

**WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2005 MEETING**

Chairman Donald Hooper called a meeting of the Workforce Investment Board to order at 6:14 PM, Wednesday, September 28, 2005 at the GranView Restaurant, Ogdensburg.

Members Present: Jack Backus, Doug Beachard, Lynn Blevins, Donald Brining, Sue Caswell, Paul Catanzarite, Rich Daddario, Bruce Green, Donald Hooper, Linda Manchester, Ron McDougall, Mike Noble, Steve Novacich, Ryan Schermerhorn

Members Absent: Ken Garwood, Joseph Kennedy, Joanne Novak, Ryan Schermerhorn, John Tubbs, Tim Weaver

Others Present: Raymond H. Fountain, Jr., Natalie Haggart, David Williams, Ed Short and Steve House of the Office of Economic Development; Richard Orton of USWA Local 450-A.

MINUTES: Moved by Mr. Brining and seconded by Ms. Caswell, the minutes of the July 27, 2005 meeting were approved unanimously.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT: Chairman Hooper reported Ainsworth Lumber visited the area on September 13-15th and met with officials from the IDA, WIB, OBPA, NYS, local elected officials, etc. Chairman Hooper indicated that he thinks Ainsworth truly intends to proceed with the project, slated for construction in 2007. Mr. Fountain noted bi-weekly conference calls had been scheduled to discuss various issues, adding that there appears to be a clear movement toward construction of the facility. He conveyed to the membership the scope of the project, especially the 250-300 construction jobs and the effect these workers would have on local hotels, restaurants, etc.

Chairman Hooper reported on the July groundbreaking ceremony for the IDA's new building within the Potsdam Commerce Park. Chairman Hooper announced David Williams' retirement effective October 16, 2005. Mr. Williams thanked the WIB for their assistance and support over the years.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Marketing & Quality Assurance Committee: No report.

Youth Committee:No report

Services Committee: No report.

Executive Committee: Chairman Hooper reported that the Executive Committee met September 20th to review the items presented this evening..

CONSENT AGENDA: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution "Amending Bylaws:" Moved by Mr. Noble and seconded by Mr. Catanzarite. Chairman Hooper noted these bylaws were first presented to the WIB at the July 27th meeting.

Changes to the bylaws were indicated in red, the major changes being: (1) Ability to notify members by either email or conventional mail; (2) Change in the number of meetings each year from 6 to 4; (3) Addition to the Agenda of Executive Session and Adjournment; and (4) Reorganization of the current standing committee structure to: Executive, Youth, Marketing and Board Development, and the addition of a task force structure to address specific needs. The resolution passed unanimously. Chairman Hooper also noted that he would be contacting the members within the near future regarding the committee/task force assignments. Chairman Hooper also noted that the meeting schedule for the remainder of 2005 and for 2006 had been distributed at the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution “Authorizing the Approval of the Workforce Investment Three-Year Local Plan:”

Chairman Hooper noted that actual plan has been provided to the members as a separate document they can retain for future reference. He recognized David Williams for his work on the plan and the work of the staff who provided David with much of the information used to create the plan. Mr. Williams noted this was a document required by NYSDOL, scheduled for submission to NYSDOL on Friday. This document will be submitted as a “draft.” NYSDOL will review and suggest corrective action before finalizing the plan. Responding the members’ questions, Mr. Williams noted that the previous plan was a 5-year plan and was data driven. This plan is more theoretical, especially with the recent Strategic Plan and State of the Workforce Reports. It was the general consensus that this latest plan had been changed to a 3-year plan as WIA reauthorization was 2 years behind schedule. Mr. Blevins noted that the WIB should consider advising NYSDOL that, in light of this, there is no reason for a 3-year plan; 5 years is a more reasonable request. In response to a question from Mr. Backus, Mr. Williams explained that the big differences since the 5 year plan was created did not appear to be data (which has remained relatively stable) but the big change was the incorporation of the Strategic Plan and the WIB’s approach to workforce investment. Moved by Mr. Daddario and seconded by Mr. McDougall, the resolution passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORT:

Summer Youth 2005 Final Reports: Mr. Williams explained that part of the information provided to the WIB is data required by NYSDOL. He noted that the program ran with minimal glitches, adding that this program was run with limited staff. Mr. Novacich noted that SLC WIB’s design for the Summer Program is being considered by Franklin/Essex/Hamilton/Clinton counties. Mr. Williams added that the WIB staff have not only been approached regarding their SYETO design, but also their Adult and Dislocated Worker designs. Mr. Williams went on to explain the increase in youth math and reading scores.

Monitoring Reports: Mr. Fountain reviewed the reports with the members.

Mr. Fountain noted that we may be receiving discretionary funds based on the PY04 Annual Report where the SLC WIB passed and exceeded all 17 performance measures categories. His recent conversation with Margaret Moree indicated that we should have more specific information (awards, etc) by the first of October.

Mr. Fountain updated the members on the status of board membership, noting that the board needs a second economic development representative and at least one more business person.

Mr. Williams reported briefly on Government Day activities and what the staff at the One-Stop Career Center were doing to educate youth on the services provided. Mr. Brining indicated that approximately 715 youth were scheduled to attend Government Day (September 28 and September 29).

Mr. Brining noted that the Board of Legislators expects to take action on the County jail construction project, adding that approximately 20 acres would be available for development by the SLC IDA. Construction is estimated to begin in 2006.

Mr. Blevins inquired about the status of the Mohawk, Adirondack & Northern Railroad. Mr. Fountain noted that the IDA owns the approximately 26 mile rail and will not consent to dismantling of the line, adding that the rail line is a key “selling point” for anyone interested in the Newton Falls plant.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business and on motion of Mr. Daddario, the meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Rich Daddario, Secretary