

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Constructions-Green Jobs Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 8, 2022
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
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
John O’Phelan, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

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

Approve September Minutes

Motion (Rasmussen/Stark) to approve the September 13, 2022, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by vote.

2023 Committee Meeting Schedule

Becker stated the December meeting is cancelled and shared the proposed 2023 dates, stating it follows the same schedule as 2022, with meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of every other month from 2-3pm. Becker shared that she might ask committee members to do some Request for Proposal reviews, etc., since the committee will only meet every other month. The 2023 meeting invites will be sent out soon.

Committee Work Plan

Action Plan Strategies Status Update: Becker provided a status update on the action plan strategies for this committee. The focus is to support a more inclusive construction training ecosystem.

Inclusive Construction Training Program Pillars and Employer Success Stories: Becker shared the proposed scope, timeline, eligibility, application and process of the proposed second Inclusive Workplaces Cohort being done in partnership with the Center for Economic Inclusion.

Asset Mapping of Existing Construction Programs: Becker shared that O’Phelan will have the asset mapping completed by the January 2023 meeting. The committee can then figure out the missing pieces in the ecosystem, followed by understanding the Infrastructure Bill to build the inclusive construction training program pillars. Becker shared a slide around the opportunity to bridge the skills gap. The link to the article where this slide was taken from will be sent with the meeting follow up.

Director Updates

IIJA System Convening: Becker shared the system development for IIJA. The industry emphasis should be on green jobs and needs to go beyond the trades. There was discussion around sector strategies. Becker and Rasmussen will work on organizing a panel to talk about the Infrastructure Reduction Act and the jobs impact it will have in the community in January. Becker also shared information on the Talent Pipeline Challenge and will provide a link to the guide on Advancing Equitable Workforce Development for Infrastructure Jobs. Becker also provided a snapshot on broadband and jobs, stating fixed-broadband providers have flagged labor shortages as a key challenge as they move forward with large-scale network expansion efforts. She also shared information on a report of shaping construction for the future and getting more people in the pipeline.

Becker also shared information about digital equity in Ramsey County and slides from the Department of Employment and Economic Development.

Digital Inclusion Leadership Summit: Becker provided an update on the leadership summit in getting connected and staying connected as the cycles of opportunity.

ARPA Updates: Becker provided an update on the Driver's License Academy and the resources to help navigate the process. Mullin shared about the upcoming work on Connections to Car Ownership program expansions and insurance resource supports.

Other: Becker shared information about the next Inclusive Workplaces Cohort, including employer eligibility, the information session on December 6, the applications deadline (December 30, 2022), and the session dates and topics which will focus more heavily on the employee life cycle. Details are available on the Ramsey County Means Business site. It would be good to have construction businesses participate. Members of the committee will share the information with their contacts.

Other Committee Updates

Stark shared information on the University of Minnesota's National Science Foundation grant seeking to do a landscape analysis and guide on energy workforce training and job opportunities. The grant is specifically aimed at high school, community college or college students and their teachers with a focus on minority populations and underrepresented students. Stark will connect with the education coordinator, Beth Mercer-Taylor, at the University of Minnesota regarding this.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 2:54pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 2-3pm