



Bay Area Workforce Development Board

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

LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS of the Bay Workforce Development Area

MEETING MINUTES September 7, 2006

Present: Bruce Osterberg, Arlyn Tober, Charles Most, Cheryl Wruk, Jim Gilligan, Don Markwardt

Absent: Dan Haefs, Chyrl Irving, Jim Barlow, Elmer Ragen

Mr. Osterberg called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM at the NWTC Center for Business and Industry. Roll call showed a quorum present. The Minutes of the May 22, 2006 meeting were approved as submitted on a motion by Mr. Gilligan with a second by Mr. Most.

The members considered nominations to the Bay Area Workforce Development Board. **Donald Smith** from Stora Enso in Niagara, a recent appointee, has requested that **Shelly Ghere**, the Community Relations Assistant at Stora Enso, be seated in his place on the board. Members reviewed Ms. Ghere's resume and a motion was made by Mr. Gilligan, with a second by Mr. Tober, to appoint her to an initial three year term on the Bay Area WDB in place of Mr. Smith. Motion passed on a unanimous vote. Another WDB member, **Shawn Smith**, has returned to the Madison area and resigned from the board. Mr. Golembeski had received a nomination for **Terri Luebke**, the President of Inspired Training Institute in Green Bay, to fill the vacancy. The members reviewed Ms. Luebke's resume and a motion was made by Mr. Markwardt, with a second by Mr. Gilligan, to appoint Ms. Luebke to fill the rest of Ms. Smith's term through June 30, 2008. Motion passed on a unanimous vote. Lastly, LTC President **Mike Lanser** has asked that **Peter Thillman**, the LTC Dean for Workforce Solutions, replace him on the Bay Area WDB. Motion to appoint Mr. Thillman to fill the rest of Dr. Lanser's term on the board through June 30, 2007 was made by Mr. Markwardt, second by Mr. Tober. Motion passed on a unanimous vote. Mr. Golembeski also reported that WDB member **Joe Hilke**, recently left Bemis Manufacturing, and was in the process of seeking a new position in the region. The LEOs tabled further action on his status on the board until the next meeting.

Mr. Golembeski updated the LEO members on a number of things going on in the region. WIA program performance numbers from the year that ended on June 30 will not be available for several weeks yet, but indications were that performance standards will be met for PY 2005. For the current program year, the Bay Area WIA allocation was down 21% from last year. Program funding is relatively stable this year because of a

significant amount of money carried in from last year that we did not spend. However, that buffer will not be available in 2007 and big changes in WIA programs and job center services are in store. Meetings continue to discuss the creation regional job centers. There is greater focus on employers' needs than previously was the case. Our programs still face the challenge to assist job seekers who have limited skills and other barriers to employment to gain the skills that employers value in this very competitive economy. The counties are facing the same dilemma with their W-2 program participants. There is a real need to provide more employment and training services via the Internet. One additional serious challenge this year is in the WIA Youth programs because the staff estimate of unspent WIA Youth carry-over funds was much larger than the actual amount once contracts were closed out. As a result, staff is meeting with some of the WIA Youth program providers to free up additional resources and consolidate services so that programs can be effective and enrollees served.

Over the last few months, our Business Services Manager, Ann Franz, has worked to create the Manufacturers Alliance which currently consists of about 20 manufacturing companies of various sizes. Since the manufacturing sector is a big part of the regional economy and is the highest paying sector in most of our counties, the needs of these companies require special attention. As a group, they are working on improving the image of manufacturing, especially with young people and their parents. In addition, the Bay Area WDB has set up a database to connect these companies with dislocated workers who have manufacturing experience. The Fox Valley WDB is working with us on this project. This is a key partnership with business that is making a lot of good things happen.

Mr. Golembeski has also been spending a good amount of time working with Wisconsin Department of Corrections staff and other partners on re-integration programs for individuals being released from state prisons. In 1980, the state system released 1,602 people back into Wisconsin communities, and by 2002 that number had risen to 7,731 for the year. During that time period, recidivism rates varied between 30-45% from year to year. Return on investment by keeping people from returning to prison is significant. Recent efforts include connecting businesses with training that is available in the prisons, providing training prior to release, and setting up community support groups for released individuals. Members received a draft brochure for the Citizens Circle project beginning in Green bay this fall.

The second annual "Northwoods Conference" is scheduled for Tuesday, October 4 at the Four Seasons Resort. Jerry Murphy of NEW North will be the luncheon speaker and there will be discussions and workshops. This is an effort to focus on economic development in the northern counties in partnership with the other NEW North efforts. Since the conference last year, an economic development partnership has formed among Marinette, Florence, Dickinson, and Menominee Counties along the Wisconsin-Michigan border.

The next LEO Board meeting will be on Thursday, November 9 at 1:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM.

