

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Constructions-Green Jobs Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 9, 2022
2:00-3:00 PM

Present:

Joseph Adamji
Chris Duffrin
Muneer Karcher-Ramos
Russ Stark

Absent:

Don Mullin-EA
Elisa Rasmussen-EA
Becky Brink Ray

Staff/Guests:

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
John O’Phelan, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Becker called the meeting to order at 2:04pm. O’Phelan read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approve May Minutes

Due to low attendance, it was decided to wait to approve the May minutes until the next meeting.

American Rescue Plan Act Discussion

Becker provided an update of the various projects and the slated timelines for them. The biggest update is the city of St. Paul’s approval of \$15.3 in making workforce investments to support economic opportunity for community member. Ramsey County is still working on a Joint Powers Agreement with the City, hoping to have that done by the end of the month. Becker shared a little on the scope of the Earn and Learn Request for Proposal. She also shared the Gateway Occupations for an Inclusive Economy document as part of the analysis for future investments and explained the purpose of it. Discussion around this included the opportunities for a lot of jobs and the barriers. Becker provided an update on the Driver’s License Academy, focusing on 18-24 year-olds and career pathways that requires a driver’s license as a work credential. Becker indicated that the Department of Public Safety provided a lot of what was asked for: e.g., more knowledge test sites that wouldn’t be government run; third-party payments and designated workforce road test days. Becker is seeking people to form an advisory committee to provide guidance and feedback on how the resources are being coordinated, with the hope to launch this group next month.

Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act (IIJA) Discussion

Becker shared what she has learned about the IIJA. She shared that the Brookings Institute is interested in helping with understanding the bill more deeply and figuring out who are the quantifiable entities that would apply and could do some outreach and engagement with them. Discussion around how to get ready for the money coming in with a preference for workforce. Eighty-four percent of the money coming to the state will require a match of some sort.

EDA Goods Jobs Challenge

Becker shared that the metro consortium did not get the grant. While disappointing, this was an example of a true regional collaboration and provides a framework for continuing the work in the proposal.

Committee Work Plan

Worker Retention Initiative:

- Evaluation of existing programs
- Community-based Organization feedback through convening or community conversation: Discussion around exploring hidden worker initiatives as well as work with employee retention. Is there an opportunity with the infrastructure money to solidify the programs already in the high schools to build them up – to grow the relationships?

Director Updates

MBVC and Green Job Sprint Follow Up: No update provided.

We Are All Criminals Event: This event is being held on August 18 for employers to examine the disparate impact of the criminal and juvenile justice systems on Black, Indigenous and people of color and people experiencing poverty across the country. If interested, register on Eventbrite. Also, on September 10 there will be an event called Community Welcome Home Party at Ujamaa Place for individuals returning from incarceration and their families. Resources and a job fair will be part of the celebration.

Other

No other items were discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 2:52pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 13, 2022, 2-3pm