

**PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYER COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2007**

The Private Sector Employer Committee meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Tim Farraher.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Andreoni, Vicki Carlson, Debbie Clausen, Lonnie Doan, Tim Farraher, Pam Furlan, Deb Madsen, Bob Meeks, Jean Millar, Lynn Wagner, Gerald Waszkowiak, Dan Williamson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kit Barrett, Kris Boggs, Kathy Enbom, Sue Isermann, Becky Lambert, Mike Phalen, Lynn Solorio, Joel Torbeck

OTHERS PRESENT: Amy Sims, Dianna Schuler

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Gerald Waszkowiak to approve the August 10, 2006 meeting minutes as submitted and was seconded by Dan Williamson. Motion carried.

Logistic Council

Pam referred members to the power point presentation that was presented by Jeff Hettrick from Com Ed on October 2, 2006 at Logistics Forum. She said that a few logistics employers were in attendance as well as Mike Neuenkirchen from Economic Development Council and Streator Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry, several Business Services Team members, representatives from Sauk Valley Community College, Illinois Valley Community College, and Gerald Waszkowiak from NCI Works. Pam said that the forum provided for a great dialogue with about starting a logistics council in the area. She said that Mr. Hettrick presented the information on how the logistics council got started in Will County. After discussion, Debbie Clausen motioned to recommend pursuing a logistics council in our four-county area. The motion was seconded by Jim Andreoni and carried.

Projects from Executive Committee Meeting

Pam addressed the issues that were presented to the Executive Committee prior to this committee meeting. She said that at the Executive Committee Meeting they disseminated projects to various committees and asked that each committee determine the priority of that specific project. Pam said that four of those projects were forwarded to the Private Sector Employer Committee for consideration. A handout was disseminated to the committee for them to review and discuss. It was agreed that the first priority is to provide a forum for Logistics Employers by initiating a Logistics Council. The second issue that the Executive Committee asked the Private Sector Employer Committee to consider was to provide a forum for Manufacturing Employers by hosting or co-hosting an Annual Manufacturing Forum. The third issue that was discussed is the changing need in the manufacturing industry and its need to get costs down through ways other than labor cuts. The Private Sector Employer Committee is asked to sponsor a "Lean Manufacturing" Workshop through a CSSI/TA Grant, these will be combined for the second half of the year. The last issue was to offer a customized training program on core skills common to several employers as well as to identify those employers and core skills. This information should be shared with the local community colleges. The committee will find out what skills are needed

and get training available. It was agreed that all of these will be accepted, however, they will not all be started on immediately.

The committee learned that the Executive Committee will be recommending that an update to the State of the Workforce Report be done. As part of the update an employer survey will be conducted to local businesses to determine their future employment needs. Members discussed that the Business Services Team members would conduct the survey to smaller businesses. The consultant would conduct the survey to the larger employers in the area. Members talked about soliciting the aid of the 2 local Human Resource Associations in getting the word out about these surveys.

State Task Force Report

Pam referred members to the 2 Power Point presentations that were included in the meeting materials. She said that these reports were generated from the IWIB Manufacturing Task Force and the IWIB Transportation and Logistics Task Forces. Pam said that while reviewing these reports members will see that the issues identified at the state level are similar to those that we have discussed locally. She noted that these reports are being provided as informational purposes only.

Work In The Real World

Pam informed members that this years' event yielded over 400 students, 20 employers and 35 teachers / guidance counselors. She said that this years' event was a true success and asked members to look at the evaluations that were provided to them in the meeting materials. Pam said that for next year's event, they plan to hold it at IL Valley Community College instead of Celebrations 150 as it can no longer accommodate that number of students. Also for next year, Pam said that the event for Lee and Whiteside Counties will once again be held at Sauk Valley Community College.

Other Business

None

Public Comments

Pam introduced Dianna Schuler, a Business Services Team member with BEST, to members.

Adjournment

With there being no public comments or further business, Gerald Waszkowiak made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Andreoni seconded the motion and carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Amy Sims