

**NCI WORKS  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 24, 2011**

The NCI Works Meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Chairperson Debbie Clausen.

Name	Present	Absent	Name	Present	Absent
Bobbi Adams		X	Sue Isermann	X	
Jim Andreoni	X		James Knauf		X
Kris Boggs		X	Amy Liebing		X
Mary Boogemans	X		Kevin Lindeman		X
Linda Burt	X		Deborah Madsen		X
DeAnna Carlson	X		Dave McClure		X
Jim Carlson	X		David Mennie		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	Dianna Schuler	X	
Judy Fiste		X	Carole Sekula		X
Monte Flack	X		Louis Sekula	X	
John Fritts		X	John Spencer		X
Pam Furlan	X		Mary Stouffer		X
Janet Graham		X	Amy Strawn		X
Scott Harl		X	Joel Torbeck	X	
Linda Hessenberger	X		Lynn Wagner		X
David Howell	X		Gerald Waszkowiak	X	
<b>Chief Elected Officials</b>					
Marc Wilt			Joe Panzica		
Gilbert Tonozzi			John Fritts		

**Others Present:** Karen Keller, Jo Ann Johnson, Amy Stock

Approval of the Meeting Minutes

Linda Burt motioned to approve the March 22, 2011 Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Jim Andreoni and carried.

Discussion Topic

**Economic Update**

Chairperson Clausen asked members for an update on the economic impact in their business. She asked if they were seeing signs of recovery and if not now, when do they think they will start seeing signs.

Louie Sekula (DelMonte Foods) said that they have not seen any change. He said that they are in their packing season which has been hindered by the weather. Louie also announced that DelMonte Foods is now canning College Inn Chicken and Beef Broth. Louie stated that he was uncertain if additional jobs would be added.

Monte Flack (Mid-American Growers) said that his business is dependent upon the weather. He said that due to the rain, they have had only 1 week of decent shipping weather. Monte said that their purchasing is down about 16% since last year. He said that Mid-American Growers is on the fence regarding recovery.

Gerald Waszkowiak stated that American Nickoloid is in a recovery. He said that they are linked with the automotive and appliance industry which continues to grow.

Jim Andreoni said that his law firm continues to work with foreclosures which are not a good sign for recovery. Debbie commented that it seems that the housing market is moving. Jim said that houses will sell as long as the seller accepts the buyers bid.

Linda Hessenberger (First State Bank) and Dave Howell (Farmers State Bank) both stated that there has been an increase in housing mortgages because the rates are still very low.

Tom Pigati (Pigati Builders) said that he has seen no signs of a recovery. He said that foreclosures continue to increase. Tom shared with members an article that was in the Chicago Tribune which said that people with jobs, making a decent salary, are just walking away from their homes because the value has decreased. Tom said that article stated that individuals have a legal obligation to pay their mortgage but not a moral obligation.

Lonnie Doan (1<sup>st</sup> Farm Credit) said that the agriculture business is doing fantastic. He said that the future continues to be bright. Lonnie said that the farmers have the crops in the field and it appears that the cost of grain will be good. Unfortunately, he said, this outlook does not equate to a lot of jobs, but does help the local farmer.

Linda Burt (St. Margaret's Health) said that healthcare does not see any signs of a recovery. She said that St. Margaret's had an unprecedented number of write offs due to people not be able to pay their bills. Linda said that she does not see an immediate sign of recovery.

Vicki Carlson informed members that Allied Lock has purchased a building and plans to expand their business. She said that Nippon Sharyo USA will be locating in Rochelle which will create 250 new jobs by 2013 which does not include the additional jobs for the construction workers. Negatively, Vicki said, that the increase in gas prices has affected local restaurants.

Jim Carlson said that education districts are making tough decisions regarding cutting programs. He told members that school districts are having a difficult time getting funding from the state, especially with the pension fund. Jim said that education is taking a brunt of cuts and it seems that the state is trying to push everything down to the local taxing bodies.

DeAnna Carlson informed members that the manufacturing industry is making a slow come back. She said that she is aware of some companies bringing back their second shift.

