

**NCI WORKS  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 22, 2009**

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	David Howell	X	
Jim Andreoni	X		Sue Isermann	X	
Bernie Anderson		X	James Knauf		X
Kris Boggs		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	Louie Sekula	X	
Mark Fitzgerald		X	Mary Stouffer		X
John Fritts	X		Joel Torbeck	X	
Pam Furlan	X		Bill Urnikis		X
Janet Graham		X	Lynn Wagner	X	
Beth Hahne		X	Gerald Waszkowiak		X
Scott Harl		X			
Linda Hessenberger	X				
<b>Chief Elected Officials</b>					
Marc Wilt			Art Rigby		
Gilbert Tonozzi			John Fritts		

**Others Present:** Jo Ann Johnson, Karen Keller, Carrie Folken, Don Peck, Dr. Mary Lou Kidder

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Lonnie informed members that corrections were done to the July 28, 2009 Minutes after they were submitted and outlined the changes for members. Joel Torbeck motioned to approve the July 28, 2009 Meeting Minutes as corrected. Motion was seconded by John Fritts and carried.

Chairman's Comments

Chairman Doan reminded everyone that the Annual Awards Banquet will follow the meeting and stated that he was looking forward to hearing the great success stories during the previous program year.

Chairman Doan informed members that Jo Ann will be sending out reappointment forms for those members whose terms expire on October 1. He encouraged members to continue serving on the NCI Works Board.

Chairman Doan reminded members that the Discussion Topic was dispensed for this meeting but asked Pam to provide a report on the Summer Program.

Pam, using a power point presentation, informed members that the Summer Youth Program started on or about June 9<sup>th</sup> with a work readiness component as required by the State. She said that the work readiness component included registration on Illinois workNet, teaching students how to complete applications, write resumes and cover letters and interviewing techniques. She said that the work readiness was 2 full days. Pam said that some of the areas provided different types of workshops, but all focused on real life skills. Pam told members that about 85% of the funding was spent this year. She said that she was hoping to spend between 75%-80% for the first year, but staff did a great job and exceeded expectations. Pam said that some of the worksites have been extended to September 30<sup>th</sup> and some will be able to go through March 31, 2010. Pam told members that about \$600,000 will be spent on this year's summer program.

Pam told members that some special projects were also conducted this year. She said that a collaborated effort with the Department of Natural Resources and Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity allowed for 3 crews to work at 6 state parks performing maintenance type of jobs. She said that great feedback was received from these projects.

The Landscaping Project, Pam said, was a collaborated effort with the Youth Service Bureau and the Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. This project taught students various landscaping and "green" gardening skills.

The Union Project was another collaborated effort with the Carpenters Union, Masons Union and the Business Employment Skills Team. Pam told members that students fabricated picnic tables, park benches, flower pots, etc. which were donated to cities, parks, etc. throughout the LaSalle and Bureau Counties. Pam said that DCEO Director Warren Ribley came to the area and recognized the efforts of this project at a Press Event recently. It was noted that great press coverage was provided for the projects throughout the summer.

The Workforce One Project, Pam said, was run up in the Dixon area. She said that a crew performed light maintenance and horticultural jobs throughout the Dixon and Amboy areas. Pam said students learned about careers and opportunities, community service values and basic work habits.

Pam told members that a list of the types of jobs and the worksites of the Summer Youth Program were included in the power point as information.

In closing, Pam said that the program exceeded expectations and hard work was done by the staff.

Lonnie commented that on behalf of the NCI Works Board he commended BEST for a successful summer program. He said that he and Debbie attended the wrap up recognition events and were pleased at the positive response from the youth and supervisors.

Carrie Folken, Program Coordinator with the Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. told members that the end of the summer recognition event was held in each area where youth and supervisors were recognized for their accomplishments during the summer.

Lonnie congratulated Dave Howell and Linda Hessenberger for being on the NCI Works for a year.

### Business Liaison & Marketing Committee

Linda Burt informed members that about 80 people attended the Employers Conference in August. She said that the NCI Works newsletter had been sent out and the Annual Report will be released at the Banquet. Linda informed members that the Business Liaison & Marketing Committee proposed to the Executive Committee that the NCI Works become a member of the North Central Regional Betterment Coalition (NCRBC). Linda explained that the NCRBC originated as the Economy 2020 Action Team. She said that the membership dues are \$20.00 per year and recommended that the dues be paid from the Employer Conference Sponsorship funds. Linda told members that the Executive Committee approved joining the NCRBC and asked members for their approval. Debbie Clausen motioned to join the NCRBC and pay the membership dues using the Employers Conference Sponsorship funds. Motion was seconded by Jim Andreoni and carried.

### Private Sector Employer Committee

Louie Sekula informed members that the Private Sector Employer Committee is looking into establishing a manufacturing council. He said that this topic will be discussed at the next committee meeting. Lonnie thanked Louie for agreeing to chair the Private Sector Employer committee.

### Youth Council

Linda Hessenberger told members that the contracts have been negotiated with Hall High School (\$44,166), Bureau/Henry/Stark Regional Office of Education (\$54,211), Streator High School (\$53,318) and Lee/Ogle Regional Office of Education (\$53,432) for the year-round youth programs.

