

# Governor's State Workforce Investment Board

Gateway Center  
Helena, Montana  
February 11, 2010

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Marty Capps, Vice Chair; Evan Barret (*Designee: Pat Wise*); Arlene Becker; Thomas Curry; John DeMichie; Mike DesRosier; Henry Dykema; Connie Eissinger; TJ Eyer (*designee for Denise Juneau*); Kim Gillan; Nancy Guccione (*designee for Tony Preite*); Kirk Hammerquist; Hank Hudson (*designee for Anna Whiting-Sorrel*); Vicki Judd; Robbe Lindsay; Mike McGinley; Thomas McKenna; Rodney Miller; Sandi Miller; Jim Paquette; Major Robinson; Jeff Rupp; Dore Schwinden (*Designee for Keith Kelly*); and Alan Skari.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dan Miles, Chair; Dave Crum; Mike Grove; Linda Guzik; Jacquie Helt; Maureen Kenneally; George Kipp; Mary Sheehy Moe; Jesse O'Hara; and Ryan Zinke.

**STAFF:** Leisa Smith, Dan Berhardt, and Danielle Nettleton.

**GUESTS:** Jim Lambert, Suzanne Ferguson, Gary Wright, Mike Cooney, Dave Morey, Adam de Yong, David Strong, Pat Schlauch, Kelly Chapman, David Hall, Aaron McNay, Lindsey Woolsey, Tom Kotynski, and Sheila Hogan.

## I. State Sector Strategies and Policy Boards Presentation

Lindsey Woolsey, Co-Director of Business and Industry Strategies, Corporation for a Skilled Workforce, provided PowerPoint presentations about State Sector Strategies and Policy Boards; key topics included:

### Introduction to State Sector Strategies: What, Why, and How

- Washington Industry Skill Panels: What they do, who they impact, and their value
- Sector Initiative Model – State Strategy: Framework and Support.
- Overview of examples from other states: including Pennsylvania, Washington, and Massachusetts.
- Building capacity, engaging leadership, cultivate champions, seed funding, data analysis, and evaluation.

### Policy Boards

- What it means to be a policy board: being a strategic thinker and leader, a convener and facilitator, being a policy advisor, and scanning the environment and connecting the dots.
- Policy means to answer the questions of what is needed, why does a need exist, what is not happening that is needed to meet the need. Programs and delivery systems answer the “how a need is met.”
- Considerations when approaching change and examples of each reaction: Knee-Jerk, Rational, Sky’s the Limit.
- A practice session for members to think innovatively at the policy level.

## **II. Welcome and Introduction**

Chair Marty Copps called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m. She welcomed board members and guests.

### Roll call, Housekeeping, and Meeting Documents

Danielle Nettleton conducted roll call, addressed housekeeping items, and reviewed meeting materials. Chair Copps explained the committee conducts business under Roberts Rules of Order.

### Agenda

Chair Copps reviewed the Agenda. The agenda was accepted as presented by consensus.

### Minutes

Chair Copps reviewed past meeting minutes from October 1, 2009. Dore Schwinden made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; TJ Eyer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

## **III. Issues Facing Workforce, Economic Development, and Education Today in Montana**

Ms. Woolsey facilitated a panel discussion; presenters and key topics included:

### Aaron McNay, Economist, Research & Analysis Bureau, Department of Labor and Industry

Mr. McNay presented the following data provided by Dr. Patrick M Barkey, Director, Bureau of Business and Economic Research, University of Montana.

- Overview of the current recession: longer, more severe, and more global. In Montana, first two consecutive years decline in income since 1980’s. Every sector in every part of the state is affected.

- A different recession leads to a different recovery. Current recession wiped out \$17 trillion in household assets. Housing levels are not expected to recover to pre-recession levels.
- Federal government economic policy tools: Fiscal Policy (taxes and spending) and Monetary Policy (interest rates and money supply.)
- The U.S. and Montana downturn percentages are moving together in payroll employment; overview within Montana by sector. Overview of real wage disbursement: percentage growth by county between years 2006 and 2009.
- Commodity prices have already rebounded significantly. Nonfarm labor income is predicted to grow 1.3% in 2010, 2.9% in 2011, 3% in 2012, and 2.4% in 2013.

