as amended.
Seconded by Bruce Lindgren. Vote taken, carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

Executive Committee Report

LeRoy Forslund, Executive Committee Co-Chair discussed minutes from the last meeting. LeRoy noted that we reviewed the Joint WIB CEP meeting notes from the 1/21 meeting and reported that the meeting went well. It was agreed at the meeting to have another joint meeting with the two Boards. Mari noted that the NWWIB has put a notice out for the Youth RFP.

Strategic Directions & Development Report

Mike BeBeau, Strategic Directions and Development Committee Chair reported that the Committee met on 2/18. He noted that the Committee discussed WIOA and the Youth RFP. He noted that we're still waiting for clarification of CEP, Inc.'s role under the new WIOA regulations. He discussed staffing for the NWWIB and that Mari is charged with putting together a staffing structure and a plan for what the WIB should look like. Discussion took place on a meeting in June for WIOA stake holders. The skills gap analysis was discussed.

Youth Council Report

Mary McPhetridge, Youth Council Chairperson noted that Youth Council met on January 20th. She discussed the Myth Busting Manufacturing events. She noted that Ashland and Bayfield schools have both been involved in the Medical Discovery Days. The Diva Tech event was scheduled on February 11th and it went well. The Rescue Divas project was discussed which addresses shortages for EMTs. The Youth Apprenticeship program was also discussed. Mary noted that the Youth Council will be a sub-committee of the WIB under WIOA.

One Stop Operator (OSO) Committee Report

Jack Wichita, OSO Chairman noted that the OSO Committee has been discussing the implementation of WIOA. He noted DVR hired some new counselors to carry out the Promise Grant for youth ages 14-18 who are on social security disability and their families. The Job Center of Wisconsin website is under going changes and will have three tracks to help individuals find work. The W2 and FSET program will be run by Workforce Resources and CEP. WITC is looking at Flat Funding and performance based outcome funding as well. It was noted that tuition freezes might be a challenge for the tech colleges.

A motion was made by Chuck Gottschall to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Dick Nystrom. Vote taken, carried unanimously.

Mari distributed a sign-up sheet for WIB members attending the Business Conference on May 13th and a sign-up sheet for volunteering.

Job Center Customer Counts Update

Jenny updated the Board on the Job Center customer counts report which tracks the number of customers who are utilizing Job Center services. Jenny noted that she is now tracking job center numbers for 2014 and 2015.

On the Job (OJT) & H1B OJT Training Report

Mari discussed the CEP OJT report. She noted that we've had 35 contracts since July 1, 2014, through the end of January. It was noted that there is a decrease in Taylor, Price and Iron Counties due to a new staff member working with employers in the area.

Mari discussed the H1B OJT report. This grant starts April 1st through the end of January. She reported that 174 contracts have been written between all three WDAs. It was noted that we are just into year three and will easily out perform the metrics for this grant.

Dislocated Worker Report

Mari noted that the dislocated worker report hasn't been reported in some time due to lack of closures but lately there has been a wave of closures not just in our region but across the state. She explained the closures that were included in the handout in the packet. Mari noted that Culvers opened up in Ashland and 55 employees have been hired.

Regional Employment Report

Mari reported that Thomas Michaels, DWD Labor Market Analyst for DWD out of Superior sends out a monthly economic report (included in the packet). Mari explained some of the increase and decreases in area unemployment rates. Bayfield county's unemployment rates went up. She noted that the report shows where WI compares to the rest of the nation and it is not seasonally adjusted.

Grants Update

NWRPC/WEDC

Mari reported on the skills gap analysis that Visions Northwest and the WIB are conducting through UW Superior through a \$40,000 WEDC grant. They will survey 2,000 employers and 1,000 employees. She discussed the survey with questions about whether employers face a skills or wage issue. She noted that there will be a big public relations roll out with this is. She noted there is an online survey and a paper version as well. There is also a \$50 gift card being offered to fill out the survey. The data will be aggregate. She noted that they are using the knowledge, skills and abilities based off of ONET. They are surveying 15 industries and the surveys are randomized.

HRSA Network Development Grant

The survey is very specific to the healthcare industry. They had 55 responses, with an 80 percent return rate. Mari noted this is a very lengthy survey. There are focus groups scheduled in March to discuss the results of the survey. This grant will not be complete until November. She noted that we have sub contracted with a staff person to help carry out this grant.

H1B HealthCare Update

Mari reported that the H1B grant ends in April 2016. She noted that we may ask for a no cost extension. She explained that we're enrolling people at a lower cost than we initially thought.

Fast Forward

Mari reported that the WIB partnered with the South Central WIB in Madison to focus on agriculture. There will be more to come on that. She reported that we did receive a Fast Forward grant for \$10,000.

