

**WASHINGTON COUNTY
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD MEETING
Hilton Garden Inn
Oakdale, MN
February 18, 2009**

WIB Members and Partners Present

Kim Arrigoni	Nigel Bath	Duane Gatzke
Marie Gadway	Jeralyn Jargo	Stacy Kennedy
Jane Klein	Kim Luchsinger	Ernie Pines
Dave Schaps	Cherylee Sherry	

Workforce Center Staff Present

Nina Arneson	Robert Crawford	Carrie Gatzke
Rachel O'Connell		

Guests

Peter Hoch, Susan Jarosak, Sean Olson
Inver Hills Community College

WIB Members and Partners Not Present

Lori Brink	Brenda Carlson	Jim Finley
Lou Johnson	Peg Killen	Lowell Reiks, Jr.
Janelle Schmitz	Pat Singel	Jeanine Swanson
David Videen	Corrine Watson	

- 1. Call to Order and Introductions – Ernie Pines, Vice-Chair**
Ernie Pines called the meeting to order and members and guests introduced themselves.
- 2. Adopt Agenda – Ernie Pines**
Ernie requested the Job Fair be moved to number four on the Agenda. A Motion was made to adopt the Agenda as amended, it was seconded, and the Motion carried.
- 3. Approve January 2009 minutes – Ernie Pines**
A Motion was made to adopt the January minutes, it was seconded, and the Motion carried.
- 4. Job Fair – Robert Crawford, Dave Schaps**
Robert said they are working with the city of Oakdale to hold a job fair for businesses with current job openings. It will be held at either the Oakdale Discovery Center or Prom Center. He has requested a list of all Washington County businesses from the Secretary of State and will proceed once that has been received.
- 5. Network Technology Training Fast Track, Inver Hills Community College –**

**Peter Hoch, Inver Hills Community College,
Susan Jarosak, Adult Success through Accelerated Programs (ASAP),
Sean Olson, Inver Hills College Recruitment Center**

Peter Hoch: Inver Hills Community College offers a fast track program for a Cisco Certified Network Administrator (CCNA) certificate, which condenses a 12 month program into 6 months. People are employable after completing the program, but the training can also be a module towards a degree program. There is a high demand for people with this training and it is hands-on work that can't be outsourced. Students can focus their interest on security, IB telephony or wireless technology. Students can continue to advance by taking the Cisco Certified Network Program (CCNP) and Expert programs. The cost of the program is \$4,500 including all course material, books, and testing to become Cisco certified.

Questions: *What are the hours of the class?* There are some evening classes with labs on Saturdays to appeal to working adults. *What is the average age of people enrolled in the program?* They are targeting older adults who may have worked in the field but need certification. The MnSCU system has an Academy for Life Long Learning to draw older people into college.

Susan Jarosak: Inver Hills Community College has a program for non-traditional students who seek formal education to gain new career opportunities. Accelerated classes are offered one night a week or on Saturday for eight weeks at locations around the metro area. There are more unemployed people who have been working in a field for 20 years but don't have a degree. The average age of people in the program is 41 and rising. The Education Planning class helps students link their career goals with a plan to get a degree. If students can demonstrate skills in an area, they may get credit for prior learning. There is also an Individualized Professional Studies degree for people who want to create a degree around a concentration, such as project management. The Alliss Opportunity Grant pays for the first class and books for students who have been out of school for seven years. Robert commented that he was at a manufacturer's meeting and many felt this economy presented the opportunity to train people in skilled areas so they will be ready when jobs return.

Sean Olson: At Inver Hills there is about a 50/50 split between traditional students out of high school and older students returning to school. People who have been laid off often get an Associates of Science degree, partially paid by the Dislocated Worker program. For example, a person with an entry level AS degree in accounting can get an entry level job in the field after two years or go on to a four year degree in accounting and become a CPA. Certificates are available for those who already have a degree but want to specialize in an area. C N A certificates are required before students can enter a program to become an RN. To apply, students need a transcript of college credits, must take an assessment test, and attend an orientation/registration session. Campus visits are available during the day, evening, or by appointment. The Associate of Arts degree mixes liberal arts with career courses and is intended as preparation for a four year degree. People who need to work after two years are encouraged to get the Associate of Science degree.

Credits transfer to state colleges such as Metro State, St. Cloud and Mankato as well as public and private colleges.

6. Summer Youth Agreement for Tree Trust – Carrie Gatzke

A Motion was made that the Board approve the Tree Trust Grant, it was seconded, and the Motion carried. Carrie explained the County contracts with Tree Trust to carry out their summer jobs program. They work with youth aged 14-21 on community service projects in area parks.

7. Committee Reports:

Youth Services – Carrie Gatzke: Carrie reported that Nick Falde was having a Career Skills Day tomorrow for transition students aged 18-21. Students from schools in Washington County are attending the event. There will be information on employment and careers from colleges, vendors, H S I, and the Workforce Center. Business representatives will act as judges on the student’s ability to do applications and interview. The Youth Committee is awaiting further information on the Tri-WIB initiative to give them direction on how to proceed.

Policy and Law – Jane Klein: Jane attended a town hall meeting in the city of Oakdale. Minnesota house legislators, Nora Slawik and Charles Wiger, and U.S. Congresswoman Betty McCollum were there. Those attending impressed upon the legislators that jobs are critical and lead to everything else. There is discussion in the legislature about reductions in programs for at-risk youth. Youth Committee members can check this discussion weekly on-line. The Session Weekly Volume 26, #6 has an article on the proposed cuts: http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/sessionweekly/art.asp?ls_year=86&issueid=30&storyid=829&year=2009

Robert said the stimulus program is expected to provide significant increases in Youth Program money, estimated from \$250,000 to \$400,000, which would almost double the summer youth program. Tree Trust has agreed to add work crews and the Workforce Center will have to increase scattered sites. The program will include youth up to age 24. The Dislocated Worker program is expecting \$3.9 billion. Many areas have already run out of funds because of layoffs and counselors have been inundated with people coming into the program. The County has a hiring freeze, but more staff can be added through a contracted service.

Business and Marketing – The Committee did not meet.

8. Announcements: There was a question about how the economy would affect the NAWB conference. Robert replied that many WSA’s are not affected because they are incorporated and do not operate like counties. Material from the conference may be available on-line.

9. Motion to Adjourn – Ernie Pines

A Motion was made to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded, and the Motion carried.