

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

Thursday, June 9, 2016  
Virginia Workforce Center

Chair Eichorn called a regularly scheduled meeting of the Local Elected Official Board to order at 1:05 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Garry Gamble	Kevin Adee	Brian Napstad
Tom Rukavina	Rusty Eichorn	

Excused: Pete Walsh, Tom Proulx  
Staff: Michelle Ufford, Renee Marconett

**Motion was made by Napstad; supported by Adee to approve the June 9, 2016 agenda as written; with no additions; motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion was made by Gamble, supported by Napstad to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2016 meeting with no additions or corrections; motion carried unanimously.**

Chair Eichorn requested nominations for the election of officers. **Motion was made by Napstad, supported by Rukavina to remain with the same slate of officers as they stand: Rusty Eichorn, Chair; Kevin Adee, Vice-Chair; and Brian Napstad, Secretary. Motion carried unanimously.**

Handout #1 – April 2016 Funding Summary was reviewed. Ufford explained the carryover of WIOA funds for dislocated workers and adults. Due to sequestration, these funds will cover tuition costs for the first quarter of school funding. The Sector Partnership NEG and NEG Regional Planning are two new funding sources. These funds will be used to assist in the development and implementation of regional planning under WIOA. Regional planning includes the NE WIB and Duluth Workforce Council working together to establish career pathways in identified sectors and the completion of a comprehensive workforce services asset mapping initiative.

We are in the process of modifying/extending the Rural Career Counselor position to December 31, 2016, due to the grant starting six months later than expected.

A modification requesting an additional \$400,000 has been submitted for the MN Mining Grant. This will assist the additional laid off dislocated workers from various vendors serving the area mines.

The HECAP Grant (Higher Ed Career Advising Pilot- funds Career EdVenture) was increased by 51%. This funding is awarded on a competitive basis, and we were one of five workforce service areas that were awarded \$25,000.

Commissioners have requested a report outlining a historical look back over the past ten years at how funding has changed for staff and wages. Interim Financial Director Lampton will compile the report and present to commissioners at next meeting.

Minnesota is one of 14 states selected to receive a grant and technical assistance from the National Governors Association (NGA). Key state partners are working to strengthen alignment between Minnesota's education and training pipeline and the changing needs of the economy. A forum was held

at the Discovery Center on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 50 individuals attended the forum, which included representatives of school districts, Adult Basic Education (ABE) centers, postsecondary institutions, technical colleges, business and industry, and community-based organizations. Efforts are underway that insight will be gained on the unique challenges each region faces in addressing the needs of students and young adults with barriers to employment. From pre-school to postsecondary education, state agencies are coordinating their efforts to ensure that all Minnesotans – students and adult learners alike – gain the skills necessary to compete and succeed in the global economy. There was a four person panel from various organizations that fielded questions which included an extensive discussion from the group regarding work based learning and absence of technical education in schools.

At the June 8<sup>th</sup> Governor's Workforce Development Board meeting, Workforce Service Area Directors were asked to present their regional plans from the local Workforce Investment Boards. Ufford had a chance to share her thoughts and thank the GWDB for their involvement and hope they play a role in coordinating the Career Pathways initiatives. There are four representatives from the northeast on the GWDB, which is a great advantage for our region.

Mesabi Academy is closing in Buhl. Approximately 140 workers will be affected by this closure. Ufford informed the commissioners that DEED has assigned AEOA to serve these dislocated workers. The NE MN Office of Job Training will continue working with the majority of dislocated workers in the Mining Grant .

The Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training received an award from DEED for their outstanding performance of providing services to dislocate workers in the area. Ufford was honored her staff received this recognition for their hard work to serve dislocated miners.

Ufford updated the board on regional planning efforts between the Northeast and Duluth Workforce Development Boards. A regional leadership team has been formed with representatives from the Duluth and Northeast boards along with staff members from the Workforce Centers. Their first meeting was held May 13<sup>th</sup> with a discussion and generation of ideas specific to the asset-mapping project. The focus included two strategic goals – 'conduct an analysis/asset mapping to assess condition of regional workforce development system' and 'facilitate development and implementation of career pathway systems in healthcare and skilled trades'. Through these goals, they will pursue strategies to achieve a more responsive alignment of employment and training services along with achieving a broader business sector engagement and increased community awareness of resources.

The purpose of the asset mapping is to explore the geographic location, service mix, available resources, and workforce development system assets. Phase One will entail mapping employment and training providers to gain an increased understanding and awareness of existing workforce development resources to drive organic alignment and system capacity at the provider level along with making more focused and strategic employment services and training investments to maximize system performance and return on investment. A possible Phase Two would involve mapping services to employers to better identify where the public workforce system can be of value.

Following review of Northeast Workforce Investment Board membership nominations; **motion was made by Gamble, supported by Rukavina, appointing Todd Scaia, Clinic Manager at St Luke's Laurentian Clinic; and Roy Smith, Director/Education Workforce Development at Iron Range Resources; motion carried unanimously.**

A legislative update was given to board members. Funding for the Rural Career Coordinator position will increase an additional \$95,000 as of July 1st. Ufford would like to use these funds in providing more services to school districts and also asset mapping. The city of Buhl received \$500,000 to provide training and employment opportunities through the ODC. The NE Higher Education District received a \$500,000 grant to the purchase equipment for training programs due to increased demand for job training under the State Dislocated Worker program. In total, \$4.7 million was lost out of the Workforce Development Fund.

The meeting concluded with board members hearing relevant activities occurring in each county, including updates on local economic development projects.

Next meeting scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at the Virginia Workforce Center.

**Motion made by Napstad, supported by Gamble to adjourn meeting at 2:41 p.m.; motion carried unanimously.**