

Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board
General Membership Meeting
Thursday, August 2, 2007 2:30-4:30
Minutes

Members Present

Amy Brenengen
Mike Chanaka
Robert de la Vega
Kathy Engesser
Trixie Golberg
Kirk Hayes
Lee Helgen
William Lowe
Tom Macy
Jim McDonough
Rob McKenzie
Mary McKee
Jackie Mlynarczyk
Robert Morse
Paul Nelson
Jane Sanem
Libby Starling

Members Absent

Craig Anderson EA
Patricia Brady EA
Carrie Coleman EA
Gerry Flannery
Kristina Hamann
Bernie Hesse
Butch Howard
Doug Hubbard
Lorrie Louder
David MacKenzie EA
Brian Miller EA
Dean Shawbold EA
Mark Sorenson
Lori Stone
Rick Vazquez EA
Cynthia Yongvang EA

Staff/Guests Present

Mary Jo Gardner, WIB CEO
Burke Murphy, DEED
Kate Raleigh, WIB Staff
Terrell Towers, DEED Business Services

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Paul Nelson at 2:36 p.m.

Approve Minutes and Agenda

There was a request to update the minutes from the June meeting to reflect the votes taken by email due to a quorum not being reached at the last meeting.

Motion was made by Mike Chanaka and seconded by Bob Morse to approve the minutes as adjusted and the agenda as presented.

Motion carried.

Share Recognition and Announcements

Members were recognized for their recent achievements. See Attachment 1.

Approve Consent Agenda

Ratify Friends of the WIB as Fiscal Agent for DOE/ABE

Motion made by Kirk Hayes with second by Amy Brenengen to approve the consent agenda.

Motion carried.

Elect Chair-Elect

Nominations were called for Chair-Elect.

Bob de la Vega nominated Bob Morse for the position of Chair-Elect.

Motion made by Tom Macy with second by Mike Chanaka to close the nominations and elect Bob Morse Chair-Elect of the WIB.

Bob Morse accepts the nomination for Chair-Elect.

Motion carried.

Elect Treasurer

Nominations were called for Treasurer of the WIB.

Bob de la Vega nominated Amy Brenengen for the position of Treasurer.

Motion made by Kirk Hayes with second by Tom Macy to close nominations and elect Amy Brenengen as Treasurer of the WIB.

Amy Brenengen accepts the nomination for Treasurer.

Motion carried.

YouthLEAD Event

The Second Annual YouthLEAD event will take place on August 22nd at Harriet Island from 5:00-7:30; all members are encouraged to donate small items or money that will be used to purchase items for the participants. Members are also encouraged to attend the event; it was very successful last year, and the youth appreciate the community's support.

Diversity Seminar

The second Diversity Seminar was held on June 26th, helping companies overcome some of the barriers faced in the modern, diverse workforce. This event was a more participatory event, and was developed from attendees comments from the first session. Kirk Hayes served as a resource/facilitator at one of the tables in this roundtable format. Attendees left excited for the next event in this series.

Sector Grant

At the last meeting, it was announced that the WIB, with metro partners including Anoka County, Washington County, Saint Paul College and Anoka Technical College, received \$50,000 from the Governor's Workforce Development Council for a metro manufacturing sector grant. The focus of the grant will be metal fabricating, using HIRED and Hennepin Technical College's "MPowered" program as a model. This program has been successful in Hennepin County, largely because it is business lead, with businesses having input on every aspect from curriculum to timing of the program. An initial meeting with businesses was held on July 17th; partners are looking for more fabricators to be involved, and this initiative is open to the entire metro area. The next meeting will be held on Aug 30th and the project will move forward at that point, with more funding to be sought during the program.

Update on the Joint Powers Agreement

The City and County have been discussing the Joint Powers Agreement, and it appears that these talks have been very positive.

Re-Designation- Listening Sessions

Mary Jo reminded the board of the listening sessions held by DEED in August, called MN Competes. There will be one at Saint Paul College from 8:30-12:30 on August 8th, and another at the Brooklyn Park Community Center on August 22nd. Among other topics, the meeting will address the possibility of re-designating workforce service areas, and all members are encouraged to attend. Based on feedback from other sessions, it seems that the format has developed to gather more input from the local areas. It is felt

that the timeline for this decision will coincide with the start of the next program year on July 1, 2008. The locations and times will be sent out to the full WIB again.

Presentation on Twin Cities Compass

Paul Mattessich from Wilder Research presented the Twin Cities Compass project. This is a website, that is currently still in development, that will allow the Twin Cities to assess how well the region is doing and what improvements can be made to help the region. Paul presented the site and asked the WIB to review the criteria related to workforce and suggest any changes that seem appropriate.

