

MINUTES
SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
LYON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
COMMISSIONER'S ROOM – 2ND FLOOR
AUGUST 8, 2024
4:00 P.M.

Members Present: Carla Goedtke, Andy Easley, Beth Wilms, Vince Robinson, Tim Jones, Hilary DeVlaeminck, Lori Wynia

Joining Via ZOOM: Dawn Schnell, Scott Marquardt, Bruce Bergeson, Leroy Kiecker, Anne Johnson

Members Excused: Brad Vaughn, Marly Wagner, Mimi Schafer, See Moua-Leske, Terry Gaalswyk, Rochelle Remund, Jacque Peters, Melissa McGinty-Thompson

Staff Present: Carrie Bendix, Maria Peters, Jenna Weyer

Carla Goedtke called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Welcome & Introduction

Carla Goedtke welcomed members, and everyone introduced themselves.

Approval of the Agenda & Agenda Additions

Carla Goedtke asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Hearing no additional agenda items, a motion was made by Andy Easley to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Hilary DeVlaeminck and passed unanimously.

Labor Market Update – Luke Greiner, DEED Regional Analyst, Central & Southwest Minnesota

Luke Greiner, the Regional Labor Market Analyst from the Department of Employment and Economic Development Labor Market Information Office presented on industry trends, changes in business dynamics, and unemployment rates. He reported that job openings have fallen back to pre-COVID levels.

Consent Agenda Items

- SW MN Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes – June 6, 2024
- Executive Committee Minutes – June 6, 2024
- Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council Report

Beth Wilms made a motion to approve the consent agenda including the Minutes of the June 6, 2024 SW MN Workforce Development Board Meeting; Minutes of the June 6, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting; and the Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council Report. Dawn Schnell seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Policy Updates

Carrie Bendix reported on two new policy updates. The Youth Support Services Policy update includes food provision to WIOA Youth Program participants during group program activities over the mealtime. The Provision of Training Services Policy update includes the requirement of work authorization documentation in order for participants to be eligible for Individual Training Accounts or receive monetary assistance with training related expenses.

Dawn Schnell made a motion to approve the discussed policy updates. Hilary DeVlaeminck seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Tim Jones abstained from Policy Updates, New Funding/Contracts, Federal and State Funding Allocations, and Mardag Foundation, US Bank Foundation, ADM agenda items.

New Funding/Contracts

Carrie Bendix discussed a newly funded contract with Southwest West Central Cooperative (SWWC) for all school districts in the region to receive Youth Career Connector services (\$80,000). She also discussed the SWWC Project Discovery Career Assessment and Assistant contract for YouScience Assessments to Project Discovery students. The contract is for up to 100 hours per year at \$50/ hour (\$5,000) for interpreting YouScience assessments and assisting the Project Discovery Coordinator.

Andy Easley made a motion to approve funding in the amount of \$80,000 for the SWWC Youth Career Connector services and \$5,000 for the SWWC Project Discovery Career Assessment and Assistant contract. LeRoy Kiecker seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Federal and State Funding Allocations

Carrie Bendix presented the SFY25 funding allocations for WIOA Adult (\$96,813), WIOA Dislocated Worker (\$199,869), State Dislocated Worker (\$498,877), WIOA Youth (\$98,312) and Minnesota Youth Program (\$197,392).

Lori Wynia made a motion to receive the SFY25 allocations discussed. Vince Robinson seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Mardag Foundation, US Bank Foundation, ADM

Carrie Bendix requested board approval to apply for funds with the Mardag Foundation, US Bank Foundation, and ADM to support the Youth Career Connector Program.

Lori Wynia made a motion to approve the request for application to Mardag Foundation, US Bank Foundation, and ADM to support the Youth Career Connector Program. Hilary DeVlaeminck seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Confidentiality & Conflict of Interest Policy

Carrie Bendix explained the Confidentiality & Conflict of Interest Policies and asked each Board Member to sign and return.

Member Updates

Vince Robinson discussed impacts of the newly released childcare report from the Department of Human Services and encouraged members to review it. Scott Marquardt voiced that restrictions impact child learning and education and are taking away from parent choice. Discussion also took place around increasing exposure to high school students of regional occupations in demand.

Youth Career Connectors Annual Report

Maria Peters reviewed the Youth Career Connectors Annual Report and reported on previous and upcoming events.

Director Updates

- Update of Funded Grants
- Success Stories
- September is Workforce Development Month, member highlights
- Building Inclusive Workplaces Event - October 4th

Important Dates

Executive Committee - Thursday, October 3rd, 2024 - 3:00p.m.

Workforce Development Board Meeting – Thursday, October 3rd, 2024 – 4:00p.m - 6:00p.m.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Beth Wilms to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Tim Jones and unanimously passed. The meeting adjourned.

Approved by:

Approved by:

Beth Wilms, Secretary

Carrie Bendix, Recording Secretary