

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Constructions-Green Jobs Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 14, 2023
2:00-3:00 PM

Present:

Becky Brink Ray
Chris Duffrin
Don Mullin
Elisa Rasmussen
Russ Stark

Absent:

Joseph Adamji
Muneer Karcher-Ramos

Staff/Guests:

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
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 and read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Approve January Minutes

Motion (Stark/Duffrin) to approve the January 17, 2023, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by vote.

Committee Work Plan

Past and Upcoming Construction Events: Becker and O'Phelan shared updates on upcoming events:

- Ramsey County declared March 5-11 Women in Construction Week. Events were held throughout the week to provide opportunities to share appreciation, celebrate diversity and facilitate connections with the industry.
- On March 1, there was a tour of the Humphrey Job Corps Center by various Ramsey County department staff to create a partnership in employment and internship opportunities. A tour could be arranged for this committee if there is interest.
- On March 23, there will be a symposium for construction contractors hosted by Expand the Toolbox (ETT) at McGough Service Center. The ETT will have additional events throughout the year. This group is also looking for sponsorship.
- The next CERT Connect Open House is on April 5.

Asset Mapping of Existing Construction Programs – Building Your Own Future Webpage: Becker shared the training dashboard and a new section called Building Your Own Future. There was discussion around ways to improve the site and campaign opportunities to make the construction pathway better.

Green Energy/Climate Legislative Efforts

Duffrin shared happening at the legislator:

- A decision to require electric utilities to hit targets of 100% carbon free resources by 2040.
- Matching funds for the Inflation Reduction Act grants and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
- A policy to change the definition of low income for efficiency programs.
- A policy to drive commercial building codes faster.
- A proposal to increase money for low-income weatherization/pre-weatherization fixes.
- A proposal to create a Minnesota green bank aka Innovation Climate Authority to receive federal funds and create innovative financing opportunities.
- Increasing the pool for energy assistance.
- Air-source heat pump rebates.

Director Updates

ARPA Update: Becker and Mullin reviewed the Trades Up on-site hiring sessions held at the Finishing Trades Institute to provide low-barrier jobs in setting up trade shows. The events were very well received and a large number of candidates signed up for the union. Becker shared that ARPA funds have been set aside to sponsor Construct Tomorrow events at the RiverCenter over the next three years.

IIJA System Convening: Becker stressed the need to grow the infrastructure workforce in preparation for the influx of IIJA funds. There will be an in-person panel discussion event sponsored by the WIB and this committee on May 1 for Ramsey County stakeholders interested in learning more about how IIJA will impact workforce development. There was discussion about the events questions and including a Q&A session at the end of the session. Mullin will help with further details.

Other Committee Updates

No further items discussed.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 2:57pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 12-1:30pm – In Person