

Washtenaw County
Workforce Development Board
General Session
Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, March 16, 2006 **Meeting Time:** 8:00 AM

Members Present: Anne Williams, Cindy Harrison, Diana McKnight-Morton, Donn Wolf, Eric Mahler, Gregory Gurka, Gregg Weaver, Jim Frenza, Cynthia Maritato, James Bunton, Keith Peters, Mary Kerr, Steve Gulick and Suzanne Bade.

Members Absent: Clifford Smith, Diane Davidson (excused), Eric Mahler (excused), Frank Zyber, Gene Graber, Jennifer Leach, Mark Ouimet (excused), Nicholas Fortson, Sabrina Keeley (excused), Timothy Robinson and Bill Miller (excused).

Guests Present: Lindsay Vican – Director of Programs and Events at the Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce, Joanne Morris – Michigan Work! Service Center,

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

1. Call to Order

Peters called the meeting to order at 8:01 AM.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Peters welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that everyone introduce him or herself.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment at this time.

4. Swearing In of Board Members

Al-Igoe swore in Board member Anne Williams for another term on the Workforce Development Board.

5. Approval of the Agenda

Gulick moved to approve the meeting agenda. Wolf supported. Meeting agenda approved.

6. Consent Agenda Items

A. Minutes

Wolf moved to approve the minutes from the January 23 Joint Annual Meeting. Maritato supported. Meeting minutes approved.

B. Resolutions

These items were taken to the Executive Committee for discussion.

- i. Ratification of the Chair of the Board's signature on the fiscal year (FY) 2006 Food Assistance Employment and Training Program to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG) in the amount of \$84,048 for the period of October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006
 - o ETCS plans to administer this program through an interagency agreement with the Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS).
 - o The program serves 18-49 year-old, able-bodied adults without dependents who are in jeopardy of losing their Food Assistance eligibility due to time limits. The

- amount of participants served will vary based on the number of referrals received from the Michigan DHS.
 - This is the sixth year in which the program will be implemented.
 - ii. Ratification of the County Administrator's signature on the 2006 Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) funding to the Michigan DLEG in the amount of \$59,983 for the period of October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006
 - This is a renewal grant application that went through the Board of Commissioners.
 - TAA is a federal program designed to assist workers to re-enter the workforce after they have become unemployed because of imports from or shifts in production to other countries.
 - iii. Ratification of the Chair of the Board's signature on the ETCS fiscal year (FY) 2006 Work First plan application to the Michigan DLEG in the amount of \$1,675,051 for the period of October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006
 - iv. Incumbent Worker / EDJT Approvals
 - A spreadsheet was provided in the meeting packets indicating the proposals. Company names, types of training, number trained, training institutions, amount requested and total balance remaining were listed out.

Frenza moved to approve all three resolutions and the Incumbent Worker Training proposal. Knight-Morton supported. Motion passes.

Discussion – None

7. Report of the Chair

A. Announcements

- Peters welcomed Vican to the meeting. She will present today's Knowledge and Information Feature.
- Peters, Wolf and Rusher attended the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) Conference in Washington DC recently. Peters reported that it was a very informative conference. The Assistant Secretary of Labor, Emily DeRocco, was among the other participants at the Conference.
- Wolf added that he and Rusher met with Representatives McCotter and Knollenberg. David Bradley went with them to speak with Knollenberg.
- Funding remains an issue. Board members received the Budget updates via email from staff.
- Peters noted how pleased he is with our Workforce Development Board and its relationship with the Chambers and the local Convention and Visitors Bureau.

B. Business Updates

- i. Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce – None
- ii. Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce – (Peters)
 - Congressman Dingell was the guest speaker at the Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce's first Tuesday Breakfast. The April First Tuesday speaker is from Mott Children's Hospital and the E3 Awards & Business-Honor Roll Recognition is scheduled for May.
 - The Chamber has received notice of a number of layoffs in the area. Engineering Plastics will be laying off 89 people. The layoffs have been attributed to

competition from China. Frenza asked what percentage of employment the layoffs in the company represented. Peters replied that the number makes up about 50 percent of the local company.

- The city of Ypsilanti has some exciting news that will be released soon. Peters was excited to announce that the Ypsilanti Area is working on a project that might be the best to ever come to the City, including Water Street. A lot of construction in the City will be involved. The Chamber has been the driving force for this. The Chamber worked with the Planning Department at Eastern Michigan University at the early stages of this project. Peters will keep Board members informed as he is able to report news.
- The Chamber's Annual Meeting and Dinner will be on May 4. The Governor is expected to speak at that.
- The Joyce Foundation in Chicago gave the Chamber a grant to put together a program for children.

