

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County**  
**February 4, 2021 2:30-4:00pm**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**WIB Members Present**

Tom Aasheim  
Robert Blake  
Becky Degendorfer  
Chris Duffy  
Lisa Guetzkow  
Kristin Guild  
Susan Jambor  
Chad Kulas  
Cindy Larson  
Tony Lusiba  
Gaye Adams Massey  
Karin McCabe  
James McClean  
Yolanda McIntosh  
Camila Mercado Michelli  
Don Mullin  
Paul Nikstad  
Sheila Olson  
Koami Pedado  
Elisa Rasmussen  
Sheri Riemers  
Trish Stevens  
Julie Thiel  
Chris Tolbert  
Carly Voshell  
Brooke Walker  
Ramona Wilson  
Tracy Wilson

**Members Absent**

Jennifer Germain-EA  
Hyon Kim-EA  
Jim McDonough-EA  
Sean Mullan-EA  
Tanya Velishek

**Staff/Guests Present**

John Aiken, MN Dept of Labor & Industry  
Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions  
Becky Milbrandt, Ramsey County  
Beth Pacunas, Saint Paul Housing Agency  
Scott Herold, High School for Recording Arts  
Rick Martagon, MN Dept of Labor & Industry  
Charles McIntosh, MN Dept of Labor & Industry  
Steven Reinhold, MN Dept of Labor & Industry  
Patricia (TT) Stone, High School for Recording Arts

---

**Call to Order**

Chair Chad Kulas called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

---

**Announcements**

Kulas read the following announcements:

- Welcome to the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County meeting. We especially welcome our partners and guests.
- Congratulations and welcome to new members:
  - Tom Aasheim, Finishing Trades Institute of the Upper Midwest
  - Robert Blake, Solar Bear
  - Chris Duffy, Goff Public
  - Yolanda McIntosh, Associated General Contractors
  - Trish Stevens, Hospitality MN
- Shannon Watson has submitted her resignation. Thanks to Shannon for her valuable insights and dedication to the WIB. Although we are sad to see her go, we are thrilled to have received a membership application from Channon Lemon, VP of Economic Development with the Saint Paul Chamber. Channon's appointment will be considered by the County Board soon.

- Section 13D.021 of the Open Meetings Law makes it possible for the WIB to have meetings via telephone or other electronic means when an in-person meeting is "not practical or prudent because of a health pandemic or an emergency declared under chapter 12." Under these circumstances, the law requires that all votes be taken by roll call. We plan to do this through the chat rather than a voice roll call. After each motion, please respond with a YES or NO in the chat so your vote can be recorded.
- 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. Each year, every WIB member is asked to review and sign a Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement. The acknowledgement form was distributed with each committee's January packets. If you haven't signed and returned your form to Becky yet, please do so soon.
- WIB members and guests are invited to attend any committee meetings. All agendas and minutes are available on the WIB's webpage. Due to the pandemic, all meetings are being conducted via video conference. Instructions to participate are included in the meeting invites and are posted on the WIB's webpage.
- The next WIB meeting is Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 2:30. The location is yet to be determined but will likely be through Zoom.

---

### **Land Acknowledgement**

Rasmussen read the land acknowledgement. It will be read at all future WIB and committee meetings.

---

### **Approve Consent Agenda**

**February Meeting Agenda**

**December Meeting Minutes**

**WIB Financial Report**

**2021 WIB Budget**

**Motion (Stevens/Rasmussen) to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.**

---

### **New Member Introductions and Break Out Session**

Aasheim, Blake, Duffy, McIntosh and Stevens introduced themselves. Meeting attendees then broke into small groups for discussion about the following topic: Show the seventh photo saved on your phone and explain it.

---

### **One-Stop Operator (OSO) Consortium Update**

Guetzkow, Becker, and Larson provided an update on the work of the OSO which is focused on strengthening collaborative efforts among the partners to better link job seekers and businesses. The presentation included:

- an overview of the One-Stop system.
- a review of work done in 2020 around COVID and civil unrest response, developing a partner resource and hosting convenings and trainings for system partners
- an outline of the 2021 work plan , including forming two subcommittees and hosting partner convenings and trainings
- a preview of labor market reports that will be released soon

---

### **Minnesota Registered Apprenticeship Program**

Aiken, Director of Labor Standards and Apprenticeship with the MN Department of Labor & Industry (MNDLI), provided a presentation on Apprenticeship Minnesota, Minnesota's registered apprenticeship program. There are currently 11,000 active apprentices across the state; over 20% are people of color and 90% are in the construction industry. Federal funding is being used to increase the number of apprenticeships, support apprentice diversity, and integrate apprenticeship into state workforce development

strategies. Under the five-year Minnesota Apprenticeship Initiative, registered apprenticeships in Agriculture, Manufacturing, Healthcare, Information Technology and Transportation have been expanded. This and the Minnesota Apprenticeship Expansion (APEX) Initiative have been successful in introducing apprenticeships to females, people of color, youth and veterans. Aiken asked WIB members to consider ways MNDLI can deepen its partnership and engagement to better serve job seekers and employers in Ramsey County. Diversity and inclusion training sessions are available for apprentices online. A list of employers and sponsors is also on the MNDLI website. The slide deck will be sent to all members.

---

**CARES Partnership: High School for the Recording Arts.**

Becker introduced Herold, an instructor at the High School for the Recording Arts (HSRA) and CEO/Founder of the recording label, Rock the Cause. Herold shared information about the student population, most of whom are BIPOC and many identify as homeless, and the recording industry programs and work experiences offered at the school. He also talked about the CARES funding the school received from Ramsey County to support student wages and provide equipment so students could continue to learn virtually during COVID. Stone, an HSRA student, talked about the value and impact the job skills and work opportunities have had on her life and career plans. Herold stated that HSRA is in need of additional long-term funding to expand opportunities for students. He invited the WIB to listen to an upcoming student created radio show airing on WFNU, featuring the Ramsey County program.

---

**Other**

No other items were discussed.

---

**Adjourn**

Upon conclusion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.

The next WIB meeting is April 1, 2021, 2:30-4pm.