

**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY**

**WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

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**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY  
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD  
MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2006 MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Donald Hooper called the meeting to order at 6:55 PM at the River Lanes Restaurant, Waddington.

**Members Present:** Jack Backus, Don Brining, Sue Caswell, Paul Catanzarite, Tracy Charleson, Rich Daddario, Bruce Green, Don Hooper, Joe Kennedy, Linda Manchester, Ron McDougall, Mike Noble, Steve Novacich, Richard Orton, Walt Paul, Dale Rice, Tim Weaver, Scott Wright

**Members Absent:** Doug Beachard, Daphne Pickert, Ryan Schermerhorn, Mark Webster

**Others Present:** Raymond H. Fountain, Jr., Natalie Haggart, Steve House, Jean Hantz, Brian Norton, Ed Short and Patrick Kelly of the Office of Economic Development; Todd Doherty, NYSDOL.

**MINUTES:** Moved by Mr. Noble and seconded by Mr. Brining, the minutes of the Dec. 14, 2005 meeting were approved unanimously.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:**

- Introduction of Steve House as new One-Stop Manager
- Introduction of Jean Hantz as new Senior Employment & Training Coordinator
- Introduction of Brian Norton as new Economic Developer
- Feedback from NAWB Forum 2006 attendees (Ms. Manchester, Mr. Kelly, Mr. House) All three NAWB Forum 2006 attendees agreed the major emphases of the conference included the 2007 proposed funding cuts and our (US) ability to compete on the global market. Funding has decreased by approximately \$1 billion since 2001 with 1 million more people unemployed. There was much emphasis on competitiveness in light of the shrinking resources. Some funds may be restored, but not to the original levels.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Executive Committee: Committee met March 1<sup>st</sup>. and reviewed the meeting agenda.
- Marketing and Board Development: Did not meet. Chairman Hooper cited Mr. Beachard (Committee Chair) is in charge of Human Resources at St. Lawrence Zinc (SLZ) and has been busy dealing with all the newly hired employees there. Chairman Hooper noted he hopes this committee will begin to meet and discuss its charge in the near future.
- Youth Committee: Youth Committee Chairman Bruce Green reported that the Youth Council met on February 9 to discuss a number of issues, one of which is a resolution to be presented later this evening.
- Ad Hoc – Health Care: Committee Chairman Jack Backus noted he was very pleased with the cooperation and responses received from his committee's members. The committee was tasked to determine a health related concern in St. Lawrence County and, once determined, how to utilize the \$60,000 budgeted to solve this concern. The committee decided that the funds would be specific in nature, the results should be measurable, and no surveys or

consultants would be utilized. Members worked independently and results/suggestions have been forwarded to Chairman Hooper.

Chairman Hooper asked all committee chairpersons to let him know when meetings are being held. He would like to attend if his schedule permits.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Resolution “Modifying WIA Budget (Incentive Grant Funds)” Moved by Mr. Daddario and seconded by Mr. Orton. Mr. Fountain explained this modification moves approximately \$47,000 from the experiential work training program set up for youth and adult and adds it to the OJT budget. He noted that with the uncertainty of formula funding it would be more beneficial to move these funds from a program that is very specific into a program that can reach more customers. Mr. Novacich asked about funds for tuition/classroom training. Mr. Fountain noted that currently 35% of the total appropriation is targeted to direct fees/ classroom training. Mr. Orton inquired about certified NYS apprenticeship programs at St. Lawrence Zinc. There is no apprentice program there currently; however, Mr. Paul has indicated he is scheduled to meet with Mr. Beachard regarding training at Southwest Tech. The resolution passed unanimously.
- Resolution “Amending Bylaws” Moved by Mr. Noble and seconded by Ms. Caswell. Chairman Hooper explained that the proposed change was first presented to the membership at the December 14, 2005 meeting. This resolution accepts the amendment changing the number of Executive Committee members from 6 to 7. Passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Resolution “Approving Budget Line for Youth Council Members”: Youth Committee Chairman Bruce Green noted that it is the committee’s goal to provide continuing education for its Committee, especially in light of the many new members. This resolution would allow more members to attend such conferences as the Youth Academy. Mr. Green cited his recent conversation with Mr. Fountain whereby Mr. Fountain indicated that if more members wanted to attend a function, they could as long as it was approved (by the WIB Chairman). Mr. Fountain noted that he felt there was a misconception that only the Youth Council Chairman could attend the conference. He noted he thought he had conveyed through previous conversations that he had requested only that those members who typically/historically went to these conferences not ask for the Council to fund the trip and therefore further their own individual agency budgets. Mr. Fountain noted it may be more appropriate to ask these Council members to share in the costs, thereby lessening the burden on any one agency. Youth Committee members Caswell, Paul and Kennedy all agreed that there was a misconception about travel for the members for training purposes. In response to Ms. Caswell’s comment that the Council felt that money was not available for this purpose, Mr. Fountain noted that the budget is comprehensive (it includes WIB, Youth Council, staff). Historically he discusses the

request with the WIB Chair. Dr. Kennedy asked Mr. Fountain to attend the next meeting of the Youth Council to clarify this issue. The resolution was withdrawn by Youth Committee Chairman Green with no objections noted.

**STAFF REPORT:**

- 2006 Summit: Mr. Fountain noted that the follow up to the WIB's 2004 Summit is being discussed and ongoing plans/suggestions will be addressed by the Executive Committee.
  - Date: June 12 through June 16 available (probably our best bet)
  - Location: SUNY Canton
  - Venue: Auditorium and 4 multi-purpose rooms
  - Scope:
    - Guest Speaker? – Steve Gundersen not available. Other options being investigated.
    - CITEC involvement? – CITEC provided assistance with breakout sessions, findings, etc for the 2004 Summit
    - Marketing? – To what extent the Summit would be marketed.
- Membership Status: The WIB needs 1 more business representative to comply with its bylaws. Membership is in compliance with WIA regulations.
- Local Plan/Recertification: Staff have responded to NYSDOL's remarks on the local plan and nothing has been returned to us regarding the recertification application.
- WIA/ES Resource and Service Integration Planning: Mr. Fountain explained that, at the last WIB Directors' meeting, they met with ES regional managers to discuss creation of an integrated service strategy. Driven in part by funding constraints, the plans will eventually become part of the Local Plan and Recertification.
- WIA Allocations/WIA Funding Cuts/Letters to Congressional Representatives: Mr. Fountain referred to the handouts provided to attendees. He noted that our total allocation is expected to decrease by approximately \$271,000 (16.2%). The majority of the cuts statewide were slightly over 20% per local area. In response to Chairman Hooper's question, Mr. Fountain noted the State breaks down the allocations provided by the US DOL. Mr. Fountain noted that the correspondence had been faxed to Senators Clinton and Schumer, and Congressman McHugh asking each of them to vote against these cuts and restore funding.
- TANF Summer Youth Audit: Representatives from the State Department of Social Services conducted the audit and found no problems. Fiscal and counselor staff were commended by the auditors for their work. Mr. Fountain reported that there have been discussions of increasing NYS TANF allocations back to levels of four years ago. Historically, notification of the funding level is received at the last minute.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business and on motion of Mr. McDougall, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

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/s/  
Rich Daddario, Secretary