

**Fox Valley Workforce Development Board  
Economic Development Committee  
May 24, 2011 - Approved Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Mr. Thiel, Ms. Homan, Ms. Nieforth, Mr. Resick, Mr. Hernke, Mr. Wheeler, Mr. Bartz, Ms. Huybers, Mr. Eagan, Mr. DiPietro, Ms. Hicks-Sorensen, Mr. Irwin, Ms. Miller

**Members Absent:** Mr. Schultz, Mr. Kleman, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Hipke

**Others Present:** Ms. Welch, Ms. Jusic, Mr. Rock

**Mr. Thiel called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.**

**Approval of Minutes from March 2, 2011:** *Mr. Wheeler made a motion to approve the March 2, 2011 minutes. Mr. Hernke second. There was no further discussion and the minutes were approved unanimously.*

**Opportunities for PY 11 Economic Development and Workforce Development**

Ms. Welch updated the committee on the current Continuing Resolution, and the details on Program Years versus Federal Fiscal Years. She added that on October 1, 2011, the workforce system receives new funds from the Federal 2012 budget. This also means that the Federal government could rescind prior year funds, and no FY12 funds can be used prior to October 1. Due to uncertainty of funding, Ms. Welch added that it may be best to have the Author of “Ripples from the Zambezi” come in September before the first quarter funds are exhausted. She suggested that the committee work on this initiative for workshop during the summer months, and launch the project in the fall. In October, pending fund availability, the initiative could continue.

**Discussion of Service Delivery System**

Ms. Welch explained that the FVWDB will redesign the method of providing training to participants. The focus will move to industry needs and partner with industry sectors. This will include assessments of participants before the training starts, to determine their aptitude for the particular industry or occupation. The process should provide for higher completion rates and better outcomes. This will also result in fewer participants that are enrolled in two year programs, but will have shorter training and more focus on job placement. The training costs will have to be negotiated with colleges, and would focus on high demand industries for the area: Advanced Manufacturing, Healthcare, Agriculture, Call Centers/Customer Service, and Construction. Discussion followed on aptitudes and testing participants, as well as different funding sources that may be used for training. The committee supports the short term training focus.

Ms. Miller suggested that the NEW North occupation report may provide data (from EMSI) that will disclose potential opportunities for training. The report will be distributed again. Discussion continued on the validity of data from EMSI. Additionally, Mr. Thiel mentioned the “Retirement Study” done by Fond du Lac that shows which positions will become available in companies as some of their staff retires in the next 15 years.

Ms. Homan suggested that the FVWDB provide the committee with a concise brochure with the services that the FVWDB can provide to companies with OJT, and other funds. Ms. Miller will develop the document that contains key information that the committee members can use. Additionally, Mr. Resick asked that the committee be provided with a glossary of workforce system terms and short descriptions. Ms. Welch will provide this information.

## **Partnerships**

Ms. Welch asked the committee if the members need any assistance from the system. Mr. Thiel replied that the members need to better understand the workforce system. Ms. Homan suggested that a visual diagram be developed that will explain the options or processes that a business may go through and which program they may have benefit from. The Business Services team will work to develop this process map. This should be a continued process and be updated as there are changes in the system.

Ms. Welch added that there needs to be industry sector advisory teams. We will continue to develop potential advisory team members.

## **DWD and Commerce Direction**

Ms. Hicks-Sorensen briefly explained her new position with the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. It will focus on aligning resources to serve the business community.

Ms. Welch proceeded to update that DWD Secretary resigned recently, and the Deputy Secretary has filled the position in the interim. The DWD and the new Commerce organizations need to partner in order to support the local organizations. Mr. Irwin added that this partnership is crucial and that it has proved to be beneficial to serving employers and job seekers.

## **Update on Federal Legislation**

Ms. Welch further explained the Continuing Resolutions and the current Federal Budget climate. Workforce funding is very uncertain, but more information will be available at the start of the new Federal fiscal year 2010, on October 1, 2011.

## **Next Steps on the “Ripples from the Zambezi” Book Project**

The committee agrees that if the funds are unavailable or better used to avoid further layoffs of FVWDB staff, they should be so used. Mr. Hernke mentioned that he has learned of a Wisconsin Economic Development Association committee that may be bringing the author to their conference Lacrosse this fall. Ms. Cheryl will follow up on this.

## **Update on Job Creation and Dislocations**

Dislocations have slowed down, however, Buckstaff from Oshkosh have laid off around 100 staff, GE and RR Donnelly, as well as Pierce are all laying off staff. Oshkosh Corporation and Mayville Engineering and a few other area companies are hiring workers. Mercury Marine and other companies in Fond du Lac also have positions available. Discussion ensued about changes in UI benefits and eligibility criteria.

## **Announcements**

None.

## **Adjournment**

*Mr. Wheeler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Homan second. There was no further discussion and the meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.*

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Cheryl A. Welch**