

Washtenaw County
Workforce Development Board
General Session
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 08, 2005 **Time:** 8:00 a.m.

Members Present: Anne Williams, Cindy Harrison, Diane Davidson, Donn Wolf, Edward Resha, Erick Mahler, Frank Zyber, Gregg Weaver, James Magyar, Cynthia Maritato, Keith Peters, Sabrina Keeley, Mark Ouimet, Mary Kerr, Nicholas Fortson, Steven Gulick, Suzanne Bade, Timothy Robinson and James Bunton.

Members Absent: Clifford Smith, David Potter, Diana McKnight Morton (excused), Gene Graber, James Frenza, Janie Jones and William Miller (excused).

Staff Present: Trenda Rusher, Jenny Bivens and Rana Al-Igoe

Guests Present: Gretchen Waters, Kim Haefner and Shannon Price.

1. Call to Order

Wolf called the meeting to order at 8:10 am.

2. Welcome

Wolf welcomed everyone to the meeting. He apologized for Irma Zuckerberg who was to attend today as the speaker for the Knowledge and Information Feature. She is unable to attend due to inclement weather in Lansing.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Resha moved to approve the meeting agenda. Weaver supported. Meeting agenda approved.

4. Approval of the Minutes

Magyar moved to approve the minutes from the 06/30/05 meeting. Robinson supported. Meeting minutes approved.

5. Report of the Chair

A. Announcements and Updates

- Wolf shared his story about his time in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina.
- There was a national Community Action Partnership (CAP) conference that was to take place in New Orleans. The conference was scheduled to begin on August 29, but was canceled due to the Hurricane.

B. Appointments to the Nominating Committee

- Annual elections for WDB officers are coming up. Anyone interested in becoming an officer should submit his or her request to Gulick or to staff. An e-mail soliciting nominations will be sent out by staff
- Wolf appointed James Frenza, Mary Kerr, Gregg Weaver and Steve Gulick (as chair) to the Nominating Committee.
- Wolf announced he would not seek the position of chair in the upcoming year.

C. Business Update

i. Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce – Keeley

o Youth Leadership Program

- The WDB approved a grant for the Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce to organize a pilot program with area high school students based on the Chamber's Leadership Program.
- This pilot program is scheduled to start next week.
- A handout was provided in the meeting packet describing the program and listing the names of those students that were selected.
- An employee from Ann Arbor Public Schools will be working with the students throughout is program.

o Leadership Program

- The Leadership Program is starting with the Impact 2005.
- There are two big changes this year in the program. The first is the focus on Washtenaw County and the greater Southeast region, not just the Ann Arbor area. The other big change is that the Chamber is partnering with a number of local organizations including the Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce.
- Keeley listed some of those who will be speaking at the event. The Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce is participating in the upcoming United Way Day of Caring.

ii. Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce – Peters

- Peters reported that it has been a busy summer for the Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce.
- They are waiting to hear what is going to happen with the Ford Visteon plant.
- The City of Ypsilanti has been holding a number of Visioning Sessions to see what can be done with the lot. A City Income Tax was proposed but the vote has been put off due to little support. The Chamber is trying to be proactive in those discussions.
- Things continue to go very well as far as other projects and jobs coming into the area.
- Tamara Real is going to attend the upcoming Tuesday Breakfast to talk about the upcoming Superbowl.
- The Chamber is working with the new President of Eastern Michigan University who is very involved in Chamber activities and other community events.
- Keeley added that the two Chambers' Public Policy Committees have decided to support the proposed 800-mega hertz 911 radio feed. Wolf noted that he was involved in the same proposal in Oakland County a while back.

D. Labor Update – Gulick/Resha

- Road construction continues in the County. Even with the amount of work in the County, there are some workers who are not employed.
- The National AFL-CIO set up a community fund to help workers in the affected area of Hurricane Katrina. The Central Labor Council here in Washtenaw County has donated to that fund. The relief effort is going to take quite a bit of time. Michigan has offered to take in up to 10,000 displaced by the hurricane. These people will need help with basic resources and even help with jobs.
- The Department of Labor withdrew a fund that was to help pay for training. The High Road Network is going to host an annual training seminar. Gulick thanked the Board and the County for paying the annual fee.
- Resha added that the labor unions will be working hard to help those displaced by Hurricane Katrina.
- Gulick noted that he was registered to attend the nation CAP conference in New Orleans along with Wolf and other CAB members and staff. One of the items on the conference agenda was a

session on how organized labor could work with Community Action Agencies. The two groups have committed to continuing to find ways to work together.