Mary Boogemans stated that Advantage Logistics is about the same and is not seeing a huge economic impact. She said that they provide both store brand and commercial brand products and is seeing people tightening their belts and buying store brand items. Mary said that their California company is starting to pick up so it should move across the United States. As for hiring, Mary told members that they are only hiring part time seasonal employees at this time to save money on benefits.

Joel Torbeck commented that he has seen an increase in individuals being fired instead of lay off. He said that he was not certain as to whether employers were trying to terminate an employee for cause so that the employer would not need to pay Unemployment Insurance.

Jim Andreoni asked Mary Boogemans how much of a savings there is when benefits are not paid to the employee. Mary responded \$8,000 on the company side. Mary noted that this is also an opportunity to employers to bring in temporary employees and see if they perform satisfactorily. She said if they do perform satisfactorily there is a chance that they may be hired on permanently.

Jim Andreoni commented that the United States is the only industrial country that does not have a national health care program.

Joel Torbeck informed members that IVCC reviews a position before posting to see if it can be filled by part time personnel vs. full time.

Sue Isermann concurred with Joel's statement regarding refilling vacancies at IVCC. She also informed members that enrollments are down significantly at IVCC. Sue said that she suspects it is due to financial aid issues, especially with the Pell grant. Sue also explained to members that the Fiscal Year 2011 budget has eliminated the tech prep portion of the Carl Perkins funding which is the primary funding source of high school to college connection.

Jim Andreoni asked if the elimination of the tech prep funding affect SRAVTE. Sue commented that it could, but they (SRAVTE) have worked hard to not make significant changes. She said that programs needed to be changed at IVCC as well. Sue said that this funding elimination is a significant impact for vocational education across the country. She said that initiatives that have been in place for a long time have been wiped out.

Dianna Schuler informed members that ITP continues to hire in Ottawa even though they have not yet started production.

Joel Torbeck commented that the Dislocated Workers staff is seeing their customers getting hired in retail positions.

On a positive note, Dianna Schuler said that Streator added 500 jobs in 2010.

## **Committee Reports**

### Youth Council (Jim Carlson) (April 12, 2011 Meeting)

Jim Carlson asked Pam to provide an update on the youth program funding for Program Year 2011. Pam told members that the youth program was cut about \$6,200. She said that the carry-forward from PY 2010 to PY 2011 will be less than expected. Pam explained to members that parts of the total budget (all programs) are still uncertain. She said that funding has been granted from July 1, 2011 to September 30, 2011. The other funding that covers the period from October 2011 through June 2011 has not been passed. In reality, Pam told members that the local workforce area could lose additional money.

Jim Carlson provided members with an overview of the Program Year 2010 Youth programs. He said that the BRIDGE program through Streator High School has met their enrollments. The LaSalle County Regional Office of Education, Jim said, started out slower and continues to grow. He said that the Regional Office of Education did not use the entire grant but did have a quality program. The LINC program with the Lee/Ogle Regional Office of Education met with success during the Program Year. Jim told members that 8 students were enrolled. However, they did not apply for funding for Program

Year 2011 due to a similar program being offered through the school system. Jim told members that Hall High School lost the director of their program and needed to cancel their Step Ahead program contract. Jim commented that he will make contact with Hall High School about getting referrals to the LaSalle County Regional Office of Education program for Program Year 2011.

Pam Furlan then explained to members that a small grant was awarded by the IL Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity to run a summer program for 26 youth from April 1 – June 30, 2011. She said that an additional 20 youth were enrolled in the WIA youth program.

Gerald Waszkowiak then provided members with information about the Manufacturing Career Awareness event being held on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Gerald said that the purpose of the event is to educate the educators by letting them see first-hand that manufacturing is still available as a career option for students. Gerald said that a group of 20 educators will be given an introduction to manufacturing and then will tour Black Brothers in Mendota and Allied Lock in Dixon. He said that the group will meet at the Business Employment Skills Team office in Peru and then board a bus for the tours. IVCC has provided the funding for the event.

Jim Carlson noted that the event was announced on Monday, May 23 and 13 educators had already registered by Tuesday afternoon.

Pam pointed out that the idea to do such a tour was discussed at an NCI Works meeting.

