

**WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 26, 2003 MEETING**

A meeting of the Workforce Investment Board was called to order by Vice-Chairman Sue E. Caswell at 6:24 PM, Wednesday, February 26, 2003, at The Lobster House, Norwood, NY.

Members Present: Jack Backus, Genevieve Baxter, Doug Beachard, Don Brining, Sue Caswell, Richard Daddario, Bruce Green, Ron McDougall, Joanne Novak, Linda Randi, Tim Weaver

Members Absent: Lynn Blevins, Donald Hooper, Joseph Kennedy, Kristy Langtry, Linda Manchester, Steve Novacich, Walt Paul, Mike St. Thomas, Ryan Schermerhorn

Others Present: Jim Connor, Raymond H. Fountain, Jr., Natalie Haggart, Steve House, Patrick Kelly, and John Manson of the Office of Economic Development; Tom Riley of the New York State Department of Labor; Debbie Bridges of SEACAP, and Edmund Russell.

Ms. Caswell welcomes members and guests to the meeting. She then announced that the agenda order would be modified this evening.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Resolution Authorizing Certification of Eligible Training Providers – Policy 4-I  
Resolution Appointing Raymond H. Fountain Executive Director of the St. Lawrence County Workforce Investment Board:

Moved by Mr.Daddario, seconded by Ms. Baxter, the resolutions on the consent agenda were passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution Approving a Contract with St. Lawrence-Lewis BOCES for Provision of Year Round Services to Youth: Mr. Connor explained that this contract would provide literacy programming to out of school youth. Moved by Ms. Baxter, seconded by Mr. Backus, the resolution passed unanimously.

Resolution Adopting a Participant Termination Policy – Welfare to Work Program: Moved by Mr. Brining, seconded by Mr. Daddario, the resolution passed unanimously.

Resolution Amending Policy No. 3: Determination of Individual Training Accounts under the Workforce Investment Act: Mr. Daddario presented the resolution. Mr. Backus inquired whether or not these funds were sufficient to get an individual through training and into employment. Mr. House noted that these funds are utilized only after the application of other sources of aid/grants. Moved by Mr. McDougall and seconded by Mr. Backus, the resolution passed unanimously. Mr. Backus then shared a customer's positive experience with our office.

Resolution In Support of Enhancements Necessary to Support the Agricultural Industry in St. Lawrence County: Mr. Backus noted that it only makes sense to support agriculture. Moved by Mr. Daddario and seconded by Mr. Brining, the resolution passed unanimously.

## **MINUTES**

Moved by Mr. Daddario and seconded by Mr. Brining, the minutes of the December 4, 2002 meeting were approved unanimously.

## **CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

Ms. Caswell presented a gift to Mr. Russell commending him for his years of service as the Executive Director of the Workforce Investment Board and the Private Industry Council.

Debbie Bridges of SEACAP, gave a brief presentation / overview of the Communities That Care survey. She then entertained questions by the members and guests.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Marketing and Quality Assurance Committee: Mr. Daddario reported out on the January 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the WIB's Marketing and Quality Assurance Committee. Previous and current advertising was reviewed, including signage throughout the County complex and Burger King placemat advertising.

Mr. Daddario remarked that little progress had been made regarding the proposal that each partner provide marketing budget credits against the marketing budget. Mr. Fountain agreed that this needs to be re-addressed. He also noted that upon certification, the One-Stop can receive an additional \$10,000 for marketing.

Mr. Beachard noted that the State Certification Review Team was very impressed with the Center, and noted they had not been to another One-Stop that had this type of facility.

Tom Riley from the NYS Department of Labor was questioned why the One-Stop has not yet been certified. He stated he felt the main reason was because of a letter of complaint received by the NYSDOL. The letter alleged there was a firewall issue. Mr. Riley stated that, as far as he was concerned, there was no firewall issue, and that there were other areas in the State that had firewall issues much more controversial than St. Lawrence County. He added that, the One-Stop Career Center has a real good thing going; and he noted that he would try to get the St. Lawrence LWIA certified before he retires, which will be by the end of March. He went on to say that he doesn't feel Albany truly understands the organization.