Pam presented an article from the Times newspaper about the BRIDGE (Streator High School) program.

Lonnie commented that a tremendous amount of press coverage was done on the summer program.

### One Stop Partner Committee

Debbie Clausen informed members that the Memorandum of Understanding needs the IDES signature. She said that the document was due to the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity on September 30<sup>th</sup>; however, an extension was requested.

### Executive Committee

Lonnie Doan said that the action taken by the Executive Committee was done under the Business Liaison & Marketing Committee report.

Lonnie asked Jim Andreoni about the report development for the stimulus money. Jim reported that the Accountability Committee will be addressing the reporting form of the stimulus money; however, they are waiting for some directive from the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity. Lonnie reminded members about the Board's responsibility for reporting as how the stimulus money is being spent.

Lonnie told members that the Executive Committee reviews a matrix at their meeting to review the different projects and initiatives being done by the various committees.

## Accountability Committee

Jim Andreoni informed members that the Committee did not meet this month but plan to meet in November. Joel Torbeck mentioned that one of the reasons that the committee did not meet is that the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity is developing new criteria and process for approving training programs. Joel mentioned that once this policy is released, the committee will need to meet and restructure the training provider policy.

Jim said that the Approved Training Programs List was provided as information.

## Logistics Council Meeting

Pam Furlan informed members that the North Central IL Logistics Council continues to meet on a monthly basis with an average of 25 in attending. She told members that past programs included Bruce Hartman with IVCC Truck Driving Program and Dave Carlson with Berryman Trucking. Pam said that next month Marcus Nuckles will discuss how companies can survive the current economy and prosper when the economy turns around.

## Other Business

Stimulus Update – Pam said that she provided the stimulus update under Chairman’s Comments. On behalf of the Dislocated Workers Center Joel reported that approximately 200 people are being laid off from Johnsons Controls in Dixon. He reported that Honeywell-Hobbs in Spring Valley is relocating from Spring Valley which will affect 60 people. Joel said that the participants being served by the Dislocated Workers Center has doubled from last year with the same amount of staff.

“No Place Like Home” Update – Pam told members that 13 employers are listed on the No Place Like Home webpage. She said that 8 businesses have openings and 32 positions are posted but not open. Pam reminded members that the purpose for the No Place Like Home webpage is to let people know what kinds of jobs are available in the area.

Lonnie asked members about the economic health of the four counties. Vicki Carlson said that the Chamber continues to hear from local businesses in Dixon that business is good. John Fritts stated that only 2 companies in Dixon, McDonalds and Wal-Mart, have above normal sales. Dr. Kidder with Sauk Valley Community College stated that enrollment has increased at Sauk Valley. Linda Burt reported that the medical field is uncertain due to medical reform. She said that in some cases projects have been halted. Linda stated that medical services are available but that write-offs have increased due to insurance companies. She said that payments from the State and insurance companies for services to patients are about 9 months behind. Kevin Lindeman said that the North Central IL Council of Governments is busy helping communities with the grant projects. Linda Hessenberger and Dave Howell said that the banking community continues to do well. Dave said that what is hurting the small banks is the increase in the FDIC insurance which increased significantly when the larger banks fell. Jean Millar said that the credit card companies is hitting the small businesses with additional charges. Debbie Clausen stated that her customers (Manpower) are overwhelmed with the mass layoff and uncertainty. Debbie Madsen (Citizens Bank) told members that her business is also doing well but they are watching expenses. She agreed with Dave Howell that the extra assessment with the FDIC is affecting the banking industry.

Lonnie thanked members for their input. He asked members to think about what types of project the Board should take on for 2010. He asked members to provide feedback to Pam about what arena the Board should be working on for 2010 in terms of workforce development/economic development. What

other things should the Board be enabling people to do. Lonnie asked that members email this information to Pam.

Pam commented that one of the projects which were mentioned under the Private Sector Employer Committee report is the Manufacturing Council. She said that IL Valley Community College, Sauk Valley Community College and NCI Works are looking to co-host a manufacturing summit that will hopefully lead to a manufacturing council. Pam explained that the proposal is in 3 phases. The first phase will be the development of the focus groups which will include the top 5 sectors. In Phases 2 and 3, she said, the actual summit will convene. Pam said that a grant has been submitted to the Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity to help fund the project. She said that this item was listed in the Parking Lot on the Executive Committee matrix but it has now been taken out and placed on the project list.

#### Illinois Workforce Conference

Lonnie informed members that the Illinois Workforce Conference will be held on October 22 & 23 in Springfield. If you are interested in attending, please let Pam know.

#### NAWB Conference

Lonnie informed members that the NAWB Conference will be held on March 6-9 in Washington, DC. He said that if you are interested in attending to let Pam know.

#### Public Comments

Pam introduced Carrie Folken, Program Coordinator with the Business Employment Skills Team, Inc. to members. Also, she introduced Don Peck with the IL Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunities to members.

Lonnie reminded members that the next NCI Works meeting will be on November 17, 2009, 5:30 p.m. at the Housing Authority in LaSalle County.

#### Adjournment

With there being no further business, Louie Sekula motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Jim Andreoni and carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson

Approved by:



Sue Isermann  
Secretary