

**PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYER COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 30, 2010**

The Private Sector Employer Committee meeting was called to order at 4:38 by Chairman Louie Sekula.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Andreoni, Mary Boogemans, Vicki Carlson, Debbie Clausen, Lonnie Doan, Pam Furlan, Deb Madsen, Louie Sekula, Lynn Wagner, Gerald Waszkowiak

MEMBERS ABSENT: DeAnna Carlson, Tim Farragher, Linda Hessenberger, Jean Millar, Mike Phalen, Jim Quesse, Carole Sekula

OTHERS PRESENT: Karen Keller, Dianna Schuler

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Gerald Waszkowiak motioned to approve the February 2, 2010 Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Vicki Carlson and carried.

Business Meeting-Discussion of 2010 Goals

Pam Furlan recommended to committee members that she no longer update them on Soft Skills, Logistics Council and Work in the Real World at any future Private Sector meetings, as the NCI Works receives regular updates at their meetings. She stated that the Cost Effective Retirement Transition (CERT) Task Force has been assigned to the Workforce Action Team and goals will be discussed as the economy picks up and people start looking at their retirement again.

Debbie Clausen informed the committee that Manpower is not hearing about retirement, because of the 401K pension and people cannot afford to retire yet.

Vicki Carlson said if a health insurance plan becomes available to people younger than Medicare age, you might see a jump in early retirement.

Lynn Wagner said she sees the retirement forecast as being three years out.

Jim Andreoni added that the bigger issue is the people that took a big hit with their 401K, not just the economy.

Gerald Waszkowiak stated that businesses are doing well and are hiring back laid-off employees, however, they are just not doing well enough to hire new employees.

Louie Sekula informed the committee that DelMonte has hired one person and are looking for two more to hire for an 11.5 million-dollar project his company is working on.

Pam said there was a large difference in the two RFP's that were received. She said it was discussed at the NCI Works meeting that the Private Sector Employer committee put this on hold for now. She asked that the committee look over the RFP and let her know of any changes so it can be revised. She said she would at least like to get an RFP ready, because the process is long by the time the bids are sent out and we need to allow for response time.

Gerald suggested asking the company with the higher bid why the bid was so much higher and Pam agreed.

Pam told the committee that the purpose of the Retreat is to educate the general public as to who North Central Illinois Works (NCI Works) is and what NCI Works does. She said that workforce still has to find its place in the world and now that funds are available, this is the year to do a Board Retreat in the fall.

Manufacturing Summit

Pam said the question was raised at the last Business Liaison & Marketing meeting in February if committee members wanted to incorporate a Manufacturing Summit into the Employers Conference. The Business Liaison & Marketing Committee said that they wanted to keep the Employers Conference as a stand-alone event because it works real well.

Lonnie informed committee members that there appears to be a need for a Manufacturing Summit in Local Workforce Area (LWA) #12, however, until more concrete planning can be done, he suggested putting the goal into the "Parking Lot."

Pam informed committee members that 75-125 invitations were sent out to Bureau, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, Putnam and Whiteside counties. The results were that 6 companies participated and two other companies were interested in being contacted by the phone.

Jim Andreoni asked about having a luncheon meeting with a personal contact person since the numbers reflect there is not as much interest as expected. He told members that you cannot help people if they do not want to help themselves.

Deb Clausen and Deb Madsen said that they were both confused as to what problem the committee was trying to solve. Pam Furlan explained that many years ago, the committee had heard that many manufacturers wanted to have a council similar to the Logistics Council, and we went with the Logistics industry because it was the up and coming industry. She said that by the time a Manufacturing Summit was brought up, the economy was in a recession.

Lynn Wagner explained that most Human Resources people are making decisions, and it is difficult to get General Managers (GM's) to attend events like this.

Deb Clausen stated that the difference between Manufacturing and Logistics is that Logistics recognizes that they have the same issues and practices, whereas manufacturing issues are unique.

The Private Sector Employer committee agreed that because of a lack of need, the Manufacturing Summit would be kept in the "parking lot" until the recession was over.

Recruitment of Private Sector Employer Members

Lonnie Doan said the subject of recruiting good Private Sector Employer Committee members has been discussed before and the committee needs to focus on writing down some of the good ideas that have been brought to the table. He said currently there are no vacancies, but Pam mentioned that vacancies

may become available in the future. He said that the committee needs to find new members that are willing to spend the time and make the commitment that it takes to be a good committee member.

Debbie Clausen said the committee must identify what the next candidate looks like and what industry (ies) we would like to see represented possibly by devising a "Top 10" list.

Lonnie requested the committee think about an occupation and then fill in the names of management that would fill those requirements.

Lynn said to put the word out as to who would like to be a member of the committee.

Pam suggested writing a letter to members that are lacking in attendance therefore leaving vacancies open on the committee.

Pam asked Vicki Carlson about the wind turbine companies in Lee County. Vicki stated that the Dixon Chamber of Commerce has contacts with wind turbine companies. She said that even though the companies change hands often, they have been very vocal about their industry and may be interested in becoming members of the committee. Vicki said that John Fritts works with wind turbine personnel and he will contact them.

Gerald questioned if the committee had a breakdown of area sector representation and Pam said yes. Lonnie suggested getting the list e-mailed to the members. Pam informed the committee members that a matrix of industries of current members and those that will be needed is available.

Work in the Real World Update

Dianna Schuler said that the Wal-Mart grant has allowed Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. to conduct another Work in the Real World (WITRW) event at Sauk Valley Community College. She said that the next WITRW event will be on November 9, 2010 at SVCC, and they are currently looking for a theme.

Dianna said that the Work in the Real World (WITRW) event was held at IVCC in conjunction with the Career Fair, making limited space an issue for lack of attendance. She said that although the turnout was not as expected, we received positive responses from the youth. She informed the committee that there were 5 on the employer panel, 9 teachers and 54 youth attending, with the expectation being 89 adding that 1 school canceled the day before and 1 school left after the first session.

Deb Clausen mentioned that the issue of attendance may have been because youth have to catch a bus home from school and the event was held until 1:15 p.m.

Dianna mentioned that Ray Gatza suggested including juniors from High School in the next event.

Pam mentioned that the WITRW event is a career exploration event. She said that one year freshman were included and they did not understand the information they were provided.

Vicki Carlson asked if youth had to stay with their teachers for this event. Dianna said that all youth were pre-assigned to which session would be attended. Dianna let committee members know that Carrie Folken sent out hand-outs ahead of time and created binders for the youth, so even if they did not get to attend all sessions, they got the information that was presented to them.

Pam suggested sending surveys to the school for the next event asking youth which sessions they want to attend or making it easier for them to attend all sessions.

Mary Boogemans stated that all meetings at Advantage Logistics begin with T.O.T. (Turn off Technology), teaching personnel not to use company time to conduct their cell phone conversation during a presentation.

Lynn mentioned putting Technology Etiquette at the top of the agenda for this event in the future and the committee agreed.

Other Business

Chairman Louie Sekula said the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 29, 2010 at 4:30 p.m. at the Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. office in Peru.

Public Comments

None

Adjournment

With there being no further business, Lynn Wagner motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Lonnie Doan and carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Karen Keller