

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 24, 2023, 7:30-9:00am
Meeting held using Zoom Video Conference

Committee Members Present

Susan Jambor
Chad Kulas
Tony Lusiba
Rena Moran
Don Mullin
Sean Mullan
Paul Nikstad
Elisa Rasmussen
Mary Russell
Chris Tolbert

Members Absent

Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

Chair Kulas called the meeting to order at 7:32am and read the Land Acknowledgement aloud.

Approve March Minutes

Motion (Jambor/Nikstad) to approve the March 22, 2023, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Membership

WIB & Committee Demographics Dashboards: Rasmussen and Milbrandt provided an update on the City appointed vacancy vacated by Duffy. The outreach conducted for this vacancy resulted in the application of Jonathan Banks. With the additional appointment, the WIB will be at the full 33-member complement. Milbrandt reviewed the membership dashboard information that is also on the County's Open Data Portal. The current dashboard does not reflect Banks. Improvement has been seen in the race/ethnicity category with the addition of Hunter, which also increased representation in the healthcare sector. The committee member dashboard reflects the addition of Tesfalidet to the Youth Committee which results in changes to race/ethnicity and gender. This dashboard only covers members who are not full members of the WIB.

WIB Member Reappointments: Milbrandt provided information on the reappointments for the 2023-2025 term. Reappointment outreach was done to all current members whose seat are up in 2023. Four individuals are not seeking reappointment. The county-appointed Adult Basic Education (ABE) seat rotates between Saint Paul Public Schools ABE and the East Metro ABE Consortium so Karen Gerdin will rotate off and Carly Voshell has applied. Kulas thanked Mullan, as well as the others, for their service on the WIB. Milbrandt then provided a snapshot of what the WIB will look like starting in August with three vacancies and prospects on filling these seats with identified individuals. WIOA law provides 90 days to fill these seats. Becker shared that this is a good opportunity to do a broader, intentional outreach and is willing to prioritize it this summer. She would like to pursue an individual (Steve Kalina) from the Governor's Workforce Development Board (GWDB). There's also an opportunity to review the manufacturing industries list he provided within 10 miles of Saint Paul College. Becker will introduce Kalina to Rasmussen as a starting point and if he is not interested, she'll send out the manufacturing list to the committee members. Another resource might be Kevion Ellis from Saint Paul Chamber who now serves on the GWDB.

Motion (Mullan/Jambor) to recommend the reappointments of Shym Cook, Becky Degendorfer, Lisa Guetzkow, Lauren Hunter, Chad Kulas, Tony Lusiba, Pamela Maldonado, James McClean, Yolanda McIntosh, Rena Moran, Donald Mullin, Kaomi Pedado, Sheri Riemers, Chris Tolbert, Tanya Velishek and Tracy Wilson to the WIB for 2023-2025. Motion carried by chat vote.

WIB Membership Recommendation: Banks, Voshell: Milbrandt gave an overview of the new member appointments.

Motion (Mullin/Jambor) to recommend to the City of Saint Paul the appointment of Jonathan Banks to the WIB. Motion carried by chat vote.

Motion (Jambor/Rasmussen) to recommend to the County Board the appointment of Carly Voshell to the WIB. Motion by chat vote.

Committee Member Reappointments: Tolbert, Russell: Milbrandt provided an overview and background of the Executive Committee Reappointments, stating the reappointments are every two years.

Motion (Mullin/Nikstad) to recommend the reappointment Chris Tolbert to the position of at-large member of the Executive Committee through the end of his term on the City Council and to ratify the WIB Chair's appointment of Mary Russell as a non-WIB member of the Executive Committee, for a term ending July 31, 2025. Motion by chat vote.

Director's Updates

Legislative Update: Becker provided an update which included an increase in the allocation for the Minnesota Youth Program (MYP) and increases the age eligibility to 24. DEED received their request for \$10M for additional training, the Office of New Americans was established, there was additional money for small organizations, including DEI training and support for other various programs. There were also a lot of direct appropriations. Becker shared other Ramsey County specific funding.

WIOA Allocations: Becker explained how WIOA funds are allocated across the state. Ramsey County received a 30.72% reduction in the WIOA Adult grant due to the antiquated formula which considers unemployment in a broad fashion. There is also a reduction in the county's Dislocated Worker grant allocation of 15.37%. Minnesota received an overall decrease of 8% in the WIOA Youth program but an increase in MN Youth Program funding.

CareerForce Operations & Service Delivery and Relocation Ad Hocs: Becker provided an update on the work of the Ad Hoc Committees, including a tour of the Dakota County CareerForce site in August for the Relocation work group. Any Executive Committee members interested in attending should contact Milbrandt.

Local and Regional Plans: Becker provided information of the Local and Regional Plans that are developed in coordination with the WIOA State Plan. This committee will be asked to review the Plan in January and the WIB and County Board approvals will occur in February to meet the March 24, 2024, deadline to submit to DEED.

June WIB Meeting: Becker shared that the June meeting will be focused on YouthBuild, with a panel discussion on young people building homes via construction career pathways. Also on the agenda will be the recognition of the 2023 Vern Vick Memorial Award recipient. Kulas acknowledged how artificial intelligence will affect the workforce sectors.

WIB Supported Events Review

Milbrandt provided an overview of the events that the WIB has supported since the beginning of the year.

Review WIB Financial Report and Strategic Funds Report

Becker shared the March-April Financial Report. The expenses and revenues are typical and there is still a significant amount of strategic priority money available. Three funding requests were presented:

Funding Requests

Career Connect Day: Nikstad requested \$15,000 for the second annual Career Connect Day to cover the cost of transporting Ramsey County students to and from the October 17 event.

Welcome Home Party 2023: Becker requested an amount not to exceed \$10,000 to continue efforts to support Fair Opportunity initiatives.

Inclusive Workplaces Cohort 2024: Becker requested an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to continue efforts to support additional Inclusive Workplaces Cohort. The RPF would include additional DEI components which wouldn't all be funded by WIB but rather WIB support.

Motion (Mullin/Jambor) to recommend the WIB approve all three funding requests. Motion carried by chat vote.

Other

Mullan shared that his time on the WIB has been rewarding and thanked everyone. Becker shared that the county is working with 3M to help their employees impacted by the mass layoff.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38am.

The next Executive Committee meeting is Wednesday, July 26, 2023.