

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 25, 2022, 8:00am - 9:30am
Plato Blvd – Star Conference Room – 2nd Floor

Committee Members Present

Chad Kulas (via phone)
Tony Lusiba
Jim McDonough
Don Mullin
Paul Nikstad
Elisa Rasmussen
Mary Russell

Members Absent

Chris Duffy-EA
Sean Mullan-EA
Chris Tolbert-EA

Staff/Guests Present

Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Melody Santana-Marty, Ramsey County

Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

In the absence of the Chair, Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 8:07am. Lusiba read the Land Acknowledgement aloud.

Approve March Minutes

Motion (Mullin/Nikstad) to approve the March 23, 2022, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

WIB Financial Report

Santana-Marty reviewed the March-April 2022 Financial Report. All transactions continue to be routine. Becker provided an update on the Strategic Priorities budget which includes funds for manufacturing month, Fair Opportunities events, job fairs and the Right Track intern.

Motion (Nikstad/Mullin) to accept the March-April Financial Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Recap Board Workshop

Becker gave a recap of the WIB-County Board workshop and thanked everyone who participated. It was a great opportunity to ensure the commissioners are aware of the WIB's accomplishment and future efforts.

Program Snapshot Overview

Becker gave a broad overview of the plan to share snapshots of the workforce programs provided by Workforce Solutions and a calendar of when the snapshots will be presented to the committee over the next year. McDonough shared that staying focused with the help of Workforce Solutions at the libraries has made an improvement in community connections.

Membership

WIB Appointments, Reappointments and Committee Appointments

Rasmussen and Milbrandt presented the new appointments and reappointments for the 2022-2024 term. The membership dashboard was also shared, which reflects the need to increase the number of the medium size companies on the WIB. It was suggested that Blue Plate could be a good organization to reach out to.

Motion (Mullin/Russell) to recommend the reappointment of Tom Aasheim, Jennifer Germain, Susan Jambor, Hyon Kim, Gaye Adams Massey, Camila Mercado Michelli, Paul Nikstad, Elisa Rasmussen, Mary Rick, and Trish Stevens. Motion carried. Rasmussen and Nikstad abstained.

Motion (Nikstad/Mullin) to recommend to the County Board the appointment of John Perlich to the WIB and to ratify the WIB Chair's appointments of John Perlich to the Policy & Oversight Committee and Aalayha Robb to the Equity Committee. Motion carried.

Committee Updates

Becker gave an update on the joint Equity and Partnership & Outreach Committee meeting as to Workplace Cohorts and Untapped Events. A special recognition luncheon celebrating the completion of the Inclusive Workplaces Cohort will be held at the August WIB meeting. Committee Chair Nikstad provided an update on the Youth Committee. There is a funding request for transportation costs for the St. Paul Area Chamber (SPAC) career exploration day on October 18.

Committee Chair Lusiba provided an update on the Tech Committee and the different events occurring for Tech month. Discussion occurred as to the needs of networking.

Motion (McDonough/Mullin) to recommend the approval of the funding of transportation for the SPAC Career Exploration Day. Motion carried unanimously.

Director's Updates

Brookings Transforming Cities/Metros Lab: A summary was provided as to funding efforts for local needs and priorities. An overview also provided as to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) which is a comprehensive bill to support lasting growth which includes workforce development.

ARPA Update: A snapshot was provided on the work around ARPA funding through January 2023. Most of the initiatives are in the program design phase. There was discussion about the difficulty navigating the driver license system and the need for and importance of getting this academy up and running.

Business Services Strategies: Becker gave an update on partnership opportunities with the SPAC and economic development organizations and various employer and industry-focused events.

June WIB Meeting: A draft of the agenda for the full WIB meeting being held in-person at the Minnesota Humanities Center was presented. Major items include the Vern Vick Memorial Award presentation, an update from DEED Deputy Director and survey results from the Federal Reserve.

Other

No other topics were discussed.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35am.

The next Executive Committee meeting is Wednesday, July 27, 2022, 8:00-9:30am at 90 W. Plato Blvd.