To clarify the question Mr. Fountain explained that the email had been sent to Margaret Moree in confidence alleging the St. Lawrence County One-Stop was not in compliance with the firewall. Mr. Fountain went on to explain that under Federal legislation, the WIB cannot directly deliver Core, Intensive, or Training services. New York State issued a directive to the WIB, which, under then Chairman Blevins'

authority Mr. Russell responded. The letter designated Mr. Russell as staff to the WIB. Mr. Fountain was placed in charge of service delivery. Mr. Paul had contended that as no letter of approval was received, then the issued had never received approval.

Mr. Brining noted that the issue should be addressed by the Board, and added that Mr. Paul had sent an email to the State which did not represent the WIB. Both Mr. Brining and Mr. Daddario inquired about the email and expressed concern about WIB members sending correspondence of that nature. Mr. Daddario asked that the issue, if it is holding up certification, should be addressed.

Ms. Caswell inquired about what the WIB should do. Mr. Fountain responded that how you deal with WIB members is not his call. He did note that he had a letter drafted regarding the firewall issue. Mr. Blevins spoke to him about the firewall issue and its implications, as Mr. Blevins was Chair of the WIB at that time. Mr. Fountain added that the issue was discussed at the WIB Executive Committee meeting on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Brining noted that the certification is a business issue that needs to be addressed, and asked Mr. Riley how to accomplish it.

Mr. Riley suggested forwarding the letter immediately, as an even bigger issue is the inability to apply for further grants, etc. without this certification. Mr. Riley reiterated that his goal is to get the certification as quickly as possible. Mr. Fountain noted that Mr. Hooper has reviewed the letter and will send it out to the State.

Youth Committee: Ms. Caswell noted the Youth Council met on January 9th. The previously passed resolution was the only item of note.

Services Committee: Mr. Beachard reported the WIB Services Committee met on February 17<sup>th</sup>. The previously passed resolutions were the only items of note.

Executive Committee: Ms. Caswell reported that the WIB Executive Committee met on February 17<sup>th</sup> and reviewed all of the items submitted by WIB committees.

Due to recent WIB resignations, Ray Fountain was asked to contact the local Chambers of Commerce regarding the submission of nominations for membership. Letters requesting nominations were recently forwarded to the County Chamber of Commerce and 10 local Chambers of Commerce.

The Executive Committee also asked Ray for a list of duties and responsibilities of the various WIB committees. The Executive Committee agreed that each individual committee should review their respective areas of responsibility and come up with a list of individual committee goals.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the next WIB meeting will be moved from Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> to Wednesday, April 30.

### **STAFF REPORT**

Mr. Fountain briefly reviewed the items noted in his meeting letter to the members.

Mr. Fountain reported that the State is distributing between \$10 and \$15 million additional monies for WIA Adult funding, of which our share could be about \$200,000.

Mr. Fountain noted that, in response to continued high unemployment, the President has proposed to include \$3.6 billion over 2 years for states to begin offering ‘personal reemployment accounts’ for unemployed workers who are determined to be in jeopardy of exhausting their UI benefits, or who have exhausted their benefits within 3 months prior to the effective date of the program. These accounts would provide up to \$3,000 to each eligible individual for training, childcare, and transportation to get them back to work. Recipients would be allowed to keep leftover money as an incentive, if they find employment within a 13-week period. This is proposed to serve as an incentive for individuals to find work quickly. This would be in addition to any regular unemployment benefits. The client would receive 60% of the excess at employment, and the remaining 40% if still employed after six months.

Mr. Fountain went on to report on the proposed performance measures. The measures will decrease to 8 from its present 18, effective July 1. Most likely, these measures will go into effect with or without the new legislation.

Financial Report: There were no comments.

Report Card: There were no comments.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-Chairman Caswell thanked Board members for attending the meeting. On motion of Mr. McDougall, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joanne M. Novak, Esq.