

**NCI WORKS  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 23, 2010**

The NCI Works Meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman, Lonnie Doan. Roll Call was taken.

Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Bobbi Adams		X	Linda Hessenberger		X
Jim Andreoni	X		David Howell	X	
Bernie Anderson		X	Sue Isermann		X
Kris Boggs		X	James Knauf		X
Mary Boogemans	X		Becky Lambert		X
Anthony Bollman		X	Kevin Lindeman		X
Linda Burt		X	Deborah Madsen	X	
DeAnna Carlson	X		Judy Mason		X
Jim Carlson		X	Dave McClure		X
Vicki Carlson	X		George Mihel		X
Debbie Clausen	X		Jean Millar	X	
Jim Conness	X		Lori Pemberton	X	
Lonnie Doan	X		Mike Phalen	X	
Sara Escatel		X	Tom Pigati		X
Tim Farraher		X	Jim Quesse		X
Judy Fiste		X	Carole Sekula		X
Mark Fitzgerald		X	Louie Sekula	X	
John Fritts	X		Mary Stouffer	X	
Pam Furlan	X		Joel Torbeck	X	
Janet Graham		X	Bill Urnikis	X	
Scott Harl		X	Lynn Wagner	X	
			Gerald Waszkowiak	X	
<b>Chief Elected Officials</b>					
Marc Wilt			Jill Bernal		
Gilbert Tonozzi			John Fritts		

**Others Present:** Jo Ann Johnson, Karen Keller, Darlene Passini

Approval Meeting Minutes

Jim Andreoni motioned to approve the January 26, 2010 Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Louie Sekula and carried.

Chairman's Comments

**NAWB Update:** Lonnie provided members with an overview of the NAWB Conference that he, Debbie Clausen and Pam Furlan recently attended in Washington, DC. Lonnie told members that about 1500 were in attendance with representatives from every state. He said that the one thing that he found out

was that many of the local boards did not have a connection to the Chief Elected Officials who are ultimately responsible for the funds that come into the local workforce area.

John Fritts stated that the financial concerns in Illinois are worrisome and asked if other states were having financial difficulties. Lonnie commented that most states are having financial difficulties and are very concern about jobs. Pam pointed out that the NAWB Conference was more about the federal issues and not necessarily state matters. Lonnie informed members about a company that converted motor homes into mobile computer station or learning lab on wheels. He said that the learning lab travels into the rural areas and provide training and/or testing to those in need. It was noted that the cost of a new learning lab vehicle would cost about \$600,000. It was also noted that Will County purchased a scaled down version and the cost was about \$250,000.

Lonnie then told members that the delegation visited Capitol Hill and met with representatives from Congressman Schock, Congressman Foster and Senator Burris and pushed the summer program and WIA Re-Authorization.

**Board Retreat:** Pam said that the NCI Works Board has been discussing having a Board Retreat. She said that Requests for Proposals were submitted to potential facilitators and 2 responses were received. Pam provided members with a summary of each of the proposals as well as the rating sheet summary that was done by some board members. Pam noted that although there was a large difference in their costs that she felt that it could be negotiated. She also noted that neither proposal addressed what was asked of them in the Request for Quote, however, she felt that too could be negotiated. Members then talked about the logistics of the Board Retreat. It was noted that the Retreat is being planned for mid-April for a ½ day. Pam asked members if they would prefer a particular day and time (either morning, afternoon, evening). She said that the logistics would be further discussed at the Private Sector Employer Committee meeting on Tuesday night. Members suggested that a Saturday morning should also be considered. As for a location it was suggested that the Retreat be held at the Mendota Civic Center in Mendota.

### Discussion Topic

Lonnie asked members for an update on their business climate. Debbie Clausen said that Manpower recently issued their Employment Outlook Survey and disseminated copies to members. She said that the Midwest is the least positive of the nation. Bill Urnikis (Washington Mills) said that they continue to be busy. Louie Sekula (DelMonte) said that they will be hiring in Mendota. Mary Boogemans (Advantage Logistics) said that they are busy but are not hiring. Jim Conness (IBEW) said that the electrical union has about 600 members off work. He said that about three-quarters may return to work between May and August. Jim said that he does not see the construction trade changing for a couple of years. John Fritts said that the chief elected officials are scared in Lee County. He said that 1 business, Crest Foods, is doing well. Vicki Carlson said that the Dixon Chamber continues to receive inquiries from businesses, but most are waiting for the economy to brighten up before they tour the area. She said that some members have opted to not renew their Chamber memberships citing the economy. On a positive note, Vicki told members that the Dixon hospital is adding a huge edition for a cancer treatment center, there is a new vet clinic being built and a new Dairy Queen. Debbie Clausen stated that the Ottawa Chamber is also seeing the same thing with membership renewal noting that the smaller businesses cannot afford to maintain their membership. Joel Torbeck told members that the Dislocated Workers Center has obligated all of their funds and they are not accepting new enrollments unless the layoff is trade certified. He said that the Dislocated Workers program is serving over 600 customers. Lori Pemberton said that Experience Works has funds but they are not able to spend until May.

