

South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc.
Quarterly Meeting
Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce
July 22, 2009, 12:00 Noon
Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Darrell White, Jonas Uland, Dee Richards, Gene McCracken, Brenda Hentrup, Ron Arnold, Ed Epping, Steve Bryant, and George Qualley.

Also Present: Richard Rampley, John Corcoran, Nancy Begle, Sheila Hess, Steve Gault, Nancy Karazzia, Tom Horstman, Kim Stevenson, Teresa Voors, Greg Vollmer, Valerie Kroeger, Jeannie Vaughn Megan Baldwin and Debbie Andry representing Bedford Mayor, Shawna Girgis

Chairperson Ed Epping called the meeting to order and welcomed guests. Each person present introduced themselves. A quorum of the Board was confirmed as present.

Approval of Minutes

Darrell White noted that he was left off the list of Board members present in the April 22 meeting minutes. Chairperson Ed Epping made the addition to the minutes. Gene McCracken moved to accept the amended minutes of the April 22, 2009 meeting of the South Central Region 8 Workforce Board, Inc. Jonas Uland seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Presentation of Slate of Officers

The proposed slate of officers for the period July 2009 to June 2010 is: Chair, Darrell White; Vice-Chair, Ed Epping; Secretary, Jonas Uland. No other nominations were recommended.

Ron Arnold made the motion to accept the slate of officers for the South Central Region 8 Workforce Board. Dee Richards seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Selection of a CPA firm for the audits of the Board and Regional Operator

Chairperson Ed Epping presented a handout comparing the three bids from Comer Nowling & Associates, Thomas & Reed, LLC and Estep*Doctor & Company, PC. Nancy Begle clarified that an RFP went out to all and the ones listed are the three that responded and provided a bid. Ron Arnold asked if all three were qualified. John Corcoran noted that all three are qualified to do the audit, however Comer Nowling & Associates is the only one with experience in Employment & Training audits.

Gene McCracken made the motion to hire Comer Nowling and Associates to complete the audit at a bid price of \$14,590. Jonas Uland seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Financial Report

Nancy Begle presented the financial report as of June 30, 2009. Nancy noted that Region 8 spent 90% or better in the adult and youth categories. 67% of the JAG funds have been spent and will be available to spend until September 2009. It was noted that Rapid Response money was received later and will not have to be expended by June. John Corcoran reported that we will have some carry in funds. He also noted that we will not spend around twenty thousand of the \$2.1 million dollar budget from the SSI project. A Summary Report by Region was also handed out, noting that Region 8 spent 48.5% on direct client costs. Chairperson Ed Epping thanked John Corcoran and Sheila Hess for the region's performance. In addition, a Program Year 2008 audit resolution letter from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development was presented. There were no findings or questioned costs.

Jonas Uland made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Dee Richards seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Regional Operator Report

John Corcoran reported that all contracts were executed, except the disability navigator and business consultant contracts. Mr. Corcoran congratulated Vincennes University and Richard Rampley for their help with execution of the contracts in very short time frame.

John summarized the Workforce Acceleration Grant from the Dept. of Workforce Development. Region 8 will receive \$895,720 to help low income adults and dislocated workers with the unfunded cost of education.

John stated that the State Workforce Innovation Council is changing its role and will become more pro-active. The Region 8 Workforce Board, the Regional Operator and Vincennes University have all entered agreements with the SWIC outlining each party's responsibilities.

The Young Hoosiers Conservation Corps (YHCC) has employed 358 low-income youth aged 18-24 in State Parks and Recreation Areas in Region 8. This is more than any Region in the State due to the fact that Region 8 has more parks than any other Region. These are temporary jobs.

All Board Members were asked to complete the Economic Interest Statement regarding conflict of interest before leaving the meeting today. John Corcoran reported the results of the Strategic Skills Initiative (SSI) which ended on June 30.

WorkOne Report

Richard Rampley reviewed the WorkOne Performance Report and Rapid Response Activities handouts. Darrell White asked Richard Rampley about the General Electric situation and he informed the board that the closure date has been pushed back to the first quarter of 2011. Approximately 720 people are working at the present time at GE.

Major Initiatives-DWD Commissioner Teresa Voors

The Commissioner noted that Indiana received Stimulus Funds and the amount allocated to the Department of Workforce Development was used in three different manners. The first amount was used for the Young Hoosier Conservation Corps (YHCC) program. This program allows lower income youth to obtain employment at a variety of Indiana Department of Natural Resources facilities throughout the state. It was noted that Region 8 had received one of the largest concentration of funds due to the number of Natural Resource facilities through our area. The second amount of money has been earmarked for the Workforce Acceleration Grant (WAG) program. The grants allow for the maximum money for direct services regarding training. The Board will decide the occupational degrees to be approved. The goal is to increase education levels within the Indiana workforce. The last amount of Stimulus money was used for supporting Unemployment Benefits funds. Due to the economic situation in the United States, state and federal extensions have been put in place and individuals can now collect up to 79 weeks of UI benefits. Indiana needed to borrow \$1.7 billion dollars to keep the UI trust fund afloat. The unemployment rate in Indiana is 10.7%. It appears that unemployment has peaked in June with 225,000 claims. The number of unemployment claims dropped to 215,000 in July. Northern Indiana has suffered more losses recently than in Southern Indiana. The loss of manufacturing jobs has slowed down recently. Teresa Voors noted "green sprouts" beginning in the economy. An increase in employer's taxes will go into effect during the first quarter of 2010. Richard Rampley suggested completing UI Employer Seminars within the WorkOne offices in order to assist in getting the information spread.

A new state workforce plan has been developed. This plan calls for better collaboration with the Department of Education to better align the workforce and use one common assessment.

The next quarterly meeting of the Board was discussed and tentatively set for October 21 but will be announced later. The meeting will begin at noon in Bedford at the Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce. Lunch will be served beginning at 11:30 a.m.

With no further business, Jonas Uland moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Bryant seconded the motion, the motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Prepared By: John Corcoran

Approved by the South Central Region 8 Workforce Board on November 4, 2009