

The Boone and Winnebago Counties Workforce Investment Board, Inc.

MINUTES OF February 3, 2009

Site: The Workforce Connection, 303 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL 61101

I. **WIB Call to Order.** WIB Chairman Dick Mowris called the Boone and Winnebago Counties Workforce Investment Board meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. .

WIB Present (26): Diana Barthelman, Jon Bates, Dr. Jack Becherer, Karen Brown, Paul Callighan, Linda Campos, Janet Ellis, Pedro Enriquez, Dr. Richard Fairgrievies, Steve Gibson, Lynn Godina, Luanna Grimes, Matthew Jones, Tim McGuire, Kate McMahon, Dave Morgan, Richard Mowris, Jim Pirages, Mark Podemski, Jim Ryan, Mary Beth Scholten, Mark Stefanic, Nord Swanstrom, Shirley Walker, C. Mark Williams, Mike Williams **Absent (12):** Allan Barsema, Shirley Burks, Michele Caldwell, James Fehlhaber, Todd Kindred, Harvey Lightbody, Stephanie Lueder, Larry McKay, Dan Parod, John Phelps, Maureen Rosenberg, Elton Turner

WIB Staff Present: Darcy Bucholz, Pamela Fettes, John Strandin, Trudy Wellman

Partner Staff Present: Dan White – Rock River Training Corporation; Gary Lawson – Rock Valley College Dislocated Worker Program; Ted Duckett – IDES; Sue Molyneaux – Rock River Training Corporation; Linda Sullivan – disabilityworks; Tom Austin – IDES; Amy Massoth – Rock Valley College Refugee and Immigrant Program

Guests Present: Steve Simmons – Chicago Jobs Council; Sean Driscoll – Rockford Register Star

II. **WIB Minutes of December 2, 2008:** Nord Swanstrom made a motion to approve the December 2, 2008 minutes. Paul Callighan provided the second to the motion. The minutes were approved.

III. **Consent Agenda – Action Item:** The single consent agenda item is a modification to the PY 2008 Budget. In June 2008 the Workforce Investment Board and the Chief Elected Officials approved a “preliminary” budget established with estimates for carryover funds; discretionary funding from the State; and funding associated with large layoffs. Actual amounts are now known and a *revised* budget is being presented for approval. The budget detail is attached. The following changes from the “preliminary” budget should be noted:

- Increase in total revenue of \$240,816 as a result of a supplemental allocation of WIA Dislocated Worker program funding; IL workNet Grant; additional Trade Adjustment Assistance funding; and revised carryover amounts.
- No changes for staffing and related costs for Rock River Training or the WIB; however RVC Dislocated Worker program has reduced staff and related operating costs by \$99,587.
- Sub-contracted youth program amounts remain the same; however the youth contracts line item on the budget is increase by \$57,904 to reflect the portion of the PY 2007 youth contract paid after July 1, 2008 for performance earnings.
- Addition youth program funds have been allocated to direct participant costs – work experience, ITA’s/tuition, and other participant costs.
- Other minor line item changes reflect current spending trends.

Participant service levels remain the same as approved in the December 2008 job training plan modification:

Paul Callighan provided a motion to approve the revised PY 2008 Budget. Dr. Richard Fairgrievies provided a second to the motion. Chairman Mowris requested a roll call vote.

Barthelman – Yes; Bates – Yes; Becherer – Yes; Brown – Yes; Callighan – Yes; Campos – Yes; Ellis – Yes; Enriquez – Yes; Fairgrievies – Yes; Gibson – Yes; Godina – Yes; Grimes – Yes; Jones – Yes; McGuire – Yes; McMahon – Yes; Morgan – Yes; Mowris – Yes; Pirages – Yes; Podemski – Yes; Ryan – Yes; Scholten – Yes; Stefanic – Yes; Swanstrom – Yes; Walker – Yes, Williams, C. Mark – Yes, Williams, Mike – Yes. The motion was approved.

