



# Bay Area Workforce Development Board

317 West Walnut Street  
Green Bay, WI 54303  
T (920) 431-4100  
F (920) 431-4101  
[www.bayareawdb.org](http://www.bayareawdb.org)

## **LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS of the Bay Workforce Development Area**

### **MEETING MINUTES September 6, 2007**

**Present:** Don Markwardt, Jim Gilligan, Arlyn Tober, Elmer Ragen, Tony Waupochnik, Cheryl Wruk, Jayme Sellen (for Tom Hinz), Larry Neuens (for Bruce Osterberg)

**Absent:** Jim Barlow

**Others:** Marlene Mielke (Senator Herb Kohl), Bob Schweder (Senator Russ Feingold), Craig Moser (Congressman Steve Kagen)

Mr. Markwardt called the meeting to order in the Board Room of the Northeast Wisconsin Job Center in Green Bay. Prior to the meeting, members received a tour of the new facility there in Green Bay. Roll Call showed a quorum present and introductions were made with a couple of new faces in the group. The Minutes of the May 17, 2007 meeting were adopted as drafted on a motion by Mr. Gilligan with a second by Mr. Ragen.

There were two nominations for private sector seats on the Bay Area Workforce Development Board. **Ms. Casey Stephan** is the Human Resource Administrator for Therma-Tron-X, an industrial coating/finishing system company in Sturgeon Bay. The other was **Mr. Ed Kelley** who is on the board of directors for his son's business, Kelley's Discount Liquor in Florence. Motion to appoint both these nominees to initial three year terms on the Bay Area WDB was made by Mr. Gilligan with a second by Mr. Tober. Motion was adopted unanimously. There is still one remaining private sector seat to be filled on the board.

Mr. Golembeski provided copies of the PY 2005 audit that the members had requested at the last meeting. The PY 2006 audit (for the year that ended June 30, 2007) will be conducted in October. Members reviewed the audit which showed no findings or other concerns regarding financial internal controls and program regulation compliance.

There was discussion about WIA funding. Significant decreases in WIA funding coming to the Bay Area in the last two years have resulted in the consolidation of job centers and a refocusing of services. In 2006, the Republican majority Congress was unable to pass a new federal budget and eventually a "continuing resolution" was adopted which simply continued all funding from the previous year. [The federal fiscal year runs from October 1 through September 30.] That meant that the federal pot of WIA money stayed

the same from 2006 into the current year. Those federal funds then go out to the states using a formula based on various demographics (unemployment, poverty rate, et. al.). Wisconsin's economy improved so much during those years in comparison to other states that its share of the WIA funding decreased significantly. Bay Area took a 30% reduction in available funding from 2006 to 2007.

The current federal budget situation is pretty murky. The President has proposed significant cuts in the federal WIA budget. The Democrats, with slim majorities in the House and the Senate, are trying to prove that they can govern by passing a federal budget for the year that begins October 1. The House Appropriations Committee, chaired by Wisconsin Congressman Dave Obey, drew up a Labor/Human Services/Education budget that restored the WIA funding that the President eliminated. To maintain a working relationship with the Republicans on the committee, Obey agreed to a rescission of \$300 million of current year WIA funds based on the Department of Labor estimate that there is a significant amount of unspent money in WIA across the country. Obey has been a strong supporter of WIA and the House bill contains language that keeps DOL from further dismantling the local One-Stop system. The full House adopted this appropriations bill which included the rescission. If the rescission gets through to the final bill, the Bay Area WDB would have to cut back an estimated \$300,000 in current contracts.

There was a motion by Mr. Waupoichick, with a second by Mr. Ragen, to draft a letter to Congressmen Steve Kagen and Tom Petri going on record in opposition to the WIA rescission in the House budget bill. Motion passed on a unanimous vote. Staff will draft that letter for the LEO chair signature.

The federal budget is still in process, with the Senate Appropriations Committee working on a Labor/HHS/Education budget as well. President Bush has threatened to veto any federal spending bills that exceed his budget recommendations. It will be a long road yet.

Mr. Golembeski provided handouts about Program Year 2006 WIA performance. The Bay Area met or exceeded all the 17 WIA performance standards, but staff was still working to clean up the data and hoped to improve the final numbers yet. Members also received a chart showing how each county and Youth contractor did on meeting performance standards.

The members discussed the changing skill needs of NEW North employers and the need to bring individuals who are experiencing barriers to decent employment in this economy up to the standards that employers require.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM.

The LEO Board will meet again on **Thursday, November 29, 2007** unless called earlier to fill the remaining seat on the Bay Area WDB.