## Committee Reports

### Private Sector Employer

Pam Furlan informed members that the Private Sector Employer Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday to discuss the Board Retreat and Manufacturing Council.

### Business Liaison & Marketing

Lynn Wagner informed members that the Business Liaison & Marketing Committee will meet on April 15<sup>th</sup> to begin planning the Employers Conference. She said that the Awards Banquet will be held in conjunction with the September 28<sup>th</sup> NCI Works meeting.

### Youth Council

Pam Furlan told members that the next Youth Council meeting will be April 13<sup>th</sup>. On behalf of the Youth Council Pam made a request to allow the Youth Council to act on behalf of NCI Works in reviewing and approving any modification that may be needed to the Youth Plan. Pam informed members that she participated in a webinar about DHS money that was available for youth, adult and dislocated workers. Pam explained that 2.5 million dollars is part of the Recovery Act and will be available to spend from May 1 through September 30, 2010. Jim Andreoni asked how this money would compare to last summer's youth program. Pam informed members that last summer; BEST received \$700,000+ for a summer program so this is about 3 times the amount that was available last year. Joel Torbeck commented that the money would need to be spent by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Jim Andreoni asked about the guidelines. Pam explained that the guidelines are similar to for youth except that the age group would be 14-21 and not 14-24. As for the adults and dislocated workers, it has the guidelines as current programs. Pam continued by saying that 114 youth and 343 adult/dislocated workers have been identified as being eligible for the program. Members asked what types of jobs would be secured. Pam said that eligible customers would be placed at libraries, cities, specific projects, etc. Joel also told members that for the adults, the dislocated workers staff would need to be careful not to place anyone where there are already layoffs.

Debbie Clausen motion to authorize the Youth Council to act on behalf of the NCI Works in approving any modification as it relates to a summer program. Members then discussed this at length noting that if the DHS funds include adult and dislocated worker money, another committee would need to be involved to approve those plan modifications. Pam said that a special Planning Committee or Executive Committee meeting could be scheduled to review the plan modifications. Members stated that they would like to have representative number of the committee to approve the modifications. Debbie Clausen amended her motion to authorize the Youth Council and the Planning/Organizational Resources Committee to jointly act on behalf of the NCI Works in approving any modification as it relates to the DHS funds. Motion was seconded by Gerald Waszkowiak and carried. Jim Andreoni suggested that when the meeting materials are sent to the Youth Council and Planning/Organizational Resources Committee that they also be sent to the other members of the NCI Works Board in case they would like to attend that meeting.

### One Stop Partner

Debbie Clausen informed members that the One Stop Partner met and the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) was approved by DCEO (Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity). She also said that the members have begun working on their goals for 2010.

#### Executive Committee

Lonnie informed members that the Executive Committee is scheduled to meet on April 19<sup>th</sup>. He said that the Executive Committee will meet at 4:30 p.m. Lonnie said that the Chief Elected Officials will meet at 5:30 p.m. and after their meeting the Executive Committee and Chief Elected Officials will network.

#### Accountability Committee

Jim Andreoni informed members that the Accountability Committee met and unanimously approved the progress reports from each of the standing committees. Jim Andreoni motioned to approve the program reports are presented. Motion was seconded by Lynn Wagner and carried.

Jim told members that copies of the Approved Training List were included in the meeting materials for information.

#### Logistics Council Meeting

Pam Furlan told members that the North Central IL Logistics Council continues to meet on a monthly basis with about 25-30 members in attendance. Pam then highlighted some of the speakers.

#### Other Business

“No Place Like Home” Update: Pam Furlan informed members that 18 businesses have postings on the No Place Like Home webpage. She said that 6 businesses have active positions with 10 openings. Two businesses, Pam said, have links directly to their job opportunity page. Pam said that since the No Place Like Home inception, there have been over 4,400 hits to the webpage and it is the 3<sup>rd</sup> most visited webpage on the NCI Works website.

Mike Phalen referred back to the discussion about the Board Retreat Request for Proposal questioning why money would be spent on a facilitator that did not address what they were asked to. Pam stated that if members were not in support of negotiating with the 2 facilitators then the project could be rebid. Pam said that would be a topic of discussion at the Private Sector Employer Committee meeting on Tuesday. A discussion then followed regarding the timing of the retreat. It was the consensus of the members that the Retreat is a good idea but recommended resubmitting the Request for Quote and have the Retreat in early October. It was agreed that the Private Sector Employer Committee would discuss the specifics of the Retreat Request for Quote.

Next Meetings: Lonnie reminded everyone that the next NCI Works meeting will be on May 25, 2010 at the Housing Authority in LaSalle. He thanked Dave Howell for hosting the March meeting.

Public Comments

Pam Furlan introduced Darlene Passini to members noting that Darlene is the Senior Case Manager for the Princeton BEST Office.

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Lynn Wagner motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Jim Andreoni and carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson

Approved by:



Sue Isermann  
NCI Works Secretary