

Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County
Constructions-Green Jobs Committee Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 10, 2024
3:00 – 4:00pm
Zoom Video Conference

Present:

Becky Brink Ray
Chris Duffrin
Don Mullin
Mary Rick
Russ Stark

Absent:

Joseph Adamji
Elisa Rasmussen-EA

Staff/Guests:

Cassandra Avery, Goodwill-Easter Seals MN
Liz Boyer, City of Saint Paul
Mariann Macalus, Workforce Solutions
Becky Milbrandt, Workforce Solutions
Rachael Molenaar, Workforce Solutions
John O’Phelan, Workforce Solutions

Call to Order & Land Acknowledgement

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

Approve May Minutes

Motion (Stark/Rick) to approve the May 14, 2024, minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously by chat vote.

Committee Work Plan

Molenaar and Milbrandt shared the following:

Build Your Own Future Campaign: Work is being done with the Partnership and Outreach Committee on the website, skilled trades movie and community kiosks. Other partners include Saint Paul and Ramsey County libraries, schools, recreational centers.

- The Opportunity Project for Cities (TOPC): Ramsey County, the City of Saint Paul and Goodwill - Easter Seals are currently working with the Centre for Public Impact on TOPC. The program uses effective partnership-building between communities, local governments and tech experts to build open-source digital solutions to the challenges residents face. TOPC is supported by the Knight Foundation and receives pro-bono technical support from Google.org. Through this project, the team is working to build a tool to assist job seekers with learning about and connecting to career opportunities in the green construction and clean energy industries. Two focus groups monitored by St. Paul, Ramsey County and Goodwill-Easter Seals MN being conducted to share ideas and help expand green job opportunities locally. More to come on the Digital Tool Development in the next few weeks.

Staff Updates

The following updates were provided:

- Semiconductor Accelerator: Ramsey County partnered with semiconductor employers and Saint Paul College in August to host the Semiconductor Accelerator. This was a four-day paid career exploration experience for young adults. During the week-long experience, participants had the opportunity for immersive activities and conversations with experts across the industry. The week ended with a tour of Polar Semiconductor’s fabrication labs to get a glimpse of the work that happens on a daily basis. It was a very successful experience.
- Urban Sustainability Directors Network (USDN) Annual Meeting: The annual meeting is scheduled for October 20-23, 2024, at the Hilton Minneapolis. USDN is a trusted peer-to-peer network of local government sustainability practitioners across the US and Canada who are committed to transformative change that builds equitable, resilient, sustainable communities. One of the featured sessions at the conference is “Investing in the Green Workforce: Green Careers Exploration &

Training” which highlights the work of the HVAC Learn & Earn program with Center for Energy and Environment.

- Upcoming Events:
 - Manufacturing Month: October is Manufacturing Month. The manufacturing industry plays an important role in the local economy and is critical to the economic strength and vitality of the state. The WIB approved funding to provide sponsorships to businesses interested in hosting an event and has received one request to date. There are many local activities including tours of local manufacturers and Century College. On October 7 at the Rondo Library there will be a “Future of Work: Manufacturing” event for workforce development professionals to learn about latest trends, technologies and career opportunities. Many other opportunities to explore emerging career opportunities.
 - Career Connect Day: The third annual Career Connect Day is being hosted by the Saint Paul Area Chamber on October 15 at Saint Paul RiverCentre with the WIB as the transportation sponsor. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Milbrandt. A new component of the event is “The Day in the Life of”
- Workforce Development Month: Milbrandt extended a huge thanks to the Committee members for their leadership and commitment to driving innovative workforce strategies in the community. Their efforts have a meaningful impact on the job seekers and businesses of Ramsey County.

Other Committee Updates

Brink Ray shared information that the National Council of Workforce Education is being held October 8-10 in Minneapolis. The focus is future-proofing workforce education. Goodwill Easter Seals is partnering with Saint Paul College on an auto construction session entitled “Scaffolding Students Success to share how partnerships have evolved over the years and how it has impacted adult learners. Link will be provided in follow up email.

Rick shared an event in late October “Mobilizing Climate-Aligned and Community-Led Capital that will prepare Minnesota stakeholders to maximize the local benefits of federal funding for clean technology projects. Link will be proved in follow up email.

Adjourn

Upon completion of the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Next Meeting: November 12, 2024, 3-4pm via Zoom