

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County**  
Constructions-Green Jobs Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 9, 2023  
12:00n – 1:30pm

**Present:**

Chris Duffrin  
Don Mullin  
Elisa Rasmussen  
Russ Stark

**Absent:**

Joseph Adamji-EA  
Becky Brink Ray - EA  
Muneer Karcher-Ramos-EA

**Staff/Guests:**

Tom Aasheim, Finishing Trades Institute  
Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions  
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions  
Rebecca Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions  
John O’Phelan, Workforce Solutions  
Whitney Terrill, MN Solar Energy Industries

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**Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement**

Chair Mullin called the meeting to order at 12:08pm and read the land acknowledgement aloud. All in attendance introduced themselves and enjoyed lunch.

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**Approve March Minutes**

**Motion (Rasmussen/Stark) to approve the March 14, 2023, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.**

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**Committee Work Plan**

*Debrief of IJJA Event:* Becker shared that the May 1 event had a lot of interest and excitement for future partnership in creating a more inclusive economy in leveraging these historic investments and expanding the future infrastructure workforce

*Building Your Own Future Campaign Next Steps:* There was discussion around how to utilize the IJJA funds in hiring, training and retaining current infrastructure workers. Though employers, educational institutions, workforce development boards, community-based organizations and labor groups are doing things to recruit and hire employees, there seems to be a lack of coordination on their efforts. Everyone seems to be working in a silo; therefore, collaboration is necessary. Some suggestions to help move forward included building a coalition with public and private entities, not necessarily with the county leading. Stark suggested looking at the Denver model which has developed a community campaign around the green industry with one place to funnel people if they are interested. Grant funding would be needed to do something like this locally.

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**Solar Career Connections**

Terrill, Program Director at Minnesota Solar Energy Industries Project (MNSEIP), shared information about MNSEIP being dedicated to educating the public and business community about Minnesota’s solar industry. Her ask is that Ramsey County partner with MNSEIP to promote, foster and advance the public understanding of renewable energy resources through cooperative partnerships; to educate the public on the various applications of solar energy and its many benefits, and to engage in appropriate political activities to benefit renewable energy customers and ratepayers. Specific events for partnership would be a job fair in October and an April 2024 event for people of color. Terrill will follow up with data regarding how individuals get hired for renewable jobs; how long do they stay and other trends. A good suggestion was for MNSEIP to connect with St. Paul Area Chamber on the 2023 Career Connect Day. Last year’s event welcomed 1,600 local 10<sup>th</sup> graders who had the opportunity to meet with over 90 Minnesota businesses in six different industry tracks to explore a wide range of career pathways. Milbrandt will provide Terrill with contact information, etc.

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**Tour of Finishing Trades**

Aasheim, Director of Technical Education at Finishing Trades Institute of the Upper Midwest (FTIUM), provided a tour of the facility. FTIUM trains apprentices for careers as painters, drywall finishers, glassworkers, sign technicians and convention workers and keeps journey workers trained in current safety and industry certifications that are relevant to their trades.

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**Other Committee Updates**

Becker has offered to support three years of Construct Tomorrow events at the RiverCentre for their Twin Cities event. Communications are underway but nothing has been finalized yet.

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**Adjourn**

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 11, 2023, 2:00pm to 3:00pm via Zoom