

Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD MEETING
Iron Range Resources – Eveleth MN
Wednesday, September 28, 2016

Regularly scheduled meeting called to order by Chair Stone at 10:06 a.m.

WIB members present:

Bud Stone, Darik Carlson, Wayne Kangas, Jason Quiggin, Allen Rasmussen,
Kelly Zink

Excused: Paul Carlson, Betsy Harmon, Lynn Krall, Jeff Lee, Bill Maki, Terri Nystrom, Roland
Root, Al Rudeck, Todd Scaia, Roy Smith, David Ulrich, Mike Valentine

Absent: Dave Debevec, Kelsey Johnson, Stan Paczynski

Guests: Beth Peterson, AEOA; Erik White, DEED

Staff: Michelle Ufford, Heath Boe, Renee' Marconett

**Motion was made by Rasmussen, supported by Kangas to approve the May 25, 2016
minutes as written; motion carried unanimously.**

Funding allocation update - Michelle Ufford

A handout was distributed outlining the program budget changes for PY'16 vs PY'15. There is a 14.2% decrease in WIOA adult funding, but a major increase in the dislocated worker allocation. WIOA Federal DW funding increased by 28.6% and State DW funding by 34.4%. The State dislocated worker program requires 50% of funding be spent on training/tuition/educational payments. There are no stipulations on funding under the Federal dislocated worker grant. Ufford explained different possibilities on spending the funds, due to this significant increase. She is going to propose to the state a portion of the funds can be used for an Incumbent worker program. Businesses would be able to offer workers (on-site) skill based/leadership/technology based training in the form of a classroom setting, online, hands on, etc. A marketing flyer will be developed to share with employers on how they could qualify.

Regional and Local Plan feedback – Michelle Ufford

A letter was received from DEED outlining the Regional Plan and requested plan revisions, due to the proposed Regional Plan by the Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training and the City of Duluth not being approved. Ufford added that no Regional Plans were approved by the state. A meeting was held with DEED to discuss a strategy for making modifications and providing additional technical support to help modify the plan. Ufford outlined the seven areas action is required and board members discussed what further information needs to be added for the Regional Plan to be in compliance. Modifications to the Regional Plan are due by January 14, 2017. The Local Plan for Program Years 2016 and 2017 has been provisionally approved by the state.

Leadership Team – Michelle Ufford/Bud Stone

Asset mapping initiative

The Northeast MN WIB and Duluth Workforce Council are in the process of seeking an experienced research organization to conduct a workforce system asset mapping and analysis project. The goal of the project is to identify the myriad of workforce supports and service providers that offer assistance to job seekers on a number of different fronts including employment services, vocational training and education, and supportive services.

Request for Proposals were received from Arrowhead Regional Development Commission (ARDC), UMD Bureau of Business and Economic Research, and North Point Geographic Solutions. The leadership team met on September 8 to review proposals. UMD and ARDC received the highest scores and were both interviewed by representatives from the leadership group on September 15 to clarify specific questions. After careful consideration of the interviews, the group felt UMD could integrate a higher degree of in-person interviews (vs. strictly a survey instrument) and would be the best choice. They amended their proposal to include a slightly longer timeline (up to 7 months) and additional funding needed to hire additional staff to ensure consistency to meet the expectation that interviews will be conducted with a large portion of key providers. Their revised budget is \$43,875. APEX and Blandin Foundation have tentatively expressed interest in assisting with funding. **Motion was made by Rasmussen, supported by Zink to approve UMD as the selected provider for the project; motioned carried unanimously.**

A joint meeting with the Northeast Minnesota Workforce Investment Board and Duluth Workforce Council will be scheduled for some time this winter. Stone suggested the boards meet in Duluth, and spend the night, due to many members travelling from across the region.

Career Pathways Committee – Heath Boe

Construct Tomorrow

The Skilled Trades Career Pathways Committee met on August 18, 2016 to discuss what is required to work with relevant stakeholders to understand the needs of local employers who employ skilled trade individuals, map the various apprenticeship programs offered by local unions, validate labor market data with real-world experience, illustrate the various entry points in the skilled trades, and develop strategies to promote careers within the skilled trades to adults and youth. It is clear that the construction industry is unlike other industries with many different players, political angles, and highly subject to the ups and downs of the economy. Further investigation is needed to identify where the committee's energy is best spent.

The first annual Iron Range skilled trades and construction careers expo – “Construct Tomorrow” will be held on Wednesday, October 19th at the curling club in Eveleth. This event is for high school students in grades 10-12. They will have the opportunity to talk with professionals to learn about what they do on the job, hands-on exploration of construction trades careers and learn about what classes to take, what training is needed and how to prepare. There are currently 12 different trades attending, and over 400 students from 14 area schools.

Committee Development – Youth

Youth councils are no longer required under WIOA, but Ufford suggested the board consider having a Youth Committee to understand realities and opportunities for youth, along with parent involvement. Representatives from the board would serve on the committee along with other youth service providers, Perkins, etc. to form some regional strategies around youth development. Ufford will develop a document that outlines the potential for this committee.

New member orientation update

Orientation materials for new members are still being compiled. Stone recommended we include the orientation session at the joint meeting with Duluth, as there are many new members from each board, along with refresher materials for current board members.

Labor Market Information update – Erik White

White gave a presentation summarizing labor market information and a mining update. 550 workers were recalled to Northshore Mining in May, and United Taconite is back in full production with 550 employees. Twin Metals and Polymet leases are still in the application process, and Essar Steel is in process of filing bankruptcy. LMI charts outlined job vacancies, demographics, and jobseekers per vacancy in Northeast Minnesota.

Additional

Election of officers will take place at the November meeting.

Assistance in recruiting new individuals who may be interested in participating on the board will soon be required.

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.