

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County**  
Constructions-Green Jobs Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 9, 2024  
3:00 – 4:00pm  
Zoom Video Conference

**Present:**

Becky Brink Ray  
Chris Duffrin  
Don Mullin  
Mary Rick

**Absent:**

Joseph Adamji  
Muneer Karcher-Ramos  
Elisa Rasmussen-EA  
Russ Stark-EA

**Staff/Guests:**

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions  
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions  
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions  
John O'Phelan, Workforce Solutions

---

**Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement**

Mullin called the meeting to order at 3:03pm and read the land acknowledgement aloud.

---

**Approve November Minutes**

**Motion (Duffrin/Mullin) to approve the November 14, 2024, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

---

**Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement**

Becker reviewed the Conflict of Interest Policy and reminded everyone that any WIB or committee member who has a conflict of interest should abstain from discussion and voting. The policy is reviewed by every committee and the WIB each year. In the past, committee members have been asked to sign an acknowledgement form, but the acknowledgement process is being simplified this year to instead ask members to read the policy and acknowledge their responsibility in abstaining as necessary.

---

**Committee Work Plan**

Updates provided on the following initiatives:

*Construction – Green Jobs Related Event:* Thank you to everyone who participated in the Future of Work: Clean Economy Pathways event. It was the first of a new series of professional development opportunities to support job seekers in high growth and high wages areas of works. It was a great event which showed that more dialogue is needed on the clean industries. Becker shared information on having a Green Careers Job Fair in the Midway area in March. Committee members thought this was a good idea. Suggestions included: reaching out to Kera Peterson of the St. Paul Regional Labor Federation as this could be a joint effort; moving the event to April to align with Earth Day; and look at other potential locations so that events are more spread out. If any member is interested in helping with planning, reach out to O'Phelan.

*Green Pathways – Workforce Plan:* The purpose of the plan is for other municipalities and organizations to identify resources and opportunities to leverage in proposals seeking federal, state and private funding. It will be shared at the next meeting. Build Your Own Future will be in the plan.

*Build Your Own Future Campaign Next Steps:* Due to staff capacity, this is moving along slowly. Becker shared the steps that will take place, working jointly with the Partnership and Outreach Committee. A green component will be added. There is a need to introduce to people that the future of green is in some way linked with the construction and trade infrastructures. Climate change is viewed differently by younger versus older people so there is a need to engage the younger people more. A good place to look is the Minnesota Trades Academy to assist with helping with green career paths.

---

**Director Updates**

Becker provided the following update and asked committee members to promote the events.

*Inclusive Workplaces Cohort:* Applications for the next cohort are due the end of the month. Preference will be given to businesses with 10-250 employees (including all locations).

*Inclusive Hiring Connections Summit:* The Summit is on January 24, 8:30am to 1pm. This is an opportunity to connect with inclusive hiring resources and community-based training providers.

*Top Workforce Trends to Watch:* This webinar is on January 17 at noon to learn about the top workforce trends in 2024. Erin Olson, RealTime Talent's Senior Director of Strategic Research is the presenter.

*Construct Tomorrow Wrap Up:* Molenaar provided a recap of the Construct Tomorrow event held at the RiverCentre in December 2023. This program brings the construction and building trades to high school students through an experiential learning process. There was representation of over 15 trade unions and well over 1,000 students attended over the two days. Planning is underway with Construct Tomorrow to expand the 2024 event with additional activities, etc.

*Ramsey County Climate Action Framework:* This is still being reviewed due to changes in Ramsey County leadership.

*Grant Updates:*

**DEED Cleantech for All/Pathways Initiative:** This is still in flux, working closely under the leadership of Grid Catalyst. Grid Catalyst and the partners will be doing community outreach between December 2023 and June 2024 to raise awareness of the entrepreneurial opportunities in energy and cleantech in Minnesota.

Between January-June 2024, partners will introduce energy and cleantech entrepreneurial opportunities through existing programming, to maximize investments and relationships. Between February-December 24, the next step is to provide programming, connections, and coaching to meet more entrepreneurs where they are. In the Fall of 2024, there will be a 12-week incubator program, which will provide coaching and business development support and resources for entrepreneurs. There are not a lot of dollars involved. Ramsey County is written into the grant so will ensure this is more local than state-wide.

*Surprise:* Congratulations to O'Phelan who has been named by the Association of General Contractors as their Ally of the Year Award recipient. He is being recognized for being an advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion in the construction and trades industry.

---

### **Action Plan Update and 2024 Work Plan**

Becker shared the work plan for this committee. A big one is to better understand the Future of Work in Construction-Green Jobs along with developing a green careers workforce plan.

---

### **Other Committee Updates**

- Duffrin is recruiting for the Earn and Learn program; stated there is interest in the job fairs.
- Brink Ray shared the next cohort for the Earn and Learn is starting the end of January or first part of February. She also announced that Tom Gibson rejoined Goodwill Easter Seals as their new program manager for the construction training program.
- Mullin shared the great feedback on the Trades Women Build Nations event in December.

---

### **Adjourn**

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:55pm.

Next Meeting: March 12, 2024, 3-4pm via Zoom