

Northeast Minnesota
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD MEETING
Iron Range Rehabilitation Center Auditorium – Virginia
Wednesday, May 28, 2014

Regularly scheduled meeting called to order by Chair Stone at 10:05 a.m.

WIB members present:

Bud Stone, Jill Anderson, Paul Carlson, Barb Hilde, Betsy Harmon, Tom Jamar, Allen Rasmussen, Mike Valentine

Excused: Sue Collins, Jeff Lee, Terri Nystrom, Craig Pagel, Roland Root, Al Rudeck, Kelly Zink

Absent: John Grahek, Dave Hart

Guests: Jan Saxhaug, Connie Ireland

Motion was made by Jamar, supported by Harmon to approve the March 26, 2014 minutes as written; motion carried unanimously.

Chair Stone began meeting by introducing Connie Ireland, Executive Director of the Governor's Workforce Development Council (GWDC). Connie has been very active in various roles with the Department of Employment and Economic Development. Connie came to the WIB meeting to share ideas and gain feedback and recommendations. There have been many radical changes with the GWDC and local Workforce Investment Boards. Ireland expressed a need to have more intense discussions and recommendations between the boards for better alignment. She outlined the next steps for moving forward on priorities including identifying what opportunities are available for the WIB at the local and state level. Lengthy discussion continued regarding WIA reauthorization, and significant impacts on individuals enrolled in WIA Adult, Youth, and Dislocated Worker programs. Ufford commented on how the WIB utilized the GWDC "All Hands on Deck" Handbook outlining the 15 recommendations for strengthening Minnesota's workforce.

Regional Labor Market Information Update

Jan Saxhaug, DEED

Saxhaug updated board members on LMI statistics for NE Minnesota. The seven-county Arrowhead regional saw overall unemployment rates drop from 7.2% to 6.7% between April 2013 and April 2014. According to the quarterly census of employment and wages, WSA #3 gained a net of 254 jobs between Quarter 3 of 2012-2013. Twelve of 20 industry sectors saw employment gains with Retail Trade, Health Care and Social Assistance; Education Services; and Other Services having the largest gains. Saxhaug outlined the Job Vacancy Survey rate for NE MN at 3,671 job vacancies with a median wage of \$9.41/hour. Most vacancies include Production Occupations, Sales and Related Occupations, and Office and Administration Support Occupations.

Local Unified Plan Review

Michelle Ufford

WIB members were emailed the 2014 Local Unified Plan for review. Ufford informed the Board a full Local Unified Plan is required every four years, with updates submitted each year. After discussion and input from Board members, **motion was made by Rasmussen, supported by Valentine to accept additional changes to the 2014 Local Unified Plan as discussed.**

Miscellaneous

WIB members discussed potential “Industry Speakers” for future meetings to include representatives from Magnetation, Polymet, Essar Steel, Joy Global, and Twin Metals. In June, Dave Ulrich, Vice President-Human Resources at Twin Metals, will become a member of the Workforce Investment Board.

Chair Stone informed WIB members the election of officers will take place at the June meeting. There will not be a WIB meeting in July and August, due to conflicting schedules during the summer months.

Ufford invited all WIB members to attend the Minnesota Workforce Council Association summer meeting in Duluth on July 29-31, 2014. Joe Carbone, President and CEO of The WorkPlace will be the keynote speaker.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.