Beginner Farmer Grant

Mari reported on the Beginner Farmer Grant submitted by Farm Beginnings. The grant is for \$750,000 and we will receive \$30,000. This grant will assist in training farmers and various agricultural skills and it will focus on existing and beginning farmers.

Youth RFP Update

Mari noted that the Youth RFP included in our packet, was published in every single paper. RFP responses are due April 3rd. It was noted that letters of intent must go to Mari by tomorrow. She noted she has two letters of intent from CEP and ICAA. There is a possible third interested party in the Youth RFP. The award will be announced in May.

Action Item: Review/Approve WIOA Self Sufficiency Policy Change

Mari reported that the WIOA Self Sufficiency Policy change has been approved by the CEP Board and has to be approved by the WIB as required by monitors. She noted that we changed the policy to reflect what it is annually so we don't have to change this every year.

A motion was made by Mike BeBeau to approve the self-sufficiency policy as presented. Seconded by Chuck Gottschall. Vote taken, carried unanimously.

Recap of 1/21 Joint NWWIB & CEP Board meeting

Mari directed Board members to the handouts in the packet from the 1/21 joint WIB and CEP meeting. She discussed the results from the notes from the meeting in regards to WIOA. She discussed the top three priorities that Board members noted. The whole purpose for this exercise was to provide information for guidance in planning in the coming years.

State & Federal Updates

Mari reported that on Monday, the DOL provided a round two of frequently asked questions. Rules and regulations will come out in spring. She noted that we do not have to competitively procure for the One Stop Operator by July 1. It was emphasized that we have to start planning for WIOA even before the rules and regulations come out.

WIOA Strategic Planning/NSC Summit/DWD Teams & Progress

Mari reported that strategic planning event is being planned with Northwerd, Visions Northwest, the WIB and other partners in July to identify needs for our regional plan. She does not have a date yet. She distributed a handout that is the Governor's Council on Workforce Investment (CWI) Strategic Plan for 2014-2018. She indicated that we have to advocate to get someone from our area on the CWI. It was noted we should contact our local elected officials on helping us to get representation on the CWI. A

suggestion was made to have the area chambers back a candidate, along with the NWWIB. Another suggestion was to submit a slate of multiple candidates to increase our chances of getting someone on this board. There is travel and time commitment involved to be on the CWI Council. She noted that the WWDA Day at the Capitol has been scheduled for April 1-2nd in Madison.

The Heartland Conference is put on by the Department of Labor will take place in the fall of this year. There will be no one sent to the NAWB conference due to lack of WIOA information at this time. Mari noted that we opted for the National Skills Summit this year in D.C. which gave us an opportunity to meet with legislators.

DWD teams will be coming to an end and a final list of recommendations will go to DOL.

WIB recertification was discussed and it was noted that everyone who is on the Board indicated that they are interested in continuing to serve on the WIB.

NWWIB Business Conference & Public Relations Update

The NWWIB public relations update was included in the meeting packet. Melissa Burris, NWWIB Public Relations Coordinator explained what has been taking place. The WIB Business Conference is top priority. She noted she will handle Business Conference registration and people should see an email. She noted that we're working with area chambers to get the word out to businesses. Melissa noted that she has post cards that board members can distribute about the conference.

Affordable Care Act (ACA) Presentation

Marcy Pratt, ACA Navigator gave a report on the status of how the ACA program is going. She noted that open enrollment ended on February 15th, with a special enrollment period following until April 30th. She noted that we hosted 206 educational events to educate the public and to help enroll them. The estimated consumers we enrolled was 602. People that we've assisted with Medicare and Badger Care is at 97.

Local Economic Development News

Some WIB members gave updates on local news going on in their respective areas. Toby noted that he will be retiring the end of this summer but will stay on as a consultant to help transition the new Executive Director at Superior Vocations.

Bambi Pattermann announced that the Northwurd Educational group is a partnership among the area tech schools, UW system and other area colleges. She noted that the Manufacturing Gold Collar group is offering scholarships to students at Ashland High school.

Mike BeBeau noted that he attended the WMC day event in Madison yesterday. A statistic was given that the state will have a shortage of 90,000 OTR truck drivers by 2020.

LeRoy noted that a lot of publicity of NAPA auto parts stores who is building old cars and distributing them for needy persons for employment.

Mari noted she will be out for a couple weeks and slowly transitioning back in from her maternity leave.

Next Meeting Date & Location

The next meeting of the joint NWWIB, Inc. and CEP Board will take place on Monday, June 15, 2015, at 10:30 a.m. in at a location to be determined. Suggestions were made to hold the meeting at Lakewood's Resort.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mike BeBeau to adjourn at 12:25 p.m. Seconded by Richard Nystrom. Vote taken, carried unanimously.