C. Labor Update – (Gulick)

- There continues to be a lot of road construction in the County.
- The Governor spoke at the last AFL meeting and talked about construction. There will be a significant growth in the construction industry with the work at the Hospitals, especially in the City of Ann Arbor. In the construction industry, it looks like the labor situation will be very good.
- During our retreat, there was a meeting going on at the Ypsilanti Marriott about the Aerotropolis project. They are looking at developing Willow Run into an even bigger hub for airport traffic. A sort of “city” will be developed to support the workers coming into the area; thus the name “Aerotropolis.” There is expected to be a lot of development along the Willow Run corridor as a result of spin off from the expansion.
- Washtenaw County is not seeing the automotive booms that other areas in the Nation are experiencing, but Toyota is expected to continue with their plans for development in York Township.
- The Greenbelt research is finishing up along with the clean up in the City of Ann Arbor, as a result as a result of the research. Expansion can really begin to grow now. All of these expansions will create spin off and so the situation will really begin to flourish.
- We are looking for a member to fill Resha's spot on the Board. We are looking for someone really dedicated and committed. The National AFL-CIO Conference is coming up in June and Washenaw County really sets an example for others to follow. It would be great to have a replacement by then.
- Peters added that Hyundai is expanding this year.
- Gulick added that there is property in the City that is in high demand. Labor met with the City Mayor, John Hieftje, to discuss partnership opportunities.

D. Special Recognition

- Peters thanked Williams for her service as Vice Chair for many years. Peters presented her with a plaque of appreciation on behalf of the Board.

8. **Report of the Board of Commissioner (BOC)** – (Rusher for Prater and Ouimet)

- Rusher attended the BOC and Ways and Means Committee meetings the previous evening. At the Ways and Means Committee meeting, May Kerr presented an update on the Ann Arbor Area Visitors and Convention Bureau regarding the local impact of Super Bowl activities. Mary Kerr and Commissioner Mark Ouimet gave the WDB and Trena Rusher kudos for our recognition for “Quarterback Sneak” and involvement with training with Michigan Works and the training

involved with making Ann Arbor as Super City a real success. Mary Kerr acknowledge that Ms. Rusher was asked to speak at the State Visitors and Convention Bureau Annual Conference in April in Lansing.

9. Report of the Executive Director – (Rusher)

A. Announcements

- Rusher thanked Peters and Wolf for attending the NAWB Conference in DC.
- The Michigan Congressional Delegation knows what is going on and are all in with the working with our local board in requesting to restore workforce funds.
- Rusher attended a meeting that Phil Power hosted on Tuesday at the University of Michigan. About 200 hundred people attended; however, Rusher noted that labor was not present. Peters and Gulick noted that they did not receive invitations and Peters noted that there was some indication that invitations were mixed up and did not get to the intended recipients. Rusher outlined a couple things that came out from the session she attended. One, that Michigan has to think of new industries in order to survive. The entertainment industry also came up in the discussions, as did the shoreline industry in Michigan. Another industry that came up was the health industry, including life sciences and energy. Mayor Hieftje and Alan Barr were among the participants in Rushers session. There was a lot of discussion around taxes and the Single Business Tax (SBT). The cost of doing business in Michigan is really eating up at organizations. The website for more information is:
<http://closup.umich.edu/research/conferences/wdwgfh/wdwgfh.html>

B. Local / State / Federal Updates

Local

- ETCS is pursuing a local partnership with SPARK. We are ready to move full speed ahead with the Chambers and need to get the Employers Committee to work on this initiative.
- One thing that we are trying to enhance is our Corporate Services unit at the Michigan Works! Service Center. If we are going to become the innovative hub, then we need to start recruiting innovative people. We should be looking at helping companies hire high-end talent CEOs for example. The WDB discussed this at a meeting last year. Board members were excited about the project. The other partners in this innovative approach are the Ann Arbor Area and Ypsilanti Area Chambers of Commerce, Eastern Michigan University (EMU) and Washtenaw Community College (WCC).
- Peters added that one thing we all need to be better at is planning for the future. We should envision the companies that will need employees and prepare our workforce for those jobs.
- McKnight-Morton noted that the WCC staff had a retreat last week and the are looking at implementing a number of things to increase their own technology and staff and skill level. They are constantly looking at the College's curriculum to evaluate what offerings they have.
- Rusher hopes to have the formal agreement ready by the next Board meeting.

Peters noted that some of the Board members need to leave early. He moved the Report of the Bylaws Committee so that the action item can be voted on.

Report of the Bylaws Committee – (Gulick)

- The new Bylaws with proposed changes were included in the meeting packets that Board members received via mail and email. The items in red indicate additions. Gulick outlined some of those additions the changes. The name was changed with the expectation that the identity issue will be revisited. The biggest change is under section four, item four. It is important, for continuity purposes, that the immediate past Chair be a part of the Executive

Committee. Another change outlined is in article 6, section 3, which changes the language to reflect that of the actual Act. Also under the Act, there is no requirement that two of the three Vice Chairs be from the private sector. Being so, that requirement was removed from the Bylaws.

