

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Constructions-Green Jobs Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 17, 2023
2:00-3:00 PM

Present:

Joseph Adamji
Becky Brink Ray
Chris Duffrin
Muneer Karcher-Ramos
Don Mullin
Elisa Rasmussen
Russ Stark

Absent:

Staff/Guests:

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Thulani Jwacu, MN Science Museum
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
John O'Phelan, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

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

Approve November Minutes

Motion (Stark/Karcher-Ramos) to approve the November 8, 2022, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement

Mullin and Milbrandt reminded everyone that WIB and Committee members are asked to read and sign the Acknowledgement each year and shared the full policy with the committee. They asked that committee members send the signed form back to Milbrandt if they had not yet done so.

Committee Work Plan

Upcoming Construction Events and March Construction Month: Becker highlighted some upcoming construction events: Women in Construction (WIC) Week March 5-11, 2023; symposium for construction contractors being hosted by Expand the Toolbox later in March. Since March is Construction month, if anyone has any other events they'd like to highlight in the upcoming newsletter, let Milbrandt know.

Asset Mapping of Existing Construction Programs: Becker gave an overview of the ecosystem tool from Minnesota State and the Pathway Framework from Construction Careers Foundation. There was discussion around the components of the construction training ecosystem in Ramsey County (career exploration and career training) and a request for feedback in making the construction pathway better.

Director Updates

ARPA Update: Becker provided an update on the Learn & Earn proposals. The largest amount of dollars will go to construction. Organizations will be notified soon. Becker shared information on another project called Trade Up which will provide low barrier jobs setting up trade shows. Several large orientation and training events will be in February and March, with on-the-spot hiring.

IJA System Convening: Becker provided a brief update in getting a panel of three leading industries in late February/early March to discuss how communities/organizations can get ready for funding that is coming through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

In-Person Committee Meeting: Becker shared that some committees are interested in holding an in-person luncheon once a year to connect with each other. She thought this committee might be interested in doing something similar at one of the already scheduled meetings, just shifting meeting time around lunch. There was interest in doing this in May. The May 9 invite will be updated to reflect in-person, with the location to be determined.

Other Committee Updates

Jwacu, Kitty Andersen Youth Science Center Director, introduced himself.

Becker shared news that Stevenson Morgan is now Commissioner Moran's Aide.

Mullin provided an update on the Drivers' License program regarding the pathway to car loans and the next steps as the relationships are built.

Stark shared information about the proposed 1% sales tax increase. Of the 1%, three quarters would go towards streets and a quarter into parks reinvestments – all public infrastructure basic needs, which would create a lot of construction jobs.

Brink Ray provided an update on the Adult Construction Training program at Goodwill Easter Seals. Their Youth Build program had Ryan Companies and their contractors over for a morning event, doing informational interviews, with the intention of pulling folks in for formal interviews. This was part of the new Highland Bridge development project.

Becker shared a presentation she and Rasmussen learned about pipeline training programs through Waseca. They will share further information as it becomes available.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 14, 2023, 2-3pm