

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
Education Committee Meeting

July 26, 2010

Present:

Scott Helland
Barb Jeanetta
David MacKenzie
Jane Nicholson

Absent:

Craig Anderson EA
Deanne DeGraff EA
Dean Shawbold EA

Staff/Guests:

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB Staff
Brant Ingalsbe, GreenPOWER
Marie Larson, RENEW
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:32 p.m.

Approve May Minutes

Motion made by Scott Helland with second by Barb Jeanetta to approve the May Education Committee minutes as presented.

Motion carried.

RENEW Training

Education Committee members requested more information on the RENEW and GreenPOWER projects, which both focus on green training opportunities. The Project Managers of each program were invited to the meeting; Marie Larson, Project Manager for RENEW and Brant Ingalsbe, Project Manager for GreenPOWER, were present to discuss their programs.

Marie handed out marketing materials for RENEW and invited all members to call her with any questions. RENEW started in April 2010 as a collaboration between Minneapolis and Workforce Solutions. The program is a regional approach to workforce training and workforce and business development. The program will recruit and train 500 people (must be residents of Minneapolis or Saint Paul) in the following areas: renewable energy (with a focus on solar), manufacturing, construction and building systems. Marie went through the RENEW handouts, including the qualifications one must meet to become a participant. The Employment Service Providers are recruiting individuals to enter the training programs and are finding themselves screening 100 people to get 10 qualified candidates. Currently there 13 training providers with 51 different training options, though these numbers are expected to grow, and 125 students in training. About 20% of current participants are employed and are gaining new skills to get a better job or move up within their company. The Department of Labor has specific outcomes for the program, including 280 people employed with a percentage working directly in jobs related to the training by January 2012.

Mary Jo discussed the WIB's role in RENEW- it is to coordinate the outreach to businesses and conduct an environmental scan. The goal of the business outreach coordination is to cut down on multiple partners contacting the same company. The environmental scan will ask what "green" looks like to the local employers.

GreenPOWER

Brant Ingalsbe discussed the GreenPOWER program, which is focused solely on the manufacturing industry. Brant gave background on the national program under the Blue Green Alliance, a collaboration between the Sierra Club and eight unions, representing over 30M people. In MN, the program covers three regions- southern MN, the Iron Range and the seven-county metro area. The program has a goal to

have 2,000 trainees by 2012; 1,500 being incumbent workers and 500 job seekers. From this, 330 people need to be placed in jobs. The training program is based on curriculum from Purdue and includes a six-module training course of 40-48 hours that results in the nationally recognized GreenPOWER Specialist Certification from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers. More information on the program can be found at mngreenpowertraining.org. There are 150 people starting training next week.

The WIB's role with GreenPOWER is still in discussion.

Membership

This item was tabled from the last meeting. The Education Committee made amendments to their bylaws around membership, including revising the appointment process for WIB members wanting to serve on the Education Committee and clarifying the election of a Committee Chair. Mary Jo clarified who the required Education partners are (Job Corps and Adult Basic Education) and how this relates to the Education Committee Chair. The Chair must be an education member of the WIB. The revised Operating Rules will go to the full WIB for approval at their meeting on August 5.

Motion made by Scott Helland with second by Barb Jeanetta to approve the Education Committee Operating Rules as presented.

Motion carried.

Other

Mary Jo discussed a Georgetown Center report that predicted workforce needs for 2018- it is anticipated that 70% of jobs in MN will require post-secondary education. Staff can send this report out to members and members can decide if they want to discuss this information at a future meeting.

Adjourn

Motion made by Jane Nicholson with second by Scott Helland to adjourn the meeting at 5:00pm.

Motion carried.

Next Meeting- September 13, 2010