

MINUTES
SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
LYON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
COMMISSIONER'S ROOM – 2ND FLOOR
DECEMBER 5, 2024
4:00 P.M.

Members Present: Carla Goedtke, Andy Easley, Beth Wilms, Vince Robinson, Tim Jones, Lori Wynia, Rochelle Remund, Anne Johnson, Brad Vaughn

Joining Via ZOOM: Jacque Peters, Scott Marquardt, Dawn Schnell, Terry Gaalswyk, Leroy Kiecker, LeRoy Kiecker, Mimi Schafer

Members Excused: Hilary DeVlaeminck, Marly Wagner, See Moua-Leske, Melissa McGinty-Thompson, Bruce Bergeson

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 Beth Wilms to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Brad Vaughn and passed unanimously.

Updates from Southwest Minnesota Educational Institutions – Lori Wynia

Lori Wynia, Director of Online Learning & Transfer Partnerships, provided an update on enrollment at Southwest Minnesota State University. She reported that online versus in-person enrollment is matched at 1,200 students each. The mean age of online students is 40-45 years old, with the online target area being college dropouts who are currently working and would like to pick up where they left off. She also reported that most are returning to obtain a degree versus enhancing their education. The majority of students are from Minnesota or neighboring states, while there are still a few from Alaska and the east coast. Lori anticipates online education to be the trend in the next five to ten years.

Consent Agenda Items

- SW MN Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes – October 3rd, 2024
- Youth committee Minutes – November 15th, 2024

- Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council Report

Lori Wynia made a motion to approve the consent agenda including the Minutes of the October 3, 2024 SW MN Workforce Development Board Meeting; Minutes of the November 15th, 2024 Meeting; and the Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council Report. Rochelle Remund seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Director's & Officers Insurance

Carla Goedtke presented the quoted premium of \$856 for Director's & Officers Insurance through Nonprofit Insurance Trust, noting it is the same as the current year.

Terry Gaalswyk made a motion to approve the \$856 premium for Director's & Officers Insurance. The motion was seconded by Vince Robinson and passed unanimously.

Request to Accept Monitoring Reports

Carrie Bendix discussed results of the Monitoring Reports for WIOA Adult, WIOA Dislocated Worker, State Dislocated Worker, P2P Individual Training Pathways, and P2P On-Ramp. It was mentioned that a paperless system will go into effect July 2025 for P2P Individual Training Pathways and P2P On-Ramp. A review was given of the results including no findings. Anne Johnson made a motion to approve the Monitoring Report results. Rochelle Remund seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Adult Program Stipend Policy Update

Carrie Bendix discussed the new Adult Program Stipend Policy update for state funded adult programming including Drive for Five Part I and Pathways to Prosperity Individual Training Program. Beth Wilms made a motion to approve the updated Adult Program Stipend Policy. Rochelle Remund seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Memorandum of Understanding and Infrastructure Funding Agreements

Carrie Bendix advised that after months of negotiation, all Southwest Minnesota One-Stop partners have come to an agreement on the Memorandum of Understanding and Infrastructure Funding Agreements for the Marshall, Montevideo, and Worthington locations. Brad Vaughn made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding and Infrastructure Funding Agreements for the Marshall, Montevideo, and Worthington locations. Lori Wynia seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Summer Internship Programs

Carrie Bendix discussed the request to facilitate the Swift County Summer Internship Program for \$31,046.26 through September 30, 2025. The Program would serve up to four students working up to 29 hours per week at a wage of up to \$17.00 per hour for an average of 12 weeks. Carrie also reported that Nobles County would like to continue to offer the Summer Internship Program, serving up to 15 students working at a wage of up to \$17.00 per hour. The Program is for \$116,485.90. Terry Gaalswyk made a motion to approve the Swift and Nobles County Summer Internship Programs. Dawn Schnell seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Get Ready/Gear Up Program

Carrie Bendix reported that the PIC was invited to partner with the Office of Higher Education (OHE) on a federal Get Ready/Gear Up grant that would align with the goals of the Youth Career Connector programs. The PIC would receive between \$15,000 - \$30,000 per year for seven years. Dawn Schell made a motion to approve partnership with the OHE on the Get Ready/Gear Up Program and receive \$15,000 - \$30,000 per year. Anne Johnson seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Transfer of PY24 WIOA Dislocated Worker Funds

Carrie Bendix requested to transfer the PY24 Reallocation of WIOA Dislocated Worker Funds to the PY24 WIOA Adult Program. Brad Vaughn made a motion to approve the transfer of \$159,895 from the PY24 Reallocation of WIOA Dislocated Worker Funds to the PY24 WIOA Adult Program. Lori Wynia seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

Carrie Bendix reported on the Youth Committee meeting from November 15th, 2024 as well as the Drive for Five Committee meeting on October 14th, 2024. Carrie advised the next steps for the Drive for Five committee. Anne Johnson discussed the five-part inclusivity cohort training taking place.

Director Updates

Carrie Bendix discussed Director updates since the last meeting which included visits from the DEED Commissioner Varilek and Division Director of Employment and Training Programs at DEED, Ama Akakpo. Carrie asked Tim Jones to report on program updates, who advised of a ten-credit electrician program with the Lower Sioux Indian Community and a CDL Grant in partnership with MNDOT for the Upper Sioux Indian Community.

Important Dates

Drive for Five committee Meeting – January 21st, 2025 - 4:00 – 5:00p.m.

Executive Committee - Thursday, February 6th, 2025 - 3:00p.m.

Workforce Development Board Meeting – Thursday, February 6th, 2025 – 4:00p.m - 6:00p.m.

Adjourn

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

Approved by:



Beth Wilms, Secretary

Approved by:



Carrie Bendix, Recording Secretary