

General Membership Meeting
Thursday, February 1, 2024 - 2:30pm to 4:00pm
Plato Conference Center
90 W. Plato Blvd, Saint Paul, MN 55108

WIB Members Present

Jonathan Banks
Becky Degendorfer
Lisa Guetzkow
Susan Jambor
Cheniqua Johnson
Hyon Kim
Chad Kulas
Tony Lusiba
Yolanda McIntosh
Camila Mercado Michelli
Rena Moran
Don Mullin
Koami Pedado
John Perlich
Donna Rapacz
Elisa Rasmussen
Mary Rick
Sheri Riemers
Trish Stevens
Aalayha Traub
Tanya Velishek
Tracy Wilson

Members Absent

Tom Aasheim-EA
Jennifer Germain-EA
Hanna Getachew-Kreusser-EA
Hyon Kim
Pamela Maldonado-EA
James McClean-EA
Lauren Reynolds
Carly Voshell-EA

Staff/Guests Present

Nicole Beane, Workforce Solutions
Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Michelle Belitz, Workforce Solutions
Cliff K., Ramsey County Resident
Mike Lang, MN DEED
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Brad Mahr, Workforce Solutions
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Stevenson Morgan, Ramsey County
Melissa Olanda, CLUES
Sean O'Neil, Minnesota Chamber
John O'Phelan, Workforce Solutions
Beth Pacunas, St. Paul Housing Agency
Will Preble, Ascendance
Mary Russell, Executive Committee
Matthew Saari, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order & Announcements

- Welcome to the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County meeting. We especially welcome our partners and guests joining us today.
- Restrooms are located directly across from the elevators in the main lobby.
- Welcome new members Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson and Donna Rapacz. In just a few minutes, I will invite them to come up and introduce themselves.
- WIB members and guests are invited to attend any committee meetings. All agendas and minutes are available on the WIB's webpage. All committee meetings are being conducted via video conference. Instructions to participate are included in the meeting invites and are also posted on the WIB's webpage.
- I hope you can all make it to the next WIB meeting on Thursday, April 4, 2:30-4pm at High School for Recording Arts in Saint Paul. The address is in your calendar invite. Additional instructions about parking and locating the meeting room will be sent via email before the meeting.

Land Acknowledgement

Russell read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement

Rasmussen reviewed the WIB's Conflict of Interest policy and reminded everyone of their responsibility as members of the WIB and/or committees to abstain from discussion and voting should they know of a conflict or potential conflict.

New Member Introductions: Donna Rapacz, Cheniqua Johnson

Both Councilmember Johnson and Rapacz, Director of Administrative Operations at Merrick, Inc., shared information about themselves, their background and vision for the WIB.

Approve Consent Agenda

February Meeting Agenda

December Meeting Minutes

WIB Financial Report

2024 Amended WIB Budget

Funding Request: 2024 Event Marketing and Support

PY24/SFY25 Unified Local Youth Plan

2024 WIB Policy Platform

Motion (Mullin/Stevens) to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Comprehensive CareerForce Site Relocation

Becker provided an overview on the work done to date with the participation of One-Stop partner agencies and in accordance with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development policies. Options for transportation and childcare are still being explored. Both Commissioner Moran and Rasmussen expressed positivity for the extensive and collaborative process that has led to the relocation decision.

Motion (Mullin/Degendorfer) to approve the relocation of the comprehensive CareerForce Center in Ramsey County, Workforce Development Area #15, from its current location at 540 Fairview Avenue N, Suite 103 in Saint Paul to the Metro Square building located at 121 7th Place East in Saint Paul. This decision is made with the participation of the One-Stop partner agencies and in accordance with Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development policies.

Director Updates

Becker provided a brief update on the following:

2024-2027 WIOA Local Plan: The plan is in the beginning stages which serves as an action plan for developing and integrating service delivery strategies in alignment with the State and Regional Plans. Community feedback is being collected through an online survey. This survey will gather valuable insight on the workforce development planning being done by the WIB and incorporated into the Plan. The full Plan will then be shared with the WIB in late March for review and consideration of approval at the April 4 meeting.

WIB Engagement Overview: Becker thanked all members for their engagement on the WIB. She touched on the elements of a high functioning board and encouraged members to attend WIB sponsored events of interest and share resources among their network.

Empowering Minnesota's Economic Future

O'Neil presented information on Minnesota's economic and labor market progression and strategies for growth. He noted that Minnesota is a highly developed economy, but the economic growth has slowed over time. He shared data relating to underlying population trends, the decline in labor force participation rates as the population aged and stated immigration helped keep Minnesota's net migration positive through the first two decades of the century. Looking ahead, there are many unknowns but the future includes growing the workforce and boosting productivity. O'Neil indicated that the Minnesota Chamber wants to collaborate more and shine a light on the partnership.

Adapting for an AI Workforce and Preparing Job Seekers

Preble presented on how Artificial Intelligence (AI) is impacting the future of work for individuals and business leaders and the times to ethics and equity. AI is becoming more widely used and encouraged people and organizations who want to stay up on technology advancements to start their journey in learning about it. Due to time limitations, the questions planned for the AI table discussions will be sent in the follow up email.

Other and WIB Photo

No further items were discussed. A group photo was taken of the WIB and Executive Committee.

Adjourn

Upon conclusion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, April 4, 2024, 2:30pm-4pm – High School for Recording Arts