



Upper Peninsula Michigan Works! Workforce Development Board November 8, 2019

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Mark Massicotte calls the meeting to order at 11:07 A.M. Eastern.

II. Roll Call

Present:

Mark Massicotte, L'Anse Manufacturing; Dave Anthony, Northern Sun Winery; Joe Esbrook, Hiawatha Log Homes; Dave Goudreau, Northern Wings Repair; George Kinsella, EcoMarine; Bridget Kennedy, Systems Control; Melanie Bicigo, Upper Peninsula Health Plan; Meagen Morrison, Eagle Lundin Mine; John Hamm, UPRLF; Tony Retaskie, UP Construction Council; Michelle LaJoie, Alger/Marquette Community Action; Samantha Cameron, Bay Mills Community College; Jeff Holt, Sault Ste. Marie Economic Development Corporation.

Excused:

Dave Lord, OSF St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center; Suzanne Pazdernik, Jacquart Fabric Products; Chad Rowe, Aspirius Health Services; Travis Cary, IUPATDC7; Jonathan Mead, UPCAP; Julie Wonders, Iron Mountain-Kingsford Community Schools; and Roy Del Valle, Michigan Rehabilitation Services.

Michigan Works! Staff:

Bill Raymond, CEO, and Tracy Roberts, Office Manager

III. Public Comment

None.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda was made by Tony Retaskie and supported by George Kinsella; motion was approved unanimously.

V. Approval of Minutes



A motion to approve the September 19, 2019 minutes with correction was made by Joe Esbrook and was supported by Jeff Holt; motion was approved.

VI. Financial Report

A. Grant Status and Overview.

B. Line Item Budget Report. CEO Bill Raymond reviewed the financial reports for the month; UPMW is on track for spending of funds for the Fiscal Year.

VII. Reports

A. Chairperson.

B. CEO. CEO Raymond spoke to the group about the **current status of the State budget**. There are 3 things that are affected: 1) JMG: we think we'll have monies to keep operating in the meantime; 2) GoingPro: on hold; 30 Million was vetoed – hoping for a compromise and to get funds reinstated; and 3) MEDC Business Development and Pure Michigan programs: if that money is not reinstated, it will really affect business development around the State. We're keeping a close eye on those programs. Board Chair Mark Massicotte asks about letters of support. Board member Anthony is predicting there will be an agreement reached and to be careful not to make political statements as we send out letters of support. Board Chair Massicotte encourages private sector business to consider supporting. Private sector businesses carry a lot of weight with letters of support and can help bring more support for workforce development. GoingPro is a very beneficial program which helps companies in training workers. Tracy to send a letter of support template to board members and if they choose to, they can then send out the letter on their behalf to support.
Bill informs board members of movements and upgrades with several AJCs across the U.P.

VIII. New Business

A. Action Items – Recommended Motions

i. **PI 19-28 Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 PARTNERSHIP.ACCOUNTABILITY. TRAINING. HOPE. (PATH) Program Plan Motion**

Motion to approve is made by Tony Retaskie and supported by Michelle LaJoie. Motion passed unanimously.

ii. **Local Policy Update – Community Ventures**

Tony Retaskie asked about the CV program, and if it has existed here? CEO Raymond explains the history of CV and that the U.P. did not use the program up here in the past, but now these funds can help within the parameters of the BRN. It is a tool, it is imperfect, but it can be implemented to give an impact to



the community. Motion to approve is made by John Hamm and supported by George Kinsella. Motion passed unanimously.

iii. **Local Policy Update – Business Resource Network**

Motion to approve is made by Tony Retaskie and supported by Joe Esbrook. Motion passed unanimously.

iv. **Local Policy Update – Michigan Training Connect (MiTC)**

Motion to approve is made by Tony Retaskie and supported by Michelle LaJoie. Motion passed unanimously.

v. **Local Policy Update – TAA Benchmarking Satisfactory Progress**

Motion to approve is made by Tony Retaskie and supported by Joe Esbrook. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Old Business

A. Strategic Plan Update

CEO Raymond took the board through the recent work being done with the Strategic Plan. Bill also talked about the development of a new marketing and communications strategy and campaign where he and his team will be taking a look at re-branding the UPward Talent Council and changing to Upper Peninsula Michigan Works! The idea of the re-brand is to focus on the U.P. and what there is to offer. The WDB board members really like the idea and like changing to Upper Peninsula Michigan Works!, as it really speaks to who we are and what we do – they see as a positive change.

I. New Business

A. Workforce Development Board Member Reappointments

B. New Workforce Development Board Members

The board was introduced to two new board members, Melanie Bicigo and Meagen Morrison.

II. Communications

NAWB Conference in March. Bill Raymond has asked for board members to consider if they would like to attend this year in D.C. He is asking for two volunteers – Tracy will send out more info.

X. Member input – Items for discussion

Board Members provided the following updates:

- Tony Retaskie - Tony offered a Thank You to Michigan Works for the Career Fair in Marquette adding that it was a great opportunity. There were 1200 students from across the U.P. in attendance for a 2-day career fair and he is hoping to do it again the



same time next year. Bridget Kennedy adds that the students were so polite and respectful and there was lots of participation. The vendors from downstate that participated were really impressed with the kids who attended the job fair. On Nov 13th there is U.P Energy Task force meeting in Esky at the Herman’s Center. The Task Force was appointed by the Governor to ascertain what alternatives there are to propane in the UP. Tony is hoping that some people can join to listen to the presenters and public comment. George Kinsella also supports what Tony brought up – The Line 5 controversy has picked up by 2 tribal chiefs – they are misinformed by saying it goes into Canada and back without doing anything. Both tribes get their fuel from Line 5. If that line were to go down, the fuel cost would go up. The propane comes through and distributes about 8 rail cars a day – unfortunately the tunnel is a viable option to use. Goudreau talks about the revenue aspect. The board members talked about the environmental impacts and the impacts if Line 5 is shut down. Even just one project can be a huge impact (the Soo Locks project).

X. Looking Ahead – Next Meeting

The next meeting is TBD. The 2020 meeting schedule to be drafted soon!

XI. Adjournment

With no further comments, meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:26.