

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Constructions-Green Jobs Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 8, 2022
2:00-3:00 PM

Present:

Joseph Adamji
Robert Blake
Becky Brink Ray
Chris Duffrin
Muneer Karcher-Ramos
Donald Mullin
Jodi Pincus
Elisa Rasmussen
Russ Stark

Absent:

Staff/Guests:

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Elizabeth Campbell, Ryan Companies
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
John O'Phelan, Workforce Solutions
Kristy Snyder, Youthprise

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Chair Mullin called the meeting to order at 2:02pm and read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approve January Minutes

Motion (Rasmussen/Stark) to approve the January 11, 2022, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Action Plan Update

Becker shared that the full WIB decided on four strategic areas so the next step is to determine how each committee will move forward on their action plans. Discussion with this committee centered around worker retention initiatives and the future of work in construction/green jobs. Becker will create a problems grid that outlines the issues that need to be addressed.

Upcoming Industry Events

O'Phelan will send out updates on the following:

- Women In Construction Week
- MNCC Job Fair

Driver's License Discussion

Snyder, Director of the Opportunity Youth Network at Youthprise, shared on their Opportunity Youth Recovery Plan. One aspect is to publicly fund youth to obtain their driver's licenses (training, behind the wheel, and an option to have teachers sign off on the license, affordable insurance pool), a critical employment credential in the new workforce. There are a lot of barriers that keep young people from getting their driver's license, e.g., blocks employment, limits housing. She also shared some possible solutions and recommendations. Becker mentioned the partnership with Ramsey County and the City of St. Paul in establishing a Drivers Academy Pilot.

Green Jobs Resources

Links to resources will be shared.

Xcel/CEE Construction Workforce Training Program

Duffrin shared details about Xcel Energy's five-week home energy career training pilot program. This program will improve workforce diversity in the Minnesota energy sector's construction efforts which

gained approval last week from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. The first cohort will be launched in March.

Other

Stark stated that Xcel has another \$4 million workforce development program in the solar area.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:03pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 2-3pm