- Wolf added that Rusher will cover some ways that ETCS will be helping those displaced to our area later on in her report. Magyar noted that through these tough economic times, we have to keep in mind the impact on local organizations. Community organizations and local non-profits will be impacted as funds are redirected towards hurricane relief efforts. Ouimet pointed out that the amount of people coming into the area has already affected local organizations, including the Red Cross. He added that as the amount of money being donated has increased, so has the amount of work loads and manpower needed. The Sheriff's department has sent ten officers to the hurricane affected area already. The question was brought up as to how this was going to be funded. The reply was that the County would worry about that later. Harrison added that the Human Services sector in the County has also been affected. Harrison noted that the Chelsea Community Hospital is putting together a number of teams to help. Resha noted that one billion dollars a day is being spent on the hurricane relief efforts.

6. Report of the Chief Elected Official (CEO) of the Board of Commissioners (BOC) – Prater

A. Announcements and Updates

- Prater asked board members review the letter requesting nominations for the WDB from local organizations. He asked that any comments be sent to staff.
- At yesterday's HSCC (Human Services Collaborative Council) meeting, there was quite a bit of discussion about what can be done to help with hurricane efforts. There are a number of volunteers who want to help, but coordinating those efforts is difficult.
- The BOC continued its discussion on the public safety and justice situation in the County. There is a petition drive currently being undertaken asking for a millage to be put to vote. This proposal is in retaliation from certain community members regarding the current law enforcement contract. Prater cautioned that if the petition is signed by enough people, then progress will be delayed. Prater noted that approximately 20% of the inmates at the jail require some sort of mental health treatment that they are not currently receiving. Keeley asked whether the County was going to engage in some sort of public awareness campaign regarding public safety and justice. Prater stated that the bottom line is that the County is not mandated to provide road patrol, however they have taken an active stand in previous years to help out local law enforcement agencies. Now, it is believed that the funds should be redirected to help expand the jail and the programming at the jails to help inmates.

7. Report of the Executive Director – Rusher

A. Announcements and Updates

- ETCS hosted a Michigan Opportunity / Michigan Works! job fair yesterday in this room. A number of people showed up to apply for jobs and a number of employers participated as well. Rusher noted that the job fair was held here because there is just not enough room at the Michigan Works! Service Center (MWSC) to host such a large event.

B. Local / State / Federal Updates

Local

- Sparks is a new initiative that is working to recruit companies to the Washtenaw County area. The vision is to promote Washtenaw County as the Mecca of innovation and research and development facilities.
- Katrina Relief Efforts
 - There was a large meeting yesterday morning with community organizations including the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Salvation Army. Surprisingly, representatives from the Red Cross did not attend. The group looked at an adopt-a-

family approach to helping with relief efforts. This is evolving as we go. A group was set up for case management, another group will focus on education and ETCS is taking the lead on the jobs committee. A number of other groups were assigned to take on other foci.

- Staff is working effortlessly with Wolf and our PR firm Renaissance Strategies on Katrina relief efforts. ETCS has been organizing events including a “Rush for Relief” drive with Eastern Michigan University and the University of Michigan. Through its Community Action Agency, ETCS will be collecting funds and durable goods. Staff will be dropping off large bins at the Universities to items donated by the student community. One hundred percent of the dollars and durable contributions will go directly to the Hurricane victims (targeting Louisiana) and those relocated to Michigan.
- ETCS is looking for a new home. The County is displacing ETCS from 555 Towner as it converts the site into a fully comprehensive health services complex. There hasn’t been a decision made yet as to where ETCS will be relocated to. Staff is looking for space; ideally, we were looking to house the MWSC staff with the twenty-two Administrative and Community Action Agency staff members.

State

- The Michigan Works! Annual Conference is this weekend. Attendees will be meeting with State officials and legislatures to discuss regarding waivers for servicing victims of hurricane Katrina will be key.
- ETCS submitted a Regional Skills Alliance Application for \$89,000 for the Hospitality and Tourism Industry. There will be a big media blitz using a “Quarterback Sneak” initiative targeted at employers in the southeast Michigan area to prepare for guests for the upcoming Super Bowl. Board member Mary Kerr and the Ann Arbor Area Convention and Visitors Bureau have been very active in the planning of this.
- Rusher is working with the State leadership on enhancing the workforce development system in Michigan. They are targeting workforce boards and directors. A draft survey is in the meeting packet for board members to review. This survey will be mailed to all WDB members to find out whether the boards are “ahead of the pack” or not. Rusher asked Board members to be on the lookout for the survey and to participate so that we receive valuable feedback. The State has decided to set up a leadership session on October 17 to meet with the southeast Michigan workforce boards. The concept is if we want to do a better job, we need to know in what areas we can approve. Rusher asked any interested board members who wish to attend the discussion on October 17 to let her know. Peters noted that the Michigan organization of Chambers of Commerce is looking at the model in Washenaw County at working with the local workforce development board. Rusher thanked board members for their ongoing dedication and hard work.
- The rising gas prices continue to be a challenge for working people and balancing their budgets to make ends meet. ETCS is really challenged in finding ways to help people and is open to ideas. The idea of utilizing mobile one-stops is also ongoing. This would be helpful for those living in the out-County areas. Perhaps this needs to be added to the Board’s strategic planning goals and transportation issues.

