Executive Committee Minutes

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Go-To Meeting, 1st Floor Conference Room, Walt Sullivan Building
Helena, Montana
May 29, 2013

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: **Marty Copps, Chair; Dave Crum, Vice Chair; Mike Grove; Mike McGinley; Dore Schwinden (Pam Bucy Designee)**

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: **John Rogers**

STAFF: Pam Watson, Chris Wilhelm, Rebecca Wiegand

GUESTS: Mike Cooney, Suzanne Ferguson, Jenny Betz, Todd Younkin, John Cech, Carol Hanel, Michelle Marsh, Connie Kinsey, Rhonda Huseby

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Marty Copps called the meeting to order at 9:00. She welcomed Committee members and guests.

Roll call

Pam Watson conducted roll call and establishing a quorum

Agenda

Chair Copps reviewed the Agenda and asked for a consensus to approve it. Mr. Schwinden moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Minutes

Chair Copps reviewed past meeting minutes from September 5, 2012. No changes or additions were made. She requested a consensus to approve them. It was moved by Mr. Grove to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried.

I. WIA / Wagner-Peyser Funding & Update

The Workforce Investment Act Unit Supervisor, Suzanne Ferguson, presented the proposed Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funding for PY2013, as determined by formula, and a comparison to the prior year demonstrating a 15% decrease in funding overall due to

Sequestration (Adult 15%, Dislocated Worker 18%, and Youth 12%). Ms. Ferguson advised Mr. Grove that the cuts would result in fewer people receiving services. She clarified for Mr. Crum that the Department would not lay off staff, but instead would not fill positions as people vacate them or retire in its effort to reduce staffing.

Ms. Ferguson next provided an overview of the WIA Annual Report http://wsd.dli.mt.gov/wia/wiaannualreport.pdf, which requires SWIB approval prior to submission to US Department of Labor. She highlighted the performance measures, success stories for the Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth programs, and most requested training, stating that Montana has exceeded all negotiated performance measures.

Mr. Crum asked what attributed to the high Youth Literacy and Numeracy Gains, and Ms. Ferguson cited the Department's technical assistance for Youth service providers. She also clarified that the program serves out-of-school youth only, meaning those who have dropped out or are in alternative schools. Mr. Grove asked what level of cuts could be predicted considering the 3,098 participants served last year. Ms. Ferguson advised 15% fewer participants could be served based on the 15% cut in funding. Mr. Cooney stated the Department would stretch funding as far as possible, and to continue looking for additional funding opportunities. He also advised a decrease in demand for services due to the recovering economy is not anticipated because the state still has several areas of high unemployment. Mr. Crum asked if the State of Montana was the largest employer in Montana. Mr. Schwinden and Mr. Younkin concurred that the Department of Commerce and Research & Analysis data would likely support that fact, but that it would need to be researched.

Ms. Copps requested a motion to approve the funding allocations for the 2013 Program Year. Mr. Grove moved to approve the WIA funding allocations, and Mr. Crum seconded the motion. The motion carried.

II. Agriculture Outreach Plan Annual Update

Job Service Operations Bureau Specialist, Jenny Betz, presented the Agricultural Outreach Plan Annual Update. It is a component of the WIA 5-year plan. The only change from last year is in section 1, the Assessment of Need. Statistics for Table 1 were obtained from the Department of Agriculture. Numbers are generally steady, but due to flooding in 2011 prohibited the first cutting of grains. Section 2 outlines Outreach Activities, and addresses the partnership with Rural Employment Opportunities (REO). Section 3, Review and Comment, addresses REO's receipt and approval of the plan. The next step is for SWIB approval, followed by public comment.

Mr. Grove moved to approve the Agriculture Outreach Plan Annual Update for public comment and submission to US DOL, and Mr. Schwinden seconded. The motion carried.

III. Workforce Information Grant Progress and PY2013 Proposal

Research and Analysis Bureau Chief, Todd Younkin, presented the Workforce Information Grant (WIG) Proposal, which must be accompanied by a transmittal letter co-signed by the SWIB

Chair. No activities have changed, but the letter format has changed. There are no anticipated difficulties meeting the required elements, or the encouraged elements.

Mr. Crum moved to approve the WIG Proposal and have the SWIB Chair sign the transmittal letter, and Mr. Grove seconded it. The motion carried.

IV. Trade Adjustment Act Community College / Career Training Grant

John Cech, Deputy Commissioner of the Office of Commissioner of Higher Education's (OCHE) Two-Year and Community College Education, shared the Trade Adjustment Act Community College / Career Training Grant (TAACCCT). It is a grant opportunity which will require SWIB Chair's signature on an accompanying Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Additional partners on the MOU include the Department of Labor and Industry, and the consortium of Colleges. It will outline the coordinated efforts in assessing and referring candidates from the following target populations: TAA-eligible workers, underemployed, and Veterans.

If awarded, the grant offered by the US Department of Labor would provide $20-25 million of funding over a four-year period to develop a statewide system of industry-recognized credentialing. This funding will go a long way in helping Montana's two-year colleges retool from a primary focus on university transfer to workforce development.

OCHE was unsuccessful in its bids during the first two rounds of competition, so they are taking measures to ensure a strong grant application during the third round as there is $450 million at stake. They have engaged FVCC, a previous round grantee, for their expertise. They have also been working closely with the Department of Labor and Industry for the last three months, and the Corporation for a Skilled Workforce has been contracted to help prepare the grant application.

Mr. Cech advised Mr. Crum that the application must be finished by June 22nd in order to meet the July 3, 2013 filing deadline. Mr. Grove asked what was being done to ensure cooperation between Montana and North Dakota colleges. Mr. Cech stated that last October, representatives from the Board of Regents (BOR) toured Eastern Montana and Williston State College. While there the BOR met with representatives from the House, Senate, economic Development organizations, the Mayer, Chamber of Commerce, and the various engaged programs. He clarified for Mr. Schwinden that this grant would contract an organization similar to ACT for readiness certifications.

Mr. Grove moved, and Mr. Crum seconded, that the SWIB do whatever is needed to facilitate the grant. The motion carried. Mr. Cech will prepare the MOU for all partners to review and sign.

V. Next Steps

Mr. Crum requested all SWIB members be reminding that their Board appointments are soon ending, and that they must reapply prior to June 30th. SWIB staff will send a web link to all Board members where they can reapply.

With no further discussion Chair Copps adjourned the meeting at 10:07.