Evan Barrett, Chief Business Officer, Governor's Office of Economic Development

- Governor's vision and plan for economic development: diversify the economy, more jobs, better quality jobs (wages and benefits), and geographically dispersed jobs.
- Overview of awards and rankings from magazines and organizations; including Business Facilities 2009 State Rankings, Forbes ranked Montana as fastest climbing business friendly state, and Business Facilities Magazine ranked Montana the State of the Year runner-up.
- Why Montana has been a strong economy: strong resources, commodity, and energy economy, growth in technology and knowledge in the economy, growth in tourism, and attractiveness as a place to live and do business.
- Overview of the kind of jobs that were created between January 2005 and October 2008 and where they were.
- Statistical data regarding Montana's average wage for payroll jobs and wage share versus employment share.
- Although the economy in Montana has been declining during the recession, Montana has weathered the recession better economically and financially compared to almost all other states. An overview the state current fiscal and economic situation (i.e. unemployment rates.)
- Overview of the Governors Energy Development Approach

Dr. David Hall, Project Coordinator "College! Now", Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education

- “College! Now” is a two-year education initiative from the Montana University System
- What the initiative is: completing certificate or degree, shared commitment, new approaches and technology, and significant investment
- What “College! Now” is not: changed governance, look and act same, solicit more state funds
- Why now: need more skilled workers, replacing retired Baby Boomers, meet workforce demands, two-year colleges not utilized, and change “business as usual”
- Strategies: regional hubs, increase dual credit, expand access with technology, success-based funding

#### **IV. Governor’s Set Aside Request**

Tom Kotynski, Great Falls Public Schools, provided an overview of the schools proposal to acquire funds for a WIN/Work-Keys project. The project would teach job readiness skills. He provided an overview of what job readiness skills are, why job readiness skills are important, why teaching them to youth is a must, and how they can be taught. Mr. Kotynski explained WIN delivers skill based training to improve skills in the workplace for workforce development, adult education, and basic skills training for citizens and students in the workplace. The WIN coursework prepares an individual for the WorkKeys assessment. Over 20 hours of instructional material is provided through the curriculum.

David Strong discussed the current progress of the Helena area pilot project. He reported ACT is a testing company and worked to develop the WorkKeys assessment. The skill areas assessed include the ability to apply mathematics, ability to read for information, and the ability to locate information. The three areas apply to almost all positions within most job categories. Students are tested three times: the beginning, the middle, and the end. When business owners were surveyed, they indicated an individual’s score would be asked for during an application process if it was more widely used in the state.

Mr. Schwinden stated the board previously supported and recommended funding for the five original pilot projects across the state and the Department of Labor and Industry is in full support of the proposal.

Kirk Hammerquist made a motion to recommend support for the Great Falls Public Schools request as presented. Jeff Rupp seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

## **V. Grant Updates**

Adam de Yong provided a brief overview of recent grants Montana applied for. He announced the state received two grants: The Energy Apprenticeship Grant for \$5 million and a Research and Analysis Grant for \$4 million. Montana did not receive the State Energy Sector Partnership Grant or the Pathways Out of Poverty Grant. Mr. de Yong announced the Blackfeet Reservation received a grant to supplement their Youth Build program. The grant will provide almost \$100,000 to add a green component to the Youth Build program. He provided a short overview of other possible grants the state may apply for.

## **VI. Committee Reports**

Mike McGinley provided an update for the Sector Strategies Committee, Kim Gillan provided an update for the Lifelong Learning Committee, and Marty Copps provided an update for the WIA Committee, and the Youth Council. For more information on recent activities of each committee please find past meeting minutes online at <http://swib.mt.gov/ArchivedMeetings.asp>.

## **VII. Unfinished Business**

Next board meeting will be held May 5 and 6, 2010; location is yet to be determined.

## **VIII. New Business**

Discussion occurred regarding the idea of possibility having a State Sector Summit in conjunction with the meeting. The board requested staff provide more information regarding the idea prior to holding the event. The Sector Strategy Committee would review this idea prior to a recommendation to the SWIB on this project proposal.

## **IX. Adjourn**

With no further discussion, Mr. Rupp made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:48 p.m. Mr. McKenna seconded the motion which passed unanimously.