

## August 2012 Minutes

### NORTHEAST MINNESOTA OFFICE OF JOB TRAINING ELECTED OFFICIAL BOARD

Silicon Energy, Mt Iron  
Thursday, August 9, 2012

Chair Eichorn called a regularly scheduled meeting of the Elected Official Board of the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training to order at 1:09 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Rusty Eichorn

Brian Napstad

Paul Bergman

Fritz Sobanja

Excused: Kevin Adee, Mike Forsman, Tom Proulx

Staff: Michelle Ufford, Robert Marconett, Renee' Marconett

Director Ufford began the meeting by introducing Joanne Bath and Bill Richmond from Silicon Energy. A tour of the facility was conducted. Silicon Energy is pursuing the mission of providing locally made photovoltaic modules to its communities. The company enables residential, commercial, and utility projects to be graced with its aesthetically unique modules, while delivering unmatched performance in energy harvest, durability, safety, and longevity. The Silicon Energy module has a 40+ year usable life, while the industry average is approximately 25 years. This extended usability not only enables increased energy harvest, it increases and extends the financial return on a system. The 30 year warranty is one of the strongest in the industry.

Following the tour, the meeting continued in a conference room located on-site.

**Motion was made by Napstad, supported by Bergman to accept the minutes of the May 10, 2012 meeting as written; with no additions or corrections; motion carried unanimously.**

Fiscal Director Marconett reviewed Handout #1 – June 2012 Funding Summary Breakout. Additional handouts were provided outlining the PY'12 Funding Summary breakout and program budget changes. The budget for PY'12 shows a decrease of \$325,000 from last year.

Participant data (Handout #2) for July 2012 was available for review at the meeting.

Director Ufford explained the Special Projects and Partnerships (Handout #3) in which the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training is involved with and how it relates to workforce development. Some of the projects include Minnesota Mining Cluster Project, FastTRAC, CEO's in the Classroom, Northeast Career EdVenture, Northeast Minnesota Renewable Energy Project, Get Into Energy Careers Project, Regional STEM Collaborative, Entrepreneurial Development Initiative, and Skills@Work Campaign. Additional funding received through these special projects will compensate for much of the decrease in PY'12 funding.

The Wage Enhancement Program final report was distributed. The program ended June 30, 2012 and was very successful. 134 businesses participated. 371 individuals were originally hired, with 210 still working for employers. A total of \$2,622,775.24 was paid to businesses.

Following review of a Northeast Workforce Investment Board membership and nomination, **motion was made by Napstad, supported by Bergman, appointing Jill Anderson, Branch Manager from Manpower; motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting concluded with board members hearing relevant activities occurring in each county, including updates on local economic development projects. Chair Eichorn suggested the Board tour Magnetation at a future meeting.

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, October 11, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

**Motion made by Bergman, supported by Sobanja to adjourn meeting at 3:03 p.m.; motion carried unanimously.**

Posted: Nov 9th, 2012 10:40 AM