

Northeast Minnesota Office of Job Training
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD MEETING
Iron Range Resources – Eveleth, MN
Wednesday, March 30, 2016

Regularly scheduled meeting called to order by Michelle Ufford at 10:03 a.m.

WIB members present:

Dave Debevec, Betsy Harmon, Lynn Krall, Bill Maki, Stan Paczynski, Craig Pagel, Jason Quiggin, Roland Root, Mike Valentine

Excused: Bud Stone, Dave Hart, Tom Jamar, Jeff Lee, Terri Nystrom, Allen Rasmussen, Al Rudeck, David Ulrich, Kelly Zink

Absent: Darik Carlson, Paul Carlson

Guests: Beth Peterson, AEOA; Roy Smith, IRRRB; Erik White, DEED

Staff: Michelle Ufford, Heath Boe, Renee' Marconett

Ufford began meeting by introducing new WIB member Dave Debevec. He has been with Ulland Brother's for 15 years as their Human Services/Safety Director.

Heath Boe has been hired as the new Rural Workforce Coordinator with the NE MN Office of Job Training. Heath is jointly supervised by both NEMOJT and Advanced Minnesota. He will be responsible for identifying workforce needs, help align and coordinate workforce development resources, promote the Workforce Center and customized training services, and assist the Workforce Investment Boards of the Northeast region and Duluth develop sector initiatives and identify career pathways in key industries.

Motion was made by Paczynski, supported by Valentine to approve the February 24, 2016 minutes as written; motion carried unanimously.

Regional Plan Approval, Michelle Ufford

Ufford updated members on the discussion from the February 24th meeting and asked for approval by the Board for submittal of the Regional Plan. **Motion was made by Root, supported by Maki to approve the Regional Plan for Local Workforce Development Area #3(NE MN) and Area #4 (City of Duluth); motion carried unanimously.**

Local Unified Plan Review, Michelle Ufford

A handout was distributed summarizing the Northeast Local Unified Plan (Section B-Strategic Operations) questions.

After lengthy discussion and input by WIB members, **motion was made by Pagel, supported by Root to accept provisional approval of the Local Unified Plan based on today's discussion and revisions that will be made; motion carried unanimously.**

Once revisions have been made, a draft of the Local Unified Plan will be sent to all board members for review. The LUP will then be posted for the 30-day public comment period on the NE MN

Office of Job Training website and a hard copy format at all Workforce Centers. Submission of the final Local Unified Plan is due on May 13, 2016.

Upcoming Events

The Northeast Job Fair will take place in Duluth on Tuesday, April 5, 2016. There are 118 employers expected to attend.

The National Governors Association (NGA) is planning ***Regional Forums on Work-based Learning for ages 16-24*** in three areas of the state: Southwest Minnesota, Northeast Minnesota, and Minneapolis/Metro. Workforce center directors, with the support of the Minnesota Workforce Council Association (MWCA), are working with GWDC staff on logistics and an agenda. It is hoped 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. The session for Northeast Minnesota will be on May 4th at the Minnesota Discovery Center in Chisholm. Invitees will include representatives of school districts, Adult Basic Education (ABE) centers, post-secondary institutions, technical colleges, business and industry, and community-based organizations.

Arrangements are being made for Ben Winchester to bring his presentation 'Rural Brain Gain' in the region under sponsorship of the WIB. Ben is a Senior Research Fellow for the University of Minnesota Extension Service, Center for Community Vitality. He conducts research on topics that are vital to rural Minnesota. The first is documenting "newcomers" – the influx of 30-49 year old people – to identify the social and economic opportunities of this migration. The second area involves the analysis of rural community leadership, specifically examining the community-wide requirements to "keep the town running" through the public sector. Overall, he works on cultivating connections between institutions of higher education and rural places by involving university faculty, staff, students, and programs in everyday community life.

Miscellaneous

Beth Peterson informed members of free GED testing until June 30, 2016. This is a great opportunity for students to take advantage of through AEOA Adult Education.

Ufford extended thanks and retirement wishes to Craig Pagel for serving nine years on the Workforce Investment Board. Kelsey Johnson will be Craig's replacement.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m. Next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 25th at Iron Range Resources.