Paul was asked why the aging population was not considered a specific group to study and be aware of. Paul indicated that the aging population is a concern, and will be addressed through other groups, such as housing and health. The group further discussed the measures associated with economic and workforce development, as defined by discussions with other stakeholders. The key measures are worker productivity, knowledge workers, income disparities, and innovation. All agreed that it will be interesting to see workforce participation as it develops with the baby boomers retiring. Also discussed was the cause of these measures, and what affects them, positively or negatively. Paul clarified that outcomes for each measure will be the emphasis of this program.

The majority of the discussion was on innovation. Business members felt that positive outcomes come from more than just revolutionary changes in the way business is done, but rather from slow, steady improvements. It was also felt this measure would be difficult to define at a base level that everyone could agree on.

Also discussed was the intended use of this resource. It is felt that Twin Cities Compass will be more closely linked with action, and become more of a living document, than previous attempts by other local organizations, at defining and predicting the economic environment.

This topic will go to the Workforce Committee meeting for discussion, and Mary Jo will get back to Paul after this discussion has been held. The website is expected to launch in fall, and will continue to evolve through its inception.

Chair Recognition

Paul Nelson and Mary Jo recognized Robert de la Vega for his work this past year as Chair of the WIB. Commissioner McDonough presented Robert with a proclamation from the County board thanking him for his work and dedication.

Other

Burke Murphy, the new Regional Administrator for the Dept. of Employment and Economic Development, introduced herself to the board.

Century College was named the recipient of a \$3.9M grant from the Dept. of Human Services to setup a statewide program to train child welfare workers, with five college partners across the state.

Adjourn

Motion made by Mike Chanaka with second by Bob Morse to adjourn the meeting at 4:23 p.m.

Motion carried.

Next Meeting

Thursday, October 4, 2007

2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation.

Attachment 1: Recognition and Announcements

Recognition:

- Thank you to all officers and Committee Chairs/Vice Chairs for their contribution to the WIB during 8/1/06-7/31/07:
 - Craig Anderson, Workforce Committee Chair
 - Kirk Hayes, Youth Council Chair
 - Mike Chanaka, Friends of the WIB Chair
 - Vinod Kumar, Treasurer
 - Kathy Engesser, Past Chair
 - Paul Nelson, Chair-Elect
 - Robert de la Vega, Chair
- Congratulations to the WIB and Core partners for approval of the WIA Unified Plan by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.
- Thank you to WIB members Kirk Hayes and Cynthia Yongvang for leading table discussions at the Addressing Cultural Barriers in the Workplace – Dialogue event on June 26.
- Thank you to Hiway Federal Credit Union for hosting the Addressing Cultural Barriers dialogue.

Announcements:

- The Governor's Workforce Development Council awarded a Minnesota Sector Partnership Grant to the Metro Manufacturing Sector Initiative. The lead organization and fiscal agent for the grant is the Ramsey County Workforce Investment Board. Ramsey County partners for the grant include Workforce Solutions, Saint Paul College and the Saint Paul Adult Learning. Huot Manufacturing Company, located in Saint Paul, is participating. Further recruitment of businesses is underway.
- On August 2nd and 3rd the University of Minnesota in Saint Paul will be host to the Helping America's Youth Regional Conference. This conference is an effort lead by Mrs. Laura Bush to raise awareness about the challenges that youth face and asking Americans to become engaged in helping youth become healthy adults. Ramsey County Youth Council members were invited to attend. Peter Jessen-Howard, Jody Yungers, Dean Shawbold and Workforce Solution's Terry Zurn are attending.
- The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development will be hosting the Minnesota Competes meetings focusing on strategies to develop Minnesota's competitiveness for the 21st century. Re-designation of the workforce service areas will be included in these discussions. The metro area meetings are on August 8th (Saint Paul College) and 22nd (Brooklyn Park Community Activity Center). Contact Kate Raleigh if you are interested in attending.
- August 22nd will be the Second Annual YouthLead Event recognizing youth who participated in the program. Anyone who would like to make a contribution to recognize these youth are welcome to donate to Friends of the WIB. Please join the event on August 22nd, 5:00 pm at the Harriet Island Pavilion.
- Leadership positions are open for the Workforce Committee (Vice Chair) and Youth Council (Chair-Elect). If you are interested, please contact Mary Jo.
- The Workforce Committee has changed their meeting to the FIRST Thursday of every odd month; their next meeting will be on September 6th, 1:00-2:30.
- Next WIB meeting: October 4th, 2:30 – 4:30, Ramsey County Parks and Recreation in Maplewood.