

**General Membership Meeting**  
**Thursday, August 10, 2023, 2:30 - 4:30pm**  
**Plato Conference Center, 90 W. Plato Blvd., St. Paul, MN**

**WIB Members Present**

Tom Aasheim  
Jonathan Banks  
Becky Degendorfer  
Susan Jambor  
Hyon Kim  
Chad Kulas  
Pamela Maldonado  
James McClean  
Yolanda McIntosh  
Camila Mercado Michelli  
Don Mullin  
Koami Pedado  
Elisa Rasmussen  
Mary Rick  
Sheri Riemers  
Trish Stevens  
Tracy Wilson

**Members Absent**

Shym Cook-EA  
Jennifer Germain-EA  
Hanna Getachew-Kreusser-EA  
Lisa Guetzkow-EA  
Lauren Hunter  
Tony Lusiba-EA  
Rena Moran-EA  
Paul Nikstad-EA  
John Perlich-EA  
Chris Tolbert-EA  
Tanya Velishek  
Carly Voshell - EA

**Staff/Guests Present**

Bekele Adamu, Ramsey County  
Ama Asantewaa, National Able  
Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions  
Kristi Cobbs, Workforce Solutions  
Mark Herzfeld, Ramsey County  
Caroline Karanja, Hack the Gap  
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions  
Brad Mahr, Workforce Solutions  
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions  
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions  
Dana Mortenson, World Savvy  
Erin Olson, RealTime Talent  
Beth Pacunas, St. Paul Housing  
Sabina Saksena, Citilife

Before meeting started, Becker presented Kim with flowers for her 76th birthday stating, “she is a pillar of Asian Women”.

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**Call to Order & Announcements**

Chair Chad Kulas called the meeting to order at 2:38pm and read the following 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 to Jonathan Banks who was recently appointed to the WIB. Carly Voshell was also recently appointed but is unable to join us today.
- Congratulations to all the WIB members who were reappointed by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioner or the City of Saint to serve another term:
  - Shym Cook
  - Becky Degendorfer
  - Lisa Guetzkow
  - Lauren Hunter
  - Chad Kulas
  - Tony Lusiba
  - Pamela Maldonado
  - James McClean
  - Yolanda McIntosh
  - Donald Mullin
  - Koami Pedado
  - Sheri Riemers
  - Councilmember Chris Tolbert
  - Tanya Velishek
  - Tracy Wilson
- 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.
- Article 8 of the WIB’s Bylaws state that “...members shall not cast a vote on any matter regarding the provision of services by the member or by an entity that the member represents or on any matter that would provide direct or indirect financial benefit to such member or the immediate family of such member”. If you believe you have a conflict on any items on today’s agenda, please abstain from discussion and voting.

- The next WIB meeting will be on Thursday, October 5, from 2:30-4pm in the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Center.

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### **Land Acknowledgement**

Mercado Michelli read the land acknowledgement aloud.

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### **New Member Introduction**

Kulas introduced Jonathan Banks, President of NCXT. Banks shared his background, stating he sees the benefits of filling local talent gaps with local talent and will use his expertise and relationship to improve workforce innovation.

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### **Approve Consent Agenda**

*August Meeting Agenda*

*June Meeting Minutes*

*WIB Financial Report*

*Designation of Local Workforce Development Area*

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

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### **Installation of 2023-2025 Chair**

Kulas recognized incoming Chair, Elisa Rasmussen. He shared information about the process for becoming Chair and the leadership roles Rasmussen has held to date. He also thanked her for her dedication and commitment to the WIB. Rasmussen expressed her excitement for leading this group and acknowledged the importance of the WIB's work at this critical time.

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### **Recognition of Outgoing Chair**

Rasmussen thanked Kulas for leading the WIB during many changing and challenging times and presented Kulas with his engraved gavel. Becker thanked Kulas for his tremendous leadership in the community and the important work he has done during the past as Chair of the WIB.

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### **Election of WIB Chair-Elect**

Before opening up nominations for the WIB Chair-Elect, Rasmussen reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the Chair-Elect. Stevens nominated Susan Jambor. After asking for other nominations three times and hearing none, Rasmussen closed nominations. Jambor is excited to take on this role over the next two years.

**Motion (Stevens/McClean) to cast a unanimous ballot for Susan Jambor for WIB Chair-Elect for the 2023-2025 term. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.** Jambor abstained from the vote.

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### **Chair's Vision**

Rasmussen shared her collective vision of the WIB and continues to focus on making connections. She shared a memory of talking with former Commissioner McDonough and his insight of "lead with gratitude", stating that leaders from other WIBs have told her that they aspire to be like Ramsey County. Rasmussen's focus is on connecting with people with whom we help; emerging funding opportunities; continue with the Inclusive Workplace Cohorts; and having fun together.

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### **Local Plan and Labor Market Overview**

Becker provided a brief background on WIOA law and the need to write a new Local Plan. Prior to this meeting, background information was sent to the WIB and committee members explaining details of the process as it is important for awareness and for the WIB to consider industries of focus. A tentative draft of the plan is due to the state by the end of the year. Olson shared labor market data on various industries, including employment demographics in Ramsey County and the outlook and trends in those industries over the next five years. The demographics do not consider IT as a standalone industry because tech is imbedded across many sectors.

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### **Creating a Future-Ready Workforce**

Becker introduced Mortenson, co-founder and chief executive officer of World Savvy, a national education nonprofit working to educate and engage youth as responsible global citizens. Mortenson shared information on how World Savvy supports change agents to create more inclusive, adaptive schools to ensure all young people can develop skills and dispositions needed to thrive in a more diverse, interconnected world. Attendees broke into groups to discuss the following aspects for the future of work: 1) when you reflect on trends from Ramsey County, what skills and dispositions stand out as most essential for people to thrive in this work environment; 2) what are ways you observe this rapid change impacting Ramsey County; 3) how are you currently planning for the future; 4) what more can you consider? Discussion focused on who we are, what we face and how we work.

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### **Other**

Becker shared the following:

- If members want to change which committees they are on, they should let Milbrandt know.
- Get S.E.T – Successful Employer Training is launching next week.
- A lot of events are scheduled so check out the September newsletter.
- The Inclusive Employer Toolkit is moving along.

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### **Adjourn**

Upon conclusion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, October 5, 2:30-4pm – Plato Conference Center, 90 W. Plato Blvd., St. Paul, MN