

General Membership Meeting
Thursday, June 6, 2024 - 2:30pm to 4:00pm
Plato Conference Center
90 W. Plato Blvd., Saint Paul, MN 55108

WIB Members Present

Tom Aasheim
Becky Degendorfer
Sara Garbe
Lisa Guetzkow
Susan Jambor
Cheniqua Johnson
Katie Kapaun
Chad Kulas
James McClean
Yolanda McIntosh
Rena Moran
Koami Pedado
John Perlich
Elisa Rasmussen
Mary Rick
Trish Stevens

Members Absent

Jonathan Banks-EA
Jennifer Germain-EA
Hanna Getachew-Kreusser
Hyon Kim-EA
Tony Lusiba-EA
Pamela Maldonado
Don Mullin-EA
Donna Rapacz-EA
Lauren Reynolds
Sheri Riemers-EA
Aalayha Traub-EA
Tanya Velishek-EA
Carly Voshell-EA
Tracy Wilson

Staff/Guests Present

Ama Asantewaa, MNTech
Ling Becker, Workforce Solutions
Michelle Belitz, Workforce Solutions
Karyn Berg, Workforce Solutions
Lacey Carlson, Bix Produce
Tami Cybulski, Blaze Credit Union
Breanna Galuska, St. Paul Public Schools
Ethel Garcia, Innovize
Karen Gerdin, Hubbs Center
Caroline Karanja, Hack the Gap
Brian Kuzel, Mississippi Market
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Brad Mahr, Workforce Solutions
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions
Abdiwahab Mohamed, DEED Asst Commissioner
Arwin Shamal, Karen Org of MN

Call to Order and Announcements

Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 2:31pm and read the following announcements:

- Welcome to the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County meeting. We especially welcome our partners and guests joining us today.
- Welcome to Katie Kapaun and Sara Garbe who were recently appointed to the WIB. In just a few minutes, I will invite them to come up and introduce themselves.
- Congratulations to the ten WIB members who were reappointed by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioner or the City of Saint Paul to serve another term:
 - Tom Aasheim
 - Jonathan Banks
 - Jennifer Germain
 - Hanna Getachew-Kreusser
 - Katie Kapaun
 - John Perlich
 - Donna Rapacz
 - Elisa Rasmussen
 - Mary Rick
 - Trish Stevens
- On behalf of the WIB and staff, I want to extend a sincere thank you and best wishes to Susan Jambor and Hyon Kim who are not seeking reappointment for another term on the WIB. They have both been tremendous leaders on the Board and have left a lasting impact on our community.
 - Susan was first appointed to the WIB in 2020. She was elected to the role of WIB Chair-elect in 2023 and also has served as chair of the Partnership & Outreach Committee and a member of the Executive and Membership Committees. We're happy that Susan plans to stay on as a member of the Partnership & Outreach Committee through December when she retires from Blaze Credit Union.
 - Hyon was appointed to the WIB in 2020. She has served on the Youth Committee for over 4 years. As the founder of a minority and woman business, Hyon has been committed to employing a racially and ethnically diverse workforce and is a true champion for equity.
- WIB members and guests are invited to attend any committee meetings. All agendas and minutes are available on the WIB's webpage. All committee meetings are being conducted via video conference. Instructions to participate are included in the meeting invites and are also posted on the WIB's webpage.

- Article 8 of the WIB’s Bylaws state that “...members shall not cast a vote on any matter regarding the provision of services by the member or by an entity that the member represents or on any matter that would provide direct or indirect financial benefit to such member or the immediate family of such member”. If you believe you have a conflict on any items on today’s agenda, please abstain from discussion and voting.
- Join us at the next WIB meeting on Thursday, August 8, 2:30-4pm in the 1st Floor Conference Center at the Plato Building. Note: the August meeting has been pushed out a week to the second Thursday.

Land Acknowledgement

Jambor read the land acknowledgement aloud.

New Member Introduction – Kapaun, Garbe

Kapaun introduced herself and gave a brief overview of her role as Center Director at the Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center. Garbe also introduced herself and gave a brief overview of her job as Workforce Development Supervisor for the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development representing Wagner-Peyser services. Both are excited to be part of the WIB.

Approve Consent Agenda

June Meeting Agenda

April Meeting Minutes

WIB Financial Report

One-Stop Operator Vendor Selection and Memorandum of Understanding

WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Vendor Selection

Motion (Aasheim/Jambor) to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. Guetzkow and Garbe abstained from voting.

Election of WIB Chair-Elect

Before opening up nominations for the WIB Chair-Elect, Rasmussen reviewed the roles and responsibilities of the Chair-Elect. Commissioner Moran nominated Yolanda McIntosh. After asking for other nominations three times and hearing none, Rasmussen closed nominations.

Motion (Moran/Rasmussen) to cast a unanimous ballot of Yolanda McIntosh for WIB Chair-Elect for the 2024-2025 term. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote. McIntosh abstained from the vote. She shared that she is delighted to take on this role for the next two years.

WIB Bylaws Amendments

Because 2/3 of all voting members were not present at today’s meeting, no vote was taken on the proposed Bylaws amendments.

MN Skills Based Hiring Accelerator

Becker thanked everyone who participated in the stakeholder sessions. Milbrandt will be sending out complimentary workshop codes for either the June 25 or July 30 workshops. The workshop offers a hands-on assessment and reconstruction of organization’s hiring, onboarding and talent management processes to move beyond traditional hiring approaches to focus on the true skills and abilities needed to do a job.

Tech Month Recap

Becker provided a recap of the events held in May for Tech month. The events led, sponsored or promoted by the WIB Tech Committee included Expand the Toolbox, Future of Work panel, Innovation Lab, Green Expo & Career Fair, Public Sector Tech Pathway panel and NASA Inclusive Innovation Mashup Lab. Becker also shared the upcoming JumpStart event scheduled for July 23 at Osborne 370 from 4:30-7pm.

WIB-Full Stack Collaboration

Becker provided an overview of the collaboration work with Ramsey County and the city of Saint Paul in leveraging the power of tech and innovation to drive sustainable, equitable economic development. Rick shared the history, the re-focused mission, past activities and investments, leadership and organizing of Full Stack and explained how aligning the Full Stack and WIB Tech Committees can work given several members serve on both committees.

Update from the Office of New Americans

Rasmussen introduced Assistant Commissioner Mohamed. Assistant Commissioner Mohamed explained that DEED staff in the Office of New Americans serve as the state's specialists on issues relating to immigrants, refugees and evacuees, working across state agencies with the governor's office, community and business leaders throughout Minnesota to break down barriers and build connections. Current focus areas are credentialing to match skills to employment opportunities, legal services, language skills and coordinating state services for the under-employed labor pool, noting that each Workforce Development Area has different needs.

Panel Discussion: An opportunity to talk to various stakeholders regarding insights on best practices for supporting New Americans and possible ongoing efforts to improve how they are supported.

Becker moderated a discussion with employers Innovize and Bix along with education service provider Saint Paul Public Schools Adult Basic Education and Karen Organization of Minnesota, a community-based organization. The employers shared how their companies have diversified their workforce, how that has benefitted their companies, the challenges they've experienced and how they've resolved issues. The service providers described the services their organizations provide and ways both business and employer communities can engage the populations being served.

Other

No other items were discussed.

Adjourn

Upon conclusion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, August 8, 2024, 2:30pm-4pm – Plato Conference Center, 90 W. Plato Blvd., St. Paul