Sue Isermann informed members that IVCC received some funds to promote manufacturing but for a target population. She said that IVCC is reaching out to the Hispanic community and told members that they may be seeing billboards, radio and newspaper advertisements about career opportunities for Hispanics in the manufacturing industry.

### **Program Year 2011 Request to Extend Contract Proposals Review and Approval**

Jim informed members that 2 Request to Extend Contract proposals was received and reviewed by the Youth Council. He said that the Youth Council recommended extending the LaSalle County Regional Office of Education #35 and Streator Township High School, District #40 contracts for Program Year 2011 pending contract negotiations. Sue Isermann motioned to approve the Request to Extend Contract proposals for the LaSalle County Regional Office of Education #35 and Streator Township High School, District #40 pending contract negotiations. Motion was seconded by Dianna Schuler and carried.

### **Program Year 2011 Request for Proposals Review and Approval**

Jim informed members that the Youth Council reviewed and approved a Program Proposal submitted by the Bureau, Henry, Stark Regional Office of Education. Linda Burt motioned to approve the Bureau, Henry, Stark Regional Office of Education program pending contract negotiations. Motion was seconded by Gerald Waszkowiak and carried.

### **Program Year 2011 Request for Proposal Denied**

Jim told members that a proposal was submitted by First Institute Training & Management to fund a medical assistant course for 12 youth. Jim stated that this program is not a demand occupation for the local workforce area and the Youth Council denied the funding request. Motion to concur with the Youth Council's decision to deny program funding to the First Institute Training & Management was made by Jim Andreoni. Motion was seconded by Joel Torbeck and carried.

### One Stop Partner

Debbie Clausen informed members that the One Stop Partner Committee met and approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Program Year 2011.

Pam told members that the MOU outlines how partners will make referrals and work together in the One Stop System. She told members that with some of the partners moving to the One Stop Center a new Cost Allocation plan needs to be developed. Pam said that she will be meeting with Terri Hogue, Acting Manager of the IL Department of Employment Security regarding the floor plans and cost information.

Gerald Waszkowiak motioned to ratify the decision of the One Stop Partner Committee to approve the MOU for PY 2011 as presented. Motion was seconded by Linda Burt and carried.

### Business Liaison & Marketing

Linda Burt informed members that the Business Liaison & Marketing Committee met to discuss the newsletter, annual report and employer's conference. She said that the committee is in the process of locating speakers for the Employers Conference which is scheduled for August 10, 2011. Linda said that the Annual Report will be developed in house as will the next issue of the newsletter.

### Executive Committee

Debbie Clausen informed members that the Executive Committee met to review an appeal received from DFE Tech regarding the NCI Works Board denial of adding their oil drilling program to the State Training Provider List. She said that the Executive Committee reviewed the data that was provided and agreed that there was no local demand for the oil drilling program in LWIA #12. Therefore, Debbie said, the Executive Committee retained the decision of the NCI Works Board to deny adding the oil drilling program to the State Training Provider List. Jim Andreoni motioned to deny DFE Tech's request to add the oil drilling program to the State Training Provider List. Motion was seconded by Dianna Schuler and carried. Joel told members that should DFE Tech wish to appeal the decision they may do so directly with the IL Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity.

### Accountability Committee

Jim Andreoni informed members that the Accountability Committee did not meet before the NCI Works Board so the action that would have gone through the Committee is being presented to the full Board.

Jim told members that the Third Quarter Performance Reports indicate that of the 9 standards, 6 are being exceeded and 3 are being met. Jim Andreoni motioned to approve the Third Quarter Performance Reports as presented. Motion was seconded by Dianna Schuler and carried.

Jim then provided an overview of the Program Certifications/Recertifications that were provided in the meeting materials. He said that Illinois Valley Community College Program has submitted a recertification for their Warehousing and Distribution Certificate. Additionally, Jim said that the following new programs were submitted: Business Technology AAS, Business Technology I, and Business Technology II. Joel commented that the new programs are not new courses but rather restructured from the former Office Technology program. Jim said that Sauk Valley Community College submitted a recertification for their Associate Degree Nursing – Hybrid Online program. Jim Andreoni motioned to approve the programs and recertification of programs as presented. Motion was seconded by Linda Burt and carried.

