

**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD  
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2010 MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Sue Caswell called to order the regular meeting of the St. Lawrence County Workforce Investment Board at 6:35 p.m. at the Best Western, Canton NY

Members Present: Jack Backus, Sue Caswell, Kathy Daniels, Rich Daddario, Cliff Donaldson, Don Hooper, Steve Novacich, Daphne Pickert, Dale Rice, Dallas Sutton, Mark Webster.

Others Present: Paul Grasso, Executive Director; Mary Beth McKee; Steve House; Natalie Sweatland; Dee Burlingame; Jim Connor; Chris Rediehs; John Manson; Deb Bridges.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**MINUTES:** Hooper/Webster move to accept the September 8, 2010, meeting minutes. Approved unanimously.

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:** Chairman Caswell reported that the Department of Social Services has assumed the fiscal responsibility for the WIA operations and that the WIB has signed a partnership agreement with the North Country Workforce Partnership for the administration of services consistent with the Workforce Investment Act.

Executive Director Paul Grasso noted that there were obstacles, but both parties persevered. The lack of jobs provides challenges to St. Lawrence County and North Country WIBs, but this partnership provides an opportunity to work together. He has spoken with the WIB Chair, with Steve House and with Chris Rediehs regarding a philosophy and vision for workforce development. We need a shared vision and we need to discuss a shared vision for what will happen beyond June 30. We will need to consider how we provide the highest level of services given funding constraints; how we can pursue other funding sources. The North Country WIB has been very aggressive in pursuing funding sources, citing the AmeriCorps program, ARRA funding for the Plattsburgh Library and its own version of the Youth Build program. WIA funds have decreased steadily since 2001 and we need to be aggressive in securing other funding. We need to quickly develop a shared vision. He wants to help ensure that WIB members fully understand workforce development, as WIBs are key to affecting the lives of thousands of people.

Mr. Daddario notes that if the WIB is going to look at a "post-June" vision, the WIB may need to consider additional meetings, as its current meeting schedule only calls for 2 full meetings between now and the end of June. He suggests modifying the current schedule or calling for additional executive board meetings with Paul and staff.

Mr. Grasso suggested that NYATEP has facilitators available who can assist in moving this process along. Chairman Caswell added that the NYSDOL had also offered to engage a facilitator.

Chairman Caswell reported that Richard Orton has declined reappointment to the WIB. Richard has served on the Board since September of 2005 and was one of three organized labor representatives on the WIB.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Executive: She [Caswell] also noted that there have been several meetings of the Executive Committee since September to discuss the WIB's administrative options, and offered her thanks to her fellow Executive Committee members for their assistance and support.

Youth: Dee Burlingame reported that the Youth Council would be utilizing their outside contracts for training through Winter and into Spring.

Marketing and Board Development: Mr. Rice reported that there has been no activity.

One-Stop: Mr. House reported that meetings were held off during the transition, but plans on scheduling one at the first of the year.

Mr. Connor reported on the Youth Build project involving the One-Stop, the City of Ogdensburg, the Count Youth Bureau and BOCES, noting that the One-Stop's role would be to provide supportive services, integration of WIA-eligible youth, follow up and case management. This program includes classroom and experiential training, with classes held at BOCES' Northwest Campus and projects undertaken within the City of Ogdensburg. Mr. Connor noted that the City of Ogdensburg has been having difficulty in designing the program citing limited partnership opportunities and liability concerns.

Nominating: Nominating Committee member Jack Backus offers the following slate of officers for 2011: Chair – Sue Caswell; Vice-Chair – Don Hooper; Secretary – Richard Daddario; Treasurer – Ron McDougall. He thanks those who served during 2010 and those who have agreed to serve during 2011. There were no other nominations from the floor. Backus/Pickert motion. Unanimous.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** None

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Resolution: "Establishing an Incentive Policy for the National Work Readiness Credential": Ms. Burlingame explains that the policy establishes incentives for out of school youth to take the National Work Readiness credential. The goal is to have 27 youth take the test and at least 14 to pass the test. Mr. Connor adds that the One-Stop Career Center is a registered assessment site. Daddario/Rice move. Passes unanimously.

Resolution: "Modifying the PY09 Workforce Investment Act Budget": Ms. Burlingame reports that this resolution modifies the PY09 budget to include funds received from the State DOL as a performance award for reaching specified milestones. Daddario/Sutton mote. Passes with 10 "aye" votes and 1 abstention (Donaldson).

Ms. Burlingame also notes that the Youth Council's next meeting is January 6, 2011 at 1:00 PM at the One-Stop Career Center.

**STAFF REPORT:**

- Monitoring Review – Adult and Dislocated Worker:: No findings.
- Monitoring Review – Financial Management: No findings.
- Incentive Award Notice – Youth ITAs: Already reviewed.
- PY09 Unsatisfactory Performance Notice: Mr. House reports that this performance standard has been discussed frequently over the past few years, especially with the layoffs from high-paying manufacturing jobs. Dislocated worker replacement wage is a difficult standard to meet, and believes the same is true for neighboring L-WIAs. Mr. Grasso notes that most areas know that they cannot make this standard. It would be great if we could, but it just doesn't happen. Also, there is no control over the Customer Service Indicator standard – this standard involves State DOL, who is supposed to reduce the numbers of people who exit from the system while still receiving UI benefits. The public is inundated with negative information about the job market, so they are reluctant to go through the one-stops. The standard is important to the State as it ultimately saves money when people go off UI.
- Performance Improvement Plan: Mr. House reports that the plan has yet to receive any response from the State.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None

Mr. House, Mr. Fountain and Mrs. Sweatland are thanked for their assistance to the WIB.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Daddario/Backus the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. by unanimous consent.