

MT SWIB

STATE WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD

Executive Committee Meeting
October 8, 2024
9:00 a.m.
Remote Meeting

MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Hopfauf, Sarah Swanson, Dylan Klapmeier, Jason Yager, Bo, Heather, Adam

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF: Jennifer Owen

CALL TO ORDER (9:03 a.m.): Chair Hopfauf called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL (9:03 a.m.): Jennifer Owen completed Roll Call. A quorum was present

AGENDA (9:03 a.m.): Chair Hopfauf asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Heather moved to approve the agenda as presented. Bo seconded and the motion carried on a unanimous voice vote

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES (9:03 a.m.): Chair Hopfauf asked for a motion to approve the September Meeting Minutes.

Bo moved to approve the minutes as presented. Jason seconded and the motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (9:04 a.m.): None.

BYLAWS AMENDMENTS (9:05 a.m.) Chair Hopfauf asks Jennifer Owen to explain amendment recommendations. Jennifer reviews amendment proposals to add authority to appoint ex officio members, to clarify that a committee chair can designate someone to run a meeting in his or her absence, and to strike the bylaws provision related to board member compensation. Board members discuss ex officio provision. Jason expresses a preference for striking compensation language entirely, rather than alternative choices.

Bo moves to approve by laws amendments, including recommended change for compensation and housekeeping amendments. Sarah seconded and the motion carries on a unanimous voice vote.

PROPOSED SANCTIONS POLICY (9:17 a.m.): Chair Hopfauf asks Jennifer Owen to discuss draft Sanctions Policy. Jennifer reviews proposal, noting that WIOA Committee recommended the proposal to the Full Board, but WSD staff noticed, after the Committee meeting, a possible issue in drafting that would exclude performance oversight. Jennifer explains WSD recommended amendments to ensure that performance is included, which is consistent with what WIOA Committee wanted to do. Heather confirms that was the Committee's intent. Board members ask questions about policy overall, particularly collaboration with other agencies. Sarah discusses need for all WIOA programs to be coordinated and highlights the role of Legislative Audit Division and its expectation of appropriate oversight.

Item was for discussion only; no votes taken.

STILLWATER MINE RESPONSE (9:25 a.m.): Commissioner Swanson provided an update on DLI's Rapid Response for Stillwater Mine layoffs. DLI received a WARN Notice on Sept 12 of layoffs that will begin on Nov. 12. Layoffs likely to happen over 2-4 days, based on current information. This is biggest layoff event in Montana in at least a decade. Impact is significant as wages are very high and many households are single-income. NDWG will be submitted this week, ideally. This will be a large grant, approximately \$11 million ask. Working closely with USDOL to ensure application is ready for submission; hope to have processed in 30 days or so, right around the time of layoffs. Doing some things uniquely that we have not done before: include relocation expenses, dedicated funds to support spouses returning to work or upskilling, resources for child care needs. Will also do traditional work of career services, education and training. DLI did a webinar with employees yesterday to gather data for NDWG. Standing up 3 satellite offices to support employees and families. Workers have many questions about Unemployment Insurance and intersection with severance and training funds. DLI asked workers to complete a survey. DLI and OCHE are working on Pell Grant waivers for children in college.

Next career fair: Oct. 26th in Livingston, partnership with Livingston Chamber. Shaping up to be a large event.

Committee members discuss the response efforts. Committee members happy with holistic, comprehensive approach. Community-based support is important. The breadth of this impact shows how important it is that SWIB include relevant workforce partners to bring resources to bear to this kind of effort. SWIB can be a key leader to bring together the local leaders, EDAs/RC&Ds, etc.

Workers are most interested in health insurance supports, open to mental health supports. Soft skills will be important, but not clear how to provide that training right now. Computer skills will be essential.

OCTOBER FULL BOARD MEETING PREP (9:45 a.m.): Chair Hopfauf asks Jennifer to review the agenda. Very packed agenda – need to stay focused during meeting. Committee has brief discussion about possible Skill Up announcement – need to consider the intersection with the Stillwater Mine layoffs. Dylan will follow up. Reception in the Capitol Rotunda after the meeting; possible opportunity for tours of Capitol. Glad to be at Helena College; lots of enthusiasm from 2-years and community colleges to work with SWIB.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (9:58 a.m.): None.

ADJOURNMENT (9:58 a.m.) Chair Hopfauf adjourns the meeting.