

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County**  
Constructions-Green Jobs Committee Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 14, 2023  
2:00 – 3:00pm  
Zoom Video Conference

**Present:**

Becky Brink Ray  
Chris Duffrin  
Muneer Karcher-Ramos  
Russ Stark

**Absent:**

Joseph Adamji  
Don Mullin-EA  
Elisa Rasmussen-EA

**Staff/Guests:**

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

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**Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement**

Becker called the meeting to order at 2:03pm and read the land acknowledgement aloud.

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**Approve September Minutes**

**Motion (Duffrin/Stark) to approve the September 12, 2023, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.**

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**2024 Committee Meeting Schedule**

Becker shared next year's Committee schedule, stating these meetings will remain virtual on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of odd-numbered months; however, due to another committee's time conflict, these meetings will shift to 3-4pm. Meeting invites will go out later this week unless there are major issues with the time change.

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**Committee Work Plan**

Updates provided on the following initiatives:

*Construction – Green Jobs Related Events*

- **Clean Economy Minnesota Lunch and Learn:** This event centered around the Clean Energy Minnesota new jobs report. It was an opportunity for employers to hear from young people making for good networking. Also, a good opportunity to create a Job Seeker Advisory Committee with young people to share lived experiences. Clean Energy jobs are growing at a 50% rate higher than other jobs. Further work should be done to define what green energy/clean energy jobs are. The report will be included in the meeting follow up email.
- **Xcel Energy-Partners in Energy:** Becker did a presentation through Xcel Energy for their Partners in Energy community collaboration. This is a program that supports the communities served by helping them develop and implement energy plans.

*Ramsey County Climate Action Framework:* Molenaar provided an update on the work being done on the project Ramsey County is developing to guide the county's response to climate change, based on the Minnesota Climate Action Framework, community feedback, input from key partnerships and guidance from internal county collaborators. Workforce Solutions is the lead department on over half of the strategies, which includes reducing barriers, developing the Green Economy Work and Jobs Plan and leveraging all funding investments including the American Rescue Plan Act efforts. Plan will be released early next year. Becker provided a recap of the Workforce Plan for the green economy. The goal of the Workforce Plan is that anyone can pull language out of sections without having to reinvent the wheel every time there's a need for a grant with a workforce component. Stark shared information on the inaugural Saint Paul Climate Forum held November 9 at the Wellstone Community Center. This forum is spearheaded by the City of Saint Paul, the Climate Justice Advisory Board, Saint Paul Public Schools and Ramsey County to highlight the city's current climate initiatives, innovative approaches to climate action and goals for a greener future. This might be an annual check-in along with the Earth Day check-in in April.

*Build Your Own Future Campaign Next Steps:* Becker provided a recap of the work being done and discussed the outreach plan. The Committee had interest in building out an event calendar feature, adding a possible “group” navigator opportunity and a screening and discussion panel for the Skilled Movie. The Committee discussed the possibility of kiosks for next year to create a presence in the community. Stark to look further into the City helping with the video aspect. Feedback and thoughts on the Building Your Own Future webpage are welcomed.

*Future of Work:* Becker provided an update on the Clean Economy Pathways event scheduled for 9am on December 4 at Sunrise Bank. The events support job seekers in preparing for new and emerging careers in the workforce with this session’s topic being clean technology.

*Disrupting with a Purpose:* Becker shared the upcoming second part of the Youthprise’s Disrupting with a Purpose series on December 5 at 3pm which focuses on Cultural Client Change Education.

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### **Director Updates**

Becker provided the following updates:

*Inclusive Employer Toolkit:* This was launched a few weeks back. It aims to help employers provide a more welcoming and inclusive workplace for all by offering practices to build diversity and inclusion in the areas of employee recruitment, hiring, onboarding and retention. It is available online on the Ramsey County Means Business website and can also be downloaded.

*Construct Tomorrow:* This event scheduled for December 6-7 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre is exclusively for schools located in Ramsey County. It allows students to try tools of the trades hands-on, talk to diverse tradespeople from multiple construction industries, learn about wages and benefits, and discuss registered apprenticeship with industry professionals.

*Grant Updates:* Many efforts are being made to apply for state and federal grants. Grants that have been submitted include the EDA Good Jobs Challenge and EDA Recompete. WFS is currently working with the local chambers on the DEED application for the Drive for Five grant. Other collaborations include GreaterMSP EDA Build Back Better, Tech Hub, CHIPs working plan application, supporting the State of Minnesota Energy Futures and the City of Saint Paul SMART grants.

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

Becker shared the committee has done a great job on action plan deliverables around promoting and supporting industry, including events and opportunities. Work is also being done in the Hidden Worker initiatives even though this is not a direct output of this committee along with the Worker Retention Initiative in evaluating existing programs and obtaining CBO feedback through convening or community conversations. Becker will do a refresh of the work plan for next year based on the Build Your Future Campaign and pipeline/media impact.

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### **Other Committee Updates**

Becker and Stark shared that the Saint Paul Regional Water offered a brand-new utility trainee position. The trainees were given technical training, life skills and driver’s education for up to a year in addition to benefits including health insurance, paid holidays, vacation and sick leave as well as earning a wage.

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### **Adjourn**

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56pm.

Next Meeting: January 9, 2024, 3-4pm via Zoom