

## May 2012 Minutes

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

Minnesota Workforce Center, Virginia  
Thursday, May 10, 2012

Chair Eichorn called a regularly scheduled meeting of the Elected Official Board of the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training to order at 10:35 a.m. with the following in attendance:

Rusty Eichorn	Brian Napstad	Paul Bergman
Fritz Sobanja	Mike Forsman	Tom Proulx

Excused: Kevin Adee  
Staff: Michelle Ufford, Robert Marconett, Renee' Marconett

**Motion was made by Napstad, supported by Bergman to accept the minutes of the March 1, 2012 meeting as written; with no additions or corrections; motion carried unanimously.**

Fiscal Director Marconett reviewed Handout #1 - March 2012 Funding Summary breakout. The 2011 Minnesota Youth Program has been extended for two months, with the 2012 MYP beginning July 1, 2012. MFIP Supported Work funds for work experience have been extended through September 30, 2012. A handout was distributed outlining new program budget changes for PY'12. There has been a decrease of \$191,000 for WIA Adult/Youth, Minnesota Youth, and Federal/State WIA Dislocated Worker grants.

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

Approximately 90 slots will be available for the WIA Summer Youth Program, which will employ 135 youth in full and part time jobs throughout the region. There are 40 slots available for year-round work experience where students can work up to 10 hours per week during the school year.

Fiscal Director Marconett requested Board approval for electronic signatory authorization when submitting cash request and status reports to the State. **Motion was made by Forsman, supported by Bergman to approve the electronic signature of Marconett when submitting reports; motion carried unanimously.**

Director Ufford informed the Board on a \$135,000 grant that has been received for the *Northeast Career EdVenture* project. This grant will provide career guidance services and resources to area high schools to ensure all secondary students in the region have opportunities to learn about employer and workplace expectations and develop thoughtful career planning and goals. Board members received a handout of a "brainstorming session" conducted by Youth Career Counselors to identify what individual services are needed for students, parents, and employers.

The Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training, in partnership with Hibbing Community College, received a \$207,000 grant from the Minnesota State Energy Sector Partnership to connect individuals to renewable energy careers and employment. The grant expires in December 2012, so a strict timeframe will be followed. Starting in June, Hibbing Community College is offering two training programs - Renewable Energy Certification and Solar PV Installer Certification for 24 individuals total. This training and employment opportunity is available to veterans, low income, minorities, those employed, unemployed or underemployed living in the seven county region of Minnesota.

Director Ufford updated the Board on the CEO's in the Classroom project. Twenty schools participated this year with 1,306 8<sup>th</sup> grade students receiving the presentation, double the schools that participated last year. Six additional schools are in the development stages of participating.

Skills@Work is a statewide campaign of the Governor's Workforce Development Council and United Way, to ensure Minnesota has the skilled workforce it needs to compete in the global economy. Skills@Work will unite leaders in each region to build effective regional solutions for meeting employer skill needs. They are in the process of convening team leaders in each region to include partners from business, workforce and economic development, education, and community-based organizations. The teams will meet to create regional action plans and foster strategic partnerships that align resources, improve outcomes, and measure success. These meetings will build on information collected in a separate but coordinated "Workforce Assessment" Initiative by MnSCU, DEED,

and the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. A handout was distributed outlining the Workforce Assessment Sessions meeting locations and dates.

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

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 12, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

**Motion made by Bergman, supported by Sobanja to adjourn meeting at 12:02 p.m.; motion carried unanimously.**

Posted: Aug 13th, 2012 10:20 AM