- IV. **Ad Hoc Committee on Roles and Responsibilities:** Mark Podemski updated the Board on the revisions to the Roles and Responsibilities Report which was presented to the joint Finance, Planning, and Organizational Development Committees on January 30, 2009. The document was rewritten with the DCEO input that had been suggested last year. The CEO's will be updated and presented the rewritten documents on February 4, 2009. Mark informed the Board that fundamentally there was nothing wrong with the original document, but the revisions have included DCEO's comments and further clarification. The document will be presented at the WIB/CEO meeting in March. All members of the WIB and CEO's will receive a copy to review prior to the meeting. Rock River Training will remain the fiscal agent; but planning activities will become the responsibility of the WIB. One of the key elements in the proposal is having the WIB more engaged in the oversight and outcomes independent of the WIA metrics. The WIB will provide direction as to what is expected out of the program partners and fiscal agent, and position itself to go after more unrestricted funds.
- V. **Unemployment Insurance/A Current Snapshot:** Nord Swanstrom spoke about the current unemployment statistics in the two-county area. We have some of the highest unemployment numbers in the nation. In the first quarter of the State's year over 16,000 claims have been processed. It is one of the highest quarters that he has seen in his years with IDES.

Tom Austin of IDES spoke about the unemployment rate being up 5.4 percent from a year ago. The unemployment rate for our two county region is higher than the State of Illinois by 5.1 percent and higher than the national average in the nation by 5.4 percent. Causes for the high unemployment rate is a decline in manufacturing sector, temporary layoffs in December, which affects other industries such as retail, hospitality, construction, etc. It is expected that the construction industry will see a sharper decline in job openings, due to the housing industry decline, a sharp decrease in building permits, and municipalities are finishing projects that were started previously, and do not anticipate as many new projects to start. Education and health service areas had a small amount of growth over the same period, but they are also experiencing tightening of hiring. In the health care field hospitals have been laying off non-patient related staff. The health care field seems to be taking a hit due to layoffs in other areas.

- VI. **Economic Stimulus Package Update:** Mike Williams provided information from a conference he attended on re-employment activities and the local workforce system engagement. The center of discussion was regarding the economic stimulus package. Once the bill is signed into legislation and funds disbursed to the states, local areas will have 180 days to obligate 50% of the money to get individuals back to work/training.

States must start the planning process now and have it in place by the time the stimulus package is ready to go. If they do not they will not receive 100% of the funding that the state is eligible for. The money that is being proposed will not be for hiring more staff, but rather to help the unemployed. He was also informed that WIA reauthorization will happen very swiftly this year.

Mike did stress that carryover dollars will not be allowed with the stimulus package money. One way to spend the money is to develop additional OJT's. Summer youth employment programs will be a large portion of the youth funding. Williams did express a concern in not having the amount of staff it will take to serve the amount of individuals that the stimulus package will provide training for.

Darcy Bucholz, Executive Director of the WIB gave dollar estimates of what the local area might receive - \$3,300,000. She did emphasize that these are just estimates and final figures will come from the state. Bucholz spoke about the summer youth employment program.

After active discussion, it was decided that a committee of staff from The Workforce Connection, including the One Stop Operators, will develop some initial plans for a summer youth employment program and for the adult and dislocated worker stimulus activities. These plans will be presented and discussed with a Board and Community Member Committee to be chaired by Dr. Becherer. This Committee will present additional information to the WIB and CEOs in March.

- VII. **Financial Reports:** Dan White reported that spending is on track in all funding streams with the exception of the grants specifically for individuals associated with the Chrysler downsizing. It is currently anticipated

that the money for the Chrysler and related employers will not be spent by June 30, 2009 and an extension of the grants will be requested.

- VIII. Executive Director Report:** Darcy Bucholz reminded WIB members that The Workforce Connection is hosted a job fair on January 29, 2009 in Belvidere. There were approximately 25 companies that participated and 850 job seekers. One complaint that came from many job seekers was that there were not enough jobs.
- IX. Other/New Business:** There will be a joint WIB/CEO meeting on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 7:30 a.m. at The Workforce Connection, 303 N. Main Street, Rooms 103/104.
- X. Public Comment:** Linda Campos spoke about people that have lost jobs that are considered older workers. Their concern is not having the experience, but rather who will hire them at their age.
- XI. Adjournment:** Mark Podemski provided a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 a.m. Nord Swanstrom seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Items included with the WIB meeting packets:

- 1) 02/03/09 WIB/CEO Agenda
- 2) WIB Minutes of December 2, 2008
- 3) Consent Agenda
- 4) Committee Reports
- 5) Financial Report as of December 31, 2008

Trudy Wellman
Boone and Winnebago Counties Workforce Investment Board

Date

(Signature affixed upon WIB approval)

(Date affixed upon WIB approval)