## Planning / Organizational Resources Committee

In the absence of Lynn Wagner, Gerald Waszkowiak informed members that the Plan Modification to incorporate Program Year 2011 funds is due June 27<sup>th</sup>. Gerald requested that the Planning / Organizational Resources Committee be given the authority to act on behalf of the NCI Works Board in reviewing and approving plan modifications. Linda Burt motioned to authorize the Planning / Organizational Resources Committee to act on behalf of the NCI Works Board in reviewing and approving the PY 2011 Plan Modification. Motion was seconded by Jim Andreoni and carried.

## Logistics Council Meeting

Pam informed members that Steve Warren with Ameren presented at the April NCILC Meeting. She said that Professor Bhattacharya with IVCC provided members with a look at the 2011 Economy at the May meeting. DeAnna Carlson commented that Professor Bhattacharya provides a great overview of the economy and shared some statistics with members. After discussion, it was suggested to ask Professor Bhattacharya to make a presentation at an upcoming NCI Works meeting. Sue Isermann said that she would contact him for availability.

Pam told members that Phil Olivero will be making a presentation at the June NCILC Meeting on the Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities Program that is in the local school system.

Pam said that the NCILC will not meet in July.

## **Other Business**

### Chief Manufacturing Executive Group Update (Pam Furlan)

Pam informed members that Chief Manufacturing Executive group has met 3 times with about 10-12 people attending the meetings. She said that the next meeting will be held on August 2 and the topic of discussion will be employee evaluations.

### Board Training Update

Pam told members that the Request for Proposals for the Board training will be due on May 31. She said that Local Workforce Area #4 has agreed to participate in the training. Pam said that once the proposals are received she will submit a technical assistance grant to DCEO. She said that the training will be in either September or October.

### Manufacturing Career Awareness Initiative

Pam said that the Manufacturing Career Awareness Initiative was addressed in the Youth Council report.

### Trade Grants Update

Joel Torbeck provided members with an overview of the Trade program for Dislocated Workers. He explained that when a business closes funds are provided for those employees who are terminated. Joel said that we are currently serving clients from 11 companies through the Trade program.

## “No Place Like Home” Update

Pam informed members that there have been 8,478 hits to the No Place Like Home webpage. Dianna Schuler reported that 16 businesses are listed with 19 available positions. She said that there are additional links to the local hospitals Human Resource Department. Dianna also told members that there are 21 businesses who have posted their positions to the No Place Like Home webpage that do not have current openings. Lonnie asked if these positions could be shared with the local radio stations. Dianna said that she could contact John Spencer and the Ottawa Radio station regarding this possibility. Vicki Carlson suggested that a press release be provided to get the information out about No Place Like Home.

## WIB Meeting Evaluation Summary

Debbie reviewed the March Evaluation Summary for members. She said that it was noted that one person was not getting their meeting materials on a timely basis. Debbie asked that person to contact Jo Ann so that other arrangements could be made to get the materials more timely.

Debbie asked members to complete the Evaluation for the May meeting.

## 2011 Meeting Schedule

Debbie informed members that the next NCI Works meeting will be July 26, 2011. She said that the September 27, 2011 meeting will be held at the Mendota Civic Center and will be followed by the Annual Awards Banquet. The last meeting for the year will be held on November 15, 2011.

## Public Comments

Pam introduced Amy Stock to members. Amy is the new Chief Financial Officer with the Business Employment Skills Team, Inc.


Pam informed members that the budget cuts that were addressed earlier in the meeting will certainly affect not only our customers, but our staff. She told members that Karen Keller will be laid off effective June 9<sup>th</sup>; therefore, this would be her last meeting. Pam told members that Karen has done an exceptional job and she will be missed. Pam asked members that should they know of any available position to keep Karen in mind as she would be highly recommended. Pam thanked Karen for everything that she has done. Members applauded Karen and thanked her for her support to the Board.

## Adjournment

With there being no further business, DeAnna Carlson motioned to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Lonnie Doan and carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Jo Ann Johnson

Approved by:



Sue Isermann  
Secretary