Federal

- Rusher noted that there are discussions with the feds on waiving federal guidelines for serving victims of Hurricane Katrina. This affects the workforce needing to utilize the mobile one-stops and other programming that is provided. The Department of Human Services has decided to waive identification requirements for their services.

- We are still anticipating reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) by Congress.

C. Business and Community Awareness Initiative

- Rusher introduced Haefner who works at Renaissance Strategies, our public relations firm. Haefner introduced Shannon Price who also works on staff. Haefner noted that Rusher already covered the relief effort that they are working with ETCS on. She added that this is a work in progress as a lot of details are still being worked out. The other project that they are working on with staff is the Quarterback Sneak. Any suggestions that board members have are welcome.

D. Resolutions

All of the resolutions were mailed out for Board members to review ahead of time. These were all passed at last night's BOC meeting. Rusher noted that these are all grant renewals.

- i. Authorization of the Chair of the Board's signature on the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth's plan application for the Employment Services Program for the period of July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006 in the amount of \$507,446
- ii. Authorization of the Chair of the Board's signature on the FY 05 Michigan Works! Service Center Operations Funds Application to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (MDLEG) for the period of July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006 in the amount of \$144,439
- iii. Ratification of the Chair of the Board's signature on the PY 05 Reemployment Services Initiative Application to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth for the period of July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006 in the amount of \$23,308
- iv. Authorization of the Chair of the Board's signature on the PY 2005 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Capacity Building and Professional Development Plan for the period of July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006 in the amount of \$24,000
- v. Ratification of the Chair of the Board's signature on the PY 05 Statewide Activities Funding for High Concentrations of Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Eligible Youth Plan to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth for the period of July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006 in the amount of \$32,163

Peters moved to approve all five of the resolutions. Gulick supported. Resolutions pass.

E. "Just Build It" Construction Career Expo

- This proposal was also mailed out prior to the meeting. The "Just Build It" Career Expo has been going on for a number of years. This Board has supported the Expo for the past three years. It is scheduled for October 25, 2005 and will be held at Eastern Michigan University (EMU).
- Last year, a number of volunteers were recruited to speak to the children regarding the event before they arrive at the Expo.
- Feedback provided through a survey prompted some changes. One big change for the Board is that the Washtenaw Contractors Association (WCS) is asking for a slight increase in funding.
- Wolf noted that he attended the Expo last year and was really impressed with the event.
- Waters invited Board members to attend the Expo and experience it for themselves. Waters brought a number of t-shirts from last year's Expo for Board members to have.
- Bade asked how the schools were notified about the event. Waters replied that the WCA has developed a mailing list. The WCA contacts all school counselors and superintendents. Waters asked Board members who knew of schools in the target area to encourage them to participate.

Gulick moved to support this years “Just Build It” Career Expo by providing \$17,775 in funding. Weaver supported. Motion passes.

F. Handouts

- i. Letter of Support for the Prisoner Re-Entry Grant
 - o ETCS has been asked to be a partner in an application to the US Department of Labor (DOL) for a Prisoner Re-Entry Grant.
 - o Resha asked what the role of ETCS was going to be. Rusher replied that ETCS was going to provide a cash incentive, job opportunities and 24 hour support.
- ii. Performance Measures
 - o ETCS exceeded every one of its performance standards this year. There are seventeen total.
 - o The data for the standards are based on data from the past eighteen months.
 - o The State negotiated these standards with the Feds for next year. The standards will be set very high due to the great job that was done this year.

8. Knowledge and Information Feature

The Knowledge and Information Feature was supposed to be presented by Irma Zuckerberg from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG). Due to bad weather in Lansing, Zuckerberg was unable to attend. This feature will be rescheduled for the next WDB General Session.

9. Committee Reports

A. Strategic Planning Committee

The Strategic Planning Committee will commence work on the Report Card 2005 & Beyond after the Michigan Works! Annual Conference.

B. Education Advisory Group (EAG)

There is discussion at the State level regarding the EAG since there have not been funds for EAG programs. As a result, the State wants the WDB to take a more active role with EAGs.

C. Community Action Board (CAB)

The CAB will be working towards Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Wolf invited any interested WDB members to attend the upcoming CAB meeting.

D. Blueprint to End Homelessness in Washtenaw County

The Blueprint will be one year into its ten-year plan at the end of September. There will be an update on November 14 from 8-12. Board members should receive an invitation about one month prior to the event.

10. Other Business

- Bade asked what was being done for people with disabilities and those with mental and health issues who have been effect by Hurricane Katrina. Rusher replied Ellen Clement, of the County’s Public Health Department is in taking the lead on caring for that population.
- Kerr announced that on Sunday, September 11, Washenaw County is dedicating a memorial park to fallen police officers and firefighters. Washtenaw Memorial Park will be located at the corner of Ballard and West Michigan Avenue.

11. Adjourn

Wolf adjourned the meeting at 10:10 am.