

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2003
SkillSource, Moses Lake

Gary Park called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Gary introduced Rich Davies, the local Teamsters Representative. Rich has been nominated to the board and awaits commissioner approval.

Gary asked National Association of Workforce Board Conference attendees to briefly report.

Terry said there were 2000 attendees from throughout the country and so many valuable breakout sessions it was hard to choose. Highly recommend the conference to everyone.

Karl was most excited by his visit to an area one stop. The lead partner is a pharmacy and a mock pharmacy is set up in the center for training. After on-site training, participants complete their training on the job. This approach decreased turnover for the pharmacy chain and increased employee retention.

Marcia enjoyed listening to futurist Ed Barlow who discussed what the council should focus itself on. He warned sometimes too much time is spent on housekeeping and not enough focusing on economic development and the one stop system.

Lisa benefited from time spent with board members and them sharing new things they learned. She was excited to hear Marcia and Terry talk about an idea for an employer summit.

Dave added some of the most informative times were over dinner and the five hours spent on the plane. Also, it is a great opportunity to get really acquainted with, and learn from, each other.

Gary focused on sessions involving the board and enjoyed the opportunity to get to know other board members. It is a huge benefit to make members as productive as possible. Everyone should go at some point.

Grant County Economic Development Update

Terry Brewer presented information on current economic development activities in Grant County. He distributed a flyer from the Columbia Basin Herald and an insert from Washington CEO. Washington is suffering from a slumping economy. Before closing, AsiMI was Grant County's largest tax payer with 350 employees mid-2001. The extended economic down turn affected the market for their product. They recently entered into a joint venture with a Norwegian company. The plant is running again with more product but half the workforce.

Terry has been working on another project since last fall that will be decided in June. Three months were spent preparing a proposal and Terry traveled to Washington DC in April to make a final presentation. Of 132 proposals originally submitted, Grant County's proposal is the only finalist from Washington. If selected, 350 jobs would be created with \$5 million of investment.

Two call center projects have been referred from the State recently. Grant County was not considered for past call centers because an appropriate facility wasn't available. With the K-Mart building vacant, Grant County may be considered for a call center project.

Economic development is very busy. Other economic development organizations are equally busy and working hard to bring new investment and jobs to our communities.

Roger asked about rumors regarding sugar processing. Terry said there are two companies talking about purchasing and opening the local processing plant.

Ad-Hoc Committees

Terry and Roger volunteered to assist Gary in developing a new member orientation.

Cheri, Kathy, Frank and Mike Wade volunteered to develop a board presentation suitable for service clubs.

Board Vacancies

There are three vacancies because of Dan Leary's resignation, Donna Scott's retirement, and Tom Martinez has moved out of state. This creates two Grant/Adams business vacancies and a Chelan/Douglas labor vacancy. Central Labor Council will nominate a replacement for Donna Scott. Business members are nominated by local chambers. The goal is to have vacancies filled within six months. Contact Deborah Moore or Jeff Stevens with the recommendations.

Meeting Minutes

Kathy Mertes moved and Cheri Rayburn seconded to approve the February 14, 2003 meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Okanogan Committee Report

Marcia Henkle moved and Terry Brewer seconded to approve the Okanogan 2003-04 Operating Budget. Motion passed.

Grant/Adams Committee Report

The self-sufficiency policy applies to employed applicants and changes the definition from household income to individual income and education level. The policy does not penalize an applicant because of a family member's income. Lisa added the priority policy requires 70 percent of all participants be low income. This definition allows upgrading workers based on their wage and education.

Workforce Investment grants permit training low-paid people already employed to advance. This is good for employees and employers. People often continue receiving public assistance while working because they aren't earning enough.

Even though total Grant/Adams budgeted revenue is up, the number of planned registered participants is down. There are many factors including increases in minimum wage, On-the-Job Training contract payments and Individual Training Account tuition. The number of planned

OJT contacts and average expense per contract increased from the current year. The Grant/Adams budget also includes costs for the new one stop building.

State performance targets are a driving factor in allocating revenue between Core, Intensive (prevocational and basic education) and Training services, and within the Training category between Individual Training Accounts (vocational education) On Job Training and Customized Training. Increases in wages and credentials come from work-based, vocational, and basic education. OJT is one of the best training forms because it guarantees a job at the end. It has always been a win-win situation and a good investment.

Members completed an exercise at committee meetings to help set the goals. The results of the exercise were very similar to the staff recommended budget.

In addition to the registered participants included in the budget another person benefits from pre-registered core services.

Terry Brewer moved and Roger Thieme seconded to approve the Grant/Adams 2003-04 Operating Budget. Motion passed.

Mike Wade moved and Roger Thieme seconded to approve the Self-Sufficiency Definition. Motion passed.

Twenty-five to 30 people attended the maintenance mechanic training. Most of the students would fall below the self-sufficiency definition. Students rated the classes highly and commend BBCC for hosting the program. A similar arrangement will be used to upgrade entry level workers in the health care industry in Othello, Grand Coulee Dam and Wenatchee.

Chelan/Douglas Committee Report

Frank Noble moved and Mike Wade seconded to approve the Chelan/Douglas 2003-04 Operating Budget. Motion passed.

Executive Committee Report

Terry Brewer moved and Cheri Rayburn seconded to approve the 2003-04 Executive Budget. Motion passed.

Strategic Plan Update

The Strategic Plan update was reviewed. The proposed plan has been tentatively approved by the State. This process aligns our local plan with the State plan. The entire plan is available on line at skillsource.org.

Mike Wade moved and Frank Noble seconded to approve the updated Strategic Plan. Motion passed.

The Workforce Training Board will hold their annual Workforce Strategies Conference in Wenatchee October 6-8. SkillSource will host an event October 6 for conference attendees. Dave encouraged all board members to attend.

The 20th annual recognition banquet is November 14. Mark your calendar!

A list of presentations made by staff during the last year was distributed. The Grant/Adams committee requested this information.

Wenatchee Valley College and Big Bend Community College will take over operation of the Office Technology program by September 30. The classes will be self support, but students will qualify for federal financial aid. It will be a great improvement.

Dave thanked everyone for attending the extra meetings scheduled over the last few months.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Gary Park
Steve Chestnut
Bill Bonaudi
Cheri Rayburn
Terry Brewer
Karl Allison
Duane Johnson
Marcia Henkle
Kathy Mertes
Mike Wade
Frank Noble
Georgia Nelson
Roger Thieme

Members Absent:

Mike Baird
Oscar Garza
John Hamilton
Mel Hansen
Dimitri Mandelis
Teresa Martinez
Dick Niemeyer
Lucille Pakootas

Staff:

Dave Petersen
Lisa Romine
Ken Kelnhofer
Laura Hennigh
Yolanda Rios
Georgene Ford
Erin Munding
Cindy Blaufuss

Guests:

Todd Dixon, WorkSource Moses Lake
Anne Potter, WorkSource Okanogan
Rich Davies, Teamsters Local