

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Constructions-Green Jobs Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 14, 2025
3:00 – 4:00pm
Zoom Video Conference

Present:

Chris Duffrin
Don Mullin
Mary Rick

Absent:

Joseph Adamji
Becky Brink Ray-EA
Elisa Rasmussen-EA

Staff/Guests:

Liz Boyer, City of Saint Paul
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions
Catrice O’Neal, Workforce Solutions
John O’Phelan, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

Mullin called the meeting to order at 3:02pm. Molenaar read the land acknowledgement aloud.

Introductions

Introductions were made to welcome Catrice O’Neal, the new Workforce Solutions Director and Executive Director of the Workforce Innovation Board (WIB).

Approve September Minutes

Motion (Duffrin/Mullin) to approve the September 10, 2024, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Conflict of Interest Acknowledgement

Milbrandt read the Conflict-of-Interest policy and reminded everyone that any WIB and committee member who has a conflict of interest should abstain from the discussion and voting. This policy is reviewed by every committee and the WIB each year. The policy will be included in the follow-up email.

Approve 2025 Meeting Schedule

Milbrandt shared the proposed 2025 meeting dates, stating it follows the same cadence as 2024, with meetings the 2nd Tuesday of odd-numbered months from 3-4pm. Meeting invites have already been sent.

Motion (Duffrin/Mullin) to approve the proposed 2025 Committee meeting schedule as presented. Motion carried unanimously by voice votes.

Review 2025 Committee Workplan

Molenaar shared that each WIB committee does an annual review of its workplan. Milbrandt reminded everyone that the workplans come out of the official 2022 full WIB strategic plan. The committee workplans have been reviewed and updated annually or as needed.

Committee Work Plan Updates

Molenaar shared the following:

Construction – Green Jobs Related Events

- **Construct Tomorrow:** The county is once again sponsoring this event on February 12 at State Fair Grounds. Over 800 students have already registered with capacity for an additional 500 students.

Build Your Own Future:

- The Opportunity Project for Cities (TOPC) Wrap-Up: This project officially wrapped up on December 20. The final project, including a pilot of the digital career finder tool, was presented on Demo Day November 17. The link to the demo will be included in the slide deck in the follow up email.
- Department of Energy Good Jobs In Clean Energy Prize: More resources are needed to continue with these efforts. Therefore, a team city, county and Goodwill staff have been focusing on applying for a Department of Energy Good Jobs in Clean Energy Prize. The prize encourages building new and newly focused placed-based coalitions to create quality, accessible jobs and training partnerships in the community. The program is currently in phase I awarding \$50,000. If selected in the first phase, the team could then then apply for the second phase (\$100,000) and then potentially the third phase (\$300,000). The plan is to utilize the funds to integrate the existing TOPC digital tool into Ramsey County Means Business or an affiliated site. The application for the prize is due at the end of January.

Staff Updates

The following updates were provided:

Mobilizing Climate-Aligned and Community-Led Capital Conference: Molenaar, on behalf of the county, attended the October conference hosted by DEED but run by the Rocky Mountain Institute. It was a three-day event to help prepare Minnesota stakeholders maximize local benefits of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) and other federal funding for cleantech projects. Learning about the incentive pay from a local government standpoint was interesting as most of the benefits are written as tax credits. A lot of the challenges that folks are experiencing are similar throughout the state. Rick indicated that the city's Planning & Economic Development team is doing casual lunch and learns to continue the discussion. The first one is February 5, bringing in one of the partners to talk about loan programs. If interested in joining this lunch and learn, please connect with Rick. More to come on the next phase of this topic.

Event Updates

Milbrandt shared the following events and asked members to share with their networks:

- Inclusive Workforce Summit: January 29, 8am-1pm at the Science Museum of Minnesota. The opening session panel moderator is Yolonda McIntosh.
- Top Trends to Watch in 2025 Webinar: February 19, noon-1pm. Following the event will be a series of articles that dig deeper into the trends. Link to register will be provided in the follow up email.
- Artist Job & Resource Fair: February 27, 2-5pm at Springboard for the Arts. A landing page on Ramsey County Means Business is being built to highlight this industry.
- Ramsey Green Expo & Career Fair: March 19, 10am-1pm at the Minnehaha Rec Center, in partnership with the Ramsey County Environmental Health department.
- Inclusive Workplace Cohort: This will be the 4th cohort. Applications open in January and an information session for interested businesses will be held in February. Applications are due late February with selections made in March. Please share the QR code with businesses that meet the eligibility and that might be interested in participating.
- Youth Workforce Champion Awards: The award was formerly known as the Vern Vick Award. Awards are given out to highlight two community leaders in youth workforce development. Nominations are due February 19 at 4pm. The award presentation will take place at the April WIB meeting. Please join in the celebration.

Other Committee Updates

No further items.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:54 pm.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 11, 2025, 3-4pm via Zoom