



Montana Department of **LABOR & INDUSTRY**

State Workforce Investment Board

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Executive Committee Minutes

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Go-To Meeting, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Walt Sullivan Building
Helena, Montana
December 19, 2013**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Marty Copps, Chair; Dave Crum, Vice Chair; Mike Grove; Mike McGinley; John Rogers; Dore Schwinden (Pam Bucy Designee); and Andy Shirliff (John Rogers Designee)

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF: Leisa Smith, and Chris Wilhelm

GUESTS: Annie Glover, Connie Kinsey, Pam Watson, and Todd Younkin

Welcome and Introductions

Chair Marty Copps called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. She welcomed Committee members and guests.

Roll call

Chris Wilhelm conducted roll call and established a quorum.

Agenda

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

Minutes

Chair Copps reviewed past meeting minutes from July 31, 2013. No changes or additions were made. Mr. Crum moved to approve the minutes as presented, and Mr. McGinley seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

I. Main Street Montana Project Update

Annie Glover, Director of Special Projects for the Department of Labor & Industry Commissioner's Office, provided an update on the Main Street Montana Project. The project was commissioned in May 2013 by Governor Bullock. There were seven round table events across the state, including a Tribal round table. 1,000 citizens provided input at round table events, and another 2,000 citizens provided input via online surveys. Private-for-profit represented 51

percent of responses. Private sector from for-profit, non-profit, and hospitals represented 64 percent of responses. Government was under-represented in the responses. Eastern Montana was over represented.

Descriptive survey data is being compiled and will be published in a report, or blueprint, by the end of the first quarter 2014. The blueprint will contain the Governor's priorities for economic development. It is already clear that workforce will be one of the priorities.

II. Workforce Information Grant Annual Report

Todd Younkin, Bureau Chief of the Department of Labor & Industry's Research & Analysis Bureau, presented the Workforce Investment Grant (WIG) Annual Report for 2012. He reminded the committee that the 2014 Workforce Information Grant (WIG) Proposal, was previously approved by the Executive Committee at the May 29, 2013 Executive Committee and submitted to US DOL.

. The Workforce Information Grant is for \$300,000, with the majority of the funding devoted to projections and populating the database. The balance of funding covers value added activities such as producing publications and making presentations across the state.

Mr. Younkin clarified for Mr. Grove that the Montana College Access Network (MCAN) is a unified network that promotes access to educational opportunities after high school for Montana students. Research & Analysis is a member of the network. He also clarified that Research and Analysis staff hold a permanent position on the Montana Healthcare Workforce Advisory Committee (MHWAC). MHWAC is chaired by the Area Health Education Center out of Montana State University, and has a strategic plan to identify current and future gaps and workforce needs.

Mr. McGinley moved, and Mr. Grove seconded, to approve the submission of the Workforce Information Annual Report to the US Department of Labor. The motion carried unanimously.

III. Commissioner's Report

Dore Schwinden, Deputy Commission for the Montana Department of Labor & Industry reported on the activity taking place within the Department.

- Jobs for Montana's Graduates (JMG) achieved the 5 for 5 Award for the eighth straight year. Four Montana students attended the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) Student Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. A Helena High student took first place in the the Employability Skills Competitive Event. A student from Helena PAL took second in Public Speaking. All students took away valuable feedback and leadership development skills.
- The Unemployment Insurance tax rate is scheduled to drop from tier 6 to tier 5, saving Montana businesses money. The change will be in effect next year.
- Workers' Compensation Division's Labor Advisory Council is helping to reduce work comp rates. Membership of the council remains largely the same, except for the addition of stakeholders, trial lawyers, and insurers. They are working to compile data demonstrating the savings achieved through the recent legislative changes.
- Montana was awarded \$25 million for the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) Grant. The grant provides community colleges and other eligible institutions of higher education with funds to expand and improve their

ability to deliver education and career training programs that can be completed in two years or less. The grant is a collaboration between fourteen two-year colleges, labor, and industry.

- The Department of Labor & Industry and Department of Administration are participating on the Equal Pay Equal Work Task Force. Other partners include business, labor, education, and tribal representatives. The next statewide meeting will be in Bozeman at the end of January.
- Mr. Schwinden clarified for Mr. Grove that the recent Congressional budget will negatively impact 539 Montanans receiving Unemployment Insurance (UI), with a monetary impact of approximately \$447,000 lost.
- Mr. Schwinden told Mr. Crum that statewide Montana's economy is taking off. Unemployment rates will vary by region, but that overall the economic indicators are good.

IV. Governor's Office Report

John Rogers, Chief Business Development Officer for the Governor's Office of Economic Development, spoke about activity in the Governor's office which includes:

- Developing a marketing strategy to attract businesses and industry to Montana. Retention and expansion are also focuses of the marketing strategy. The common theme is workforce. Businesses tell the Governor that job skills in Montana are not static. The efforts of the State Workforce Investment Board are paramount to workforce development.
- Visiting the Oil Sands of Alberta last month. Hotel maids are making \$80,000 a year plus a \$4,800 stipend for travel. Class 3 boiler workers are earning over \$200,000 a year, plus the same travel stipend. The biggest limitation the area faces is workforce, so high wages and travel stipends are strategies to attract needed workers.
- Participating in multi-agency Manufacturing Initiative meetings with the federal government on a quarterly basis. Workforce limitations are an issue they are facing as well.
- Revamping the websites to allow a comprehensive business portal that includes state and non-state agencies. The Department of Administration's ITSD is heading the project, which will be similar to Kentucky's. The focus of the website will be to market Montana and attract high-paying jobs.

Mr. Rogers addressed Mr. Grove's inquiry into the timber industry. The biggest issue in the industry is there is more demand than there are logs. Currently, logs are being salvaged in southeast Montana from the area that burnt the summer before last. The logs are being shipped to mills in western Montana. The legislature limited wood production, and the revolving fund was limited by federal policy.

Ms. Copps stated the new CO² pipeline is impacting the Broadus area, as seen by limited housing availability.

V. Next Steps

Mr. Rogers indicated SWIB members should be appointed soon, and cited communication from the appointment secretary. The appointment secretary has several boards to make appointments

for, and there are many interested and qualified appointees to select from when identifying members for our board.

Ms. Smith clarified that all members are appointed except for the private sector representatives. The Governor is waiting for the feedback and survey information to be compiled from the Main Street Montana round tables. As a reminder, while terms of service to the SWIB officially end June 30th, members continue to serve until the Governor has completed the final appointments.

With no further discussion Chair Copps adjourned the meeting at 1:53 p.m.