

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Communication, Advocacy and Oversight Committee

July 8, 2005
Minutes

WIB Members Present

Patricia Brady
Tom Klas
Greg Lambert
Tom Macy
Deborah Montgomery
Paul Nelson
Willie Nesbit
Phil Saari
Bob de la Vega

Members Absent

Gary Christensen EA
Bill Fritts
Jackie Mlynarczyk EA

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Kate Bates, WIB Staff
Nancy Hendrickson, WIB Member
Lorrie Louder, WIB Member
Jim Schultz, Midway WFC
Jack Stoehr, Rehab Services
Tom Triplett, City of St. Paul
Rich Wagner, Rehab Services
Terry Zurn, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order

Greg Lambert, chair, called the meeting to order at 11:35 p.m.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Tom Macy with second by Greg Lambert to approve the minutes of May 13 as written.

Motion passed

Solicit Nominations for Committee Chair and Vice-Chair

The group took nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair positions of the committee. It was suggested by the WIB that chairs be business members, especially from this committee because it oversees specific public sector program outcomes. Gary Christensen agreed before the meeting to be a Vice-Chair nominee again. No one stepped forward to serve as the chair, and Greg Lambert agreed to continue until he is no longer a member (Greg is up for reappointment).

Vote on Committee Chair and Chair-Elect

Motion made by Tom Macy with second by Debbie Montgomery to approve keeping Greg Lambert as Chair of the CAO until member reappointment, and Gary Christensen as Vice Chair for the year.

Motion carried

Update on WIA Reauthorization

There is no new information on this topic. The bill passed the Senate and House, though they didn't agree so it had to go back. There may not be any action in the next few months.

Update on Recruitment

There are three openings for the County in business and both Labor positions are open. We have a candidate for the County Labor position that we will be forwarding to the County in the near future. WIB staff and the Recruitment Committee will be examining possibilities for the openings. In regards to member reappointment, the City and County have requested that no action be taken on reappointments until WIA reauthorization has passed. They are requesting this in interest of moving to a smaller board size. It was suggested that the WIB request a 6-month extension for all members up for reappointment, and revisit the issue at that time. WIB staff will ask this of the City and County for an extension. If anyone has suggestions for possible candidates for recruitment, please let Kate or Mary Jo know.

Update on Metro WIB Marketing Effort

Each WSA in Minnesota will receive a portion of the \$180K allotted for marketing the One-Stop Centers to business, particularly small and medium-sized businesses. The Metro will get about \$99K and our WIB will get about \$14K of that \$99K. It was suggested and approved at a recent Metro WIB meeting that half of the funds

allocated to each WSA will go into a pot to be used collectively by the Metro WIB. There will be a committee of the Metro WIB that will deal with the use of these funds with representation from each Metro WIB. Mary Jo Gardner and Louis Henry from our board will be on that committee. The money is to be used for promotional materials such as CD ROMs, brochures, etc. There is no plan currently for the other half of our allotment, but the Marketing and Advocacy committee will look into it. If anyone has any ideas for marketing the One-Stops, please contact Mary Jo. There was discussion on possibly using some of these funds for marketing the center relocation. It was also suggested that success stories of the Centers is a very good way to market the centers.

Discussion on WorkForce Center Consolidation

The group reviewed the information previously presented on the consolidation. This information included what constitutes a WorkForce Center (WFC), the new state vision on WFCs, timeline for finding a new center, and the vision for the new Ramsey County center. The new state vision is for the primary customer of the WFCs to be businesses. A good majority of the money going into WFCs is to be used for job seekers, and which requires the centers to be creative with their funds. Also in the new plan is for the centers to be community owned, with less control by DEED. The WIB will need to take a more active role in the planning and ownership of the centers. A concern for the new center is to have it inhabited enough to keep it running- it would be ideal to have both for profit and non-profit organizations renting space. The new center will be bigger than the two centers it is replacing combined, though it is not clear whether or not the resource room will be the size of the current two resource rooms. There was a suggestion that the new center could serve as an anchor tenant in a many tenant building, with other tenants like day care, a post office, or a coffee shop. The group has decided that the center should be in Midway, east of the current Midway center. There was a group formed to see what space is available in the area. Members are: Lorrie Louder, Willie Nesbit, Tony Schertler, Paul Nelson, Terry Zurn, Patricia Brady, Mary Jo Gardner and Jolly Mangine. While this search is going on it is also important to the County Board that we not lose sight of the mobile center- this possibility will continue to be examined, though should not hamper the search and development of a new center. The site selection team will be convened as soon as possible.

Open Forum

None

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned upon completion of the agenda at 12:55 p.m.

Next Meeting- September 9, Midway WorkForce Center