Frenza moved to adopt the Bylaws with the noted changes. McKnight-Morton supported. The Bylaws were adopted with the noted changes.

B. Local / State / Federal Updates continued

- Bade asked if the Conference addressed the issue of filling vacant positions resulting from the retirement of baby boomers. Rusher replied this is an ongoing issue that the WDB must face.
- Peters shared that the High Scope Education Foundation did a study on the money that they spend on children at a young age. The Foundation found that for every dollar they spend on a child, they saved 17 government dollars per child in the long run. This study was conducted over a forty year time span, so the data is very useful.

10. Knowledge and Information Feature – (Lindsay Vican, Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce)

- Lindsay Vican gave an update on the Youth Leadership Ann Arbor program. Twelve high school students applied and of them, six were chosen.
- The Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce offers a Leadership Ann Arbor program, which draws businesses and leaders that are both new to the community and long-term residents. The program is designed to educate the participants on various issues, as well as to strengthen their leadership skills and help them gain a better understanding of the need to be good stewards of our community.
- Last year, the Chamber partnered with the Ann Arbor Public Schools (AAPS) and the WDB to offer students the opportunity to join the program. The goal of the program is to provide students with the knowledge and insight to help them make decisions about the skills, education or training they will need to become successful workers, business people and community leaders. It will also motivate the students to think seriously about the role they would like to play and the difference they can make in their community. The students also have the opportunity to interact with a variety of business and community leaders.
- The Chamber is asking for continued funding for this program, so that it can be offered to six new students. The cost will also include money for one employee and administrative expenses. They are asking the WDB for \$9,850 to fund the Youth Leadership Ann Arbor program.

Discussion

- Rusher asked about the attendance. Vican replied that attendance was great. Vican added that when asked whether the program influenced the students whether they would stay in the County after graduation, all except one said they would.
- Staff noted that it was great for students to see how their education affects the sort of jobs they hope to have when they are ready to move into the workforce.
- Kerr noted the importance of the program in influencing students before they make important career and life changing decisions. Kerr asked how students apply to join the program. Vican replied that the applications were sent to five Ann Arbor area high schools and that the application / selection process was competitive. Students are expected to complete an application, a reference form, two non-family references and one letter of recommendation. They are also expected to be sophomores and have a grade point average of 2.3 or better.
- Rusher asked if the program could be offered to more than six students. The Ann Arbor Area Chamber of Commerce only has room for six students. Peters offered to research the

possibility of implementing the same program at the Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce with their Leadership program.

- McKnight-Morton asked how soon action needed to be taken, noting that the proposed deadline for students to apply was May 19. The reply was that action needed to be taken today to ensure that funding was available.
- Bunton asked whether there were any means of measurement to determine the impact of the six students on the rest of their class mates. Vican replied that such information was not gathered, but could be part of a follow-up survey.
- Bade asked if there was any responsibility from the students to provide feedback. Vican replied that there currently was not.

McKnight-Morton moved to approve \$9,850 for the Youth Leadership Ann Arbor program. Gulick supported. Motion passes.

Discussion

- Gulick agreed with the comments made by Bade and Bunton and suggested that Miller be brought into the discussions.
- Bunton asked about the diversity of the students. Rusher replied that the group was diverse and dependant upon the applications received.

11. Report of the Committees

A. Education Advisory Group (EAG)

Next meeting scheduled April 12, 2006 at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District located at 1819 South Wagner Road in Ann Arbor at 3:00 PM.

12. Report of the Community Action Board (CAB) – (Wolf and Gulick)

- The CAB is going to invite Rickey Banks to their next meeting. Banks is the AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison to the Washtenaw United Way. He will give a presentation on what he does as the labor liaison and highlight the overlap between the AFL and the CAB.

13. Other Business

- McKnight-Morton noted that Ford and Chrysler are sponsoring a Committee that is going to look at concept cars for the future. One of the goals that they are looking at developing is a similar youth leadership committee with local high schools.
- Peters noted that the new signage at the WCC is really attractive.
- Our County department is basically two departments in one; ETCS is the Michigan Works! Agency and the Community Action Agency for the County. The business that this Board handles includes all of the workforce development and employment training programs in the County. The other side, the community action side, is going to expand. ETCS will be expanding that side to create a subsidiary that will incorporate the Ypsilanti Gateway Community and Economic Development Corporation. Staff is going to work with County Corporation Council to implement the change. The workforce development side is a very good model and the community action side will benefit from these improvements. This initiative is a request from the Board of Commissioners in honoring their commitment to improving the Gateway to the Southside of Ypsilanti and it fits in well with the mission of our Community Action mission as ETCS.

14. Adjourn

Peters adjourned the meeting at 9:44 AM.