



Bay Area Workforce Development Board

317 West Walnut Street
Green Bay, WI 54303
(920) 431-4100
fax (920) 431-4101

LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS of the Bay Workforce Development Area

MEETING MINUTES March 2, 2005

Present: Bruce Osterberg (Chair), Arlyn Tober, Jim Gilligan, Don Markwardt, Cheryl Wruk, Biz Virlee
Absent: Dan Haefs, Randy Reiter, Jim Barlow, Elmer Ragen

Mr. Osterberg called the meeting to order at 1 PM at the NWTC Center for Business and Industry. The Minutes of the December meeting were adopted as written on a motion by Mr. Gilligan, second by Mr. Markwardt.

Nominations had been received to fill two vacant seats on the Bay Area Workforce Development Board. Motion was made to appoint **Noel Ryder** to fill out the remainder of the term of Jon Syndergaard, and **Sam Perlman** to a three year term on the WDB, effective immediately, was made by Mr. Markwardt, second by Mr. Virlee. Mr. Ryder is the Executive Director of Lakeshore CAP and will represent HUD and CSBG programs. He has been a Youth Council member for six years. Mr. Perlman is the Economic Development Manager at Door County EDC and has worked with the staff on the Earmark Grant. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Golembeski explained that new WIA allocations for July 1, 2005 have not been received, and he remains concerned that the Bay Area will see significant reductions in WIA funding. Over the past ten years, there have been extra pots of money that have supported the expansion and maintenance of the job center system in the Bay Area. In 1994 Wisconsin received a \$13 million One-Stop Grant; in the late 1990s there was a significant amount of W-2 Start-Up funding; and more recently, extra funding for dislocated workers has been available. Looking ahead, there are no anticipated resources besides WIA and the other partner program funding streams, and these may not support the existing level of service in the area. The Bay Area WDB has been working to identify priorities and prepare to allocate resources once we know what we have. The job centers have proven their value in all our communities during the recession, especially in serving dislocated workers. But just as businesses do as a matter of course, the job center system will have to find ways to cut costs and use technology more effectively to provide quality service.

Staff is also writing an updated Local Plan on a very short time frame. Apparently Wisconsin was taken by surprise when the Department of Labor requested a new State Plan this year, and the local areas will have to scramble to comply. With WIA

The vision of the Bay Area Workforce Development Board is that job skills and educational levels are increased, quality of life for all individuals is enhanced, while employers' needs are met.

reauthorization proceeding quickly in Washington, some assumed that new State Plans would not be required this year. In addition, DOL has been very slow in getting planning guidelines out to state and local staff. The LEO Board will have to take formal action to adopt the new Local Plan, probably in June.

Mr. Golembeski gave a presentation on the status of WIA reauthorization in the Congress. Bills have been introduced in both the House and the Senate to reauthorize WIA and the President has come into the debate with proposals for significant changes to the employment and training system. With the general theme of “Less Regulation, More Accountability,” the major issues emerging in the reauthorization debate are:

1. Large structural reforms to enhance system effectiveness;
2. Improving accountability;
3. Giving consumers greater control of training funds;
4. Job center infrastructure funding;
5. Faith-based partnerships.

Mr. Markwardt suggested that we speak with Mark O’Connell of the Wisconsin Counties Association to make sure we are coordinating our workforce development efforts. Mr. Golembeski will speak with him and invite him to the next LEO Board meeting. There was also discussion about the changing job market. Coming out of the recession, many companies, especially manufacturers, are looking for people, but they are demanding a higher skill level and, despite skill shortages, there are fewer opportunities for the unskilled than there were ten years ago.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM. The LEO Board will next meet on **Thursday, June 2 at 1:00 PM.**