

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY

**WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**

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MINUTES OF JUNE 20, 2007 MEETING

**CALL TO ORDER:** Treasurer Richard Daddario called the meeting to order at 8:24 AM on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

Members Present: Jack Backus, Doug Beachard, Sue Caswell, Rich Daddario, Bruce Green, Joe Kennedy, Linda Manchester, Lisa McCarty, Mike Noble, Richard Orton, Steve Novacich, Daphne Pickert.

Members Absent: Paul Catanzarite, Tracy Charleson, Donald Hooper, Ron McDougall, Walt Paul, Dale Rice, Ryan Schermerhorn, Mark Webster.

Others Present: Jim Connor, Ray Fountain, Natalie Haggart, Jean Hantz, Steve House, Patrick Kelly.

**CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT:** Mr. Daddario notes that Mr. Catanzarite is unavailable. Mr. Fountain notes that Mr. Catanzarite will most likely appoint a nominating committee prior to the September (Annual) meeting. Mr. Daddario notes that anyone interested in the Chairmanship should speak up.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**MINUTES:** Mr. Orton moves, second by Mr. Noble. Minutes of the March 14, 2007 meeting are approved unanimously.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Executive: Mr. Fountain reports the Executive Committee met on May 4 to discuss budgets and on May 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss General Motors.

Youth: Mr. Green reports that both Youth Committee meetings centered on Summer Youth. He reported that 604 applications have been received with 230 youth invited to participate in the Summer Youth program. The program runs from July 9 through August 17 and serves youth between 14 and 21 years of age. The last meeting included election of officers: Bruce Green (Chair) and Ed Gauthier (Vice-Chair). The next Youth Council meeting is scheduled for October 4 and all are invited to attend.

Marketing/Board Development: Mr. Beachard reports that two meetings have been held since the last WIB meeting. He described the Committee's various marketing campaigns, including one WIB presentation to the St. Lawrence County Chamber. He noted that Committee is creating an annual marketing plan. \$9,000 has been allocated for marketing (includes DPN program). The seasonal job market is currently being targeted. Mr. Kelly notes that 4 or 5 potential new board members are being outreached.

AdHoc: One-Stop: Mr. Noble notes 2 meetings have been held with a 3<sup>rd</sup> scheduled for July 19. The Committee is currently reviewing the MOU, which has to be reviewed and signed every three years and is due for renewal this summer. Cost allocation negotiations continue.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Resolution - Certification of Training Providers: Mr. Noble moves, seconded by Mr. Orton. Ms. Haggart explains the training provider certification process. No further discussion or questions. The resolution is approved unanimously.

Resolution – Customer Travel Reimbursement: Mr. House explains that this is an attempt to offset the increased gas/fuel prices and recommending an increase to the customer reimbursement to \$.20 per mile. This is the current reimbursement rate used by DSS and the same rate will also eliminate confusion. Motion by Mr. Orton to amend, seconded by Mr. Noble. Amended to include consent of the WIB to automatically change the reimbursement rate to be consistent with that of the Department of Social Services. Motion to approve by Ms. Manchester, second by Ms. Caswell. The resolution, as amended, is approved unanimously.

Resolution – Contract Extension for Youth Service Providers: Moved by Mr. Green and seconded by Mr. Beachard. Mr. Connor notes that the Youth Council recommends the extension to the current youth contracts, the only change being to the Office of Economic Development relative to the Workers’ Compensation rate change. The resolution is approved unanimously.

Resolution – DPN Budget Modification: Mr. Noble moved, seconded by Mr. Orton. Mr. Fountain explains that this modification reflects the increased funding that was received and also the State’s breakdown of the DPN funds into two categories. The modification restructures budget to reflect allocations. Resolution passed unanimously.

Resolution – Establishing PY07 Budget: Mr. Orton moves, seconded by Ms. Pickert. Mr. Fountain notes this is the PY07 budget effective July 1. The budget numbers are those that were provided by the State. He expects adjustments (minimal) in the numbers as the State is unsure of the actual funding. This budget reflects the requests of the Youth Council. The TANF funds are not included in this budget – only WIA funds. Nor does this budget include funds requests to address the GM dislocation. In response to Mr. Backus’ question, Mr. Fountain notes that WIA funds come from the State through the Federal DOL. Resolution passed unanimously.

**STAFF REPORT:**

Mr. Fountain reported on the following:

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Performance Report: Mr. Fountain explains that we are required to meet 80% of the standard. Currently we are one of only five LWIAs in the State who are meeting their standards by at least 80%. This is the first year that includes combined (partner) standards.

One Stop Quarterly Report Card: Mr. Fountain explains these results are based on in-house surveys from employers, CRT and OJT participants. The State also performs customer satisfaction surveys for job seekers and employers.

Performance Negotiations: Mr. Fountain reported that the State has not yet concluded negotiations on PY07. The complicated portion of the negotiations has been around Youth common measures. The USDOL is taking a hard line on the minimum standard thresholds for the youth common measures, noting that the USDOL doesn’t not believe WIA resources should

be expended on in-school youth. Youth common measures don't measure the same things that the WIA youth core measures did and, by design the youth common measures almost require a shift in program models from in-school to an out-of-school and/or older youth focus. Negotiations between the State and Feds continue.

General Motors: Recent work on a GM task force has included: determination of task force members, determination of committees/committee structure (and committee members). The coordinating committee of the task force is scheduled to meet this afternoon in Massena and it will, hopefully, address these issues and make recommendations. Dr. Kennedy notes while the WIB tends to focus on workers and worker-related issues, it also needs to address what needs to be done to affect the local economy. Concerns were raised by some of the WIB members about the "politics" of the committees. Dr. Kennedy notes he is concerned that we will be providing training to people who will need jobs, but where jobs won't be available. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the ripple effect this closing will have on the North Country. Other issues discussed included Alcoa/NYPA negotiations, services for contracted employees, \$7 million GM commitment, loss of talent base. Staff have submitted a plan of service to secure funds for serving dislocated workers.

"Under One Roof": Mr. Fountain explains that, a little over a year ago, he was approached at a joint NYSEDC/NYATEP meeting by Mark Troppe, who was, at the time the Director for Economic and Workforce Development of the National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE). NCEE had then recently published its first volume of "Under One Roof" which dealt with restructuring local government to align workforce and economic development functions. With St. Lawrence County's unique economic/workforce development structure, Mark and his staff met with staff to create a case study for inclusion in NCEE's "Under One Roof – Volume II." The report was released in May.

CEDS Update: Mr. Kelly provides a history of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), noting that historically it had been revised every two to three years and is a tool used to assist in the receipt of funding. The CEDS workgroup (a subgroup of the WIB as appointed by the Board of Legislators) has recently drafted a new plan. The next meeting is June 28<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in participating feel free to attend. Current addressments include colleges, infrastructure, tax structure/complications of business in Northern NY. While we outreach existing companies, there is no coordinated plan. Mr. Daddario notes everyone must buy into this strategy (including the IDA and Chambers). The plan is to have CEDS finalized and present it to stakeholders, and then use it as a starting point to bring in new ideas.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 AM.