

**MINUTES**  
**SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**LYON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER**  
**COMMISSIONER'S ROOM – 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**  
**OCTOBER 3, 2024**  
**4:00 P.M.**

Members Present: Carla Goedtke, Andy Easley, Vince Robinson, Brad Vaughn, Tim Jones, Marly Wagner, Bruce Bergeson, Anne Johnson, See Moua-Leske, LeRoy Kiecker, Terry Gaalswyk, Dawn Schnell, Hilary DeVlaeminck, Scott Marquardt

Members Excused: Melissa McGinty-Thompson, Mimi Schafer, Rochelle Remund, Beth Wilms, Jacque Peters

Staff Present: Carrie Bendix, Maria Peters, Jenna Weyer

Carla Goedtke called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Welcome, Introductions, and Share an Update from Organization**

Carla Goedtke welcomed members, and everyone introduced themselves and shared an update from their organization.

**Approval of the Agenda & Agenda Additions**

Carla Goedtke asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Hearing no additional agenda items, a motion was made by Andy Easley to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by See Moua-Leske and passed unanimously.

**See Moua-Leske – Hmong Culture Presentation**

See Moua-Leske presented on the Hmong Culture and her family's journey to the United States.

**Consent Agenda Items**

- SW MN Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes – August 8, 2024
- Executive Committee Minutes – August 8, 2024
- Youth Committee Minutes – August 8, 2024
- Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council Report

Bruce Bergeson made a motion to approve the consent agenda including the Minutes of the August 8, 2024 SW MN Workforce Development Board Meeting; Minutes of the August 8, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting; Minutes of the August 8, 2024 Youth Committee Minutes and the Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council Report. Terry Gaalswyk seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

### **Workforce Development Board Operating Budget Approval**

Carrie Bendix presented the proposed Operating Budget for Program Year 2024-2025 in the amount of \$51,764. Dawn Schnell made a motion to approve the upcoming program year 2024-2025 operating budget. See Moua-Leske seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

### **Meat Processing Train and Retain Grant**

Carrie Bendix discussed the Meat Processing Train and Retain Grant in partnership with the Southwest Regional Development Commission, Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission, Mid-Minnesota Regional Development Commission, and Ridgewater which offers funding to assist small to medium-sized meat and poultry processors with hiring and training new employees. The PIC would receive between \$25,000 - \$40,000 depending on the number of meat processors engaged and would provide case management and support services to employees receiving training. Terry Gaalswyk made a motion to approve participating and receiving funds for the Meat Processing Train and Retain Grant. Lori Wynia seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

### **Grant Proposals**

Carrie Bendix discussed grant applications to the Transformative Career Pathway Competitive Grant for up to \$300,000, the Targeted Populations Capacity Building Competitive Grant for up to \$10,000, and the CDL Training with the Upper Sioux Community up to \$100,000. Anne Johnson made a motion to approve submitting applications for the Transformative Career Pathway Competitive Grant up to \$300,000, the Targeted Populations Capacity Building Competitive Grant for up to \$10,000, and the CDL Training with the Upper Sioux Community up to \$100,000. Bruce Bergeson seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

### **Committee Reports**

Maria Peters gave an update on the Youth Committee Meeting held August 8, 2024. Carrie Bendix reminded Board members of the Drive for Five Committee Meeting held virtually on October 14, 2024 from 4:00 – 5:00p.m.

### **Annual Program Reports**

Tim Jones provided an update on the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Worker Programs, State Dislocated Worker Program, and Pathways to Prosperity Grant. He reported that the Clean Energy Grant started August 7, 2024 and the Minnesota Department of Transportation extended the CDL Training to the Upper Sioux Community. Lastly, Tim reported that the recent closing of Schwan's will impact the Marshall community with warehouse workers, drivers, and Administrators looking for work.

Maria Peters reviewed the Youth Services Annual Report and provided an update on the Work Experience program, CDL Trainings, and students being placed from the STEM/Robotics Grant. Maria also discussed two success stories, one a Welding student who is now attending HVAC courses, and the other who is attending MN West for Dental Assistant.

**Director Updates**


Carrie Bendix discussed the Workforce Development Month Marketing Report from September. She also reported that the PIC received all but one of the almost 20 proposals submitted over the past year totaling \$3 million. This included the Resettlement Grant for over \$200,000, the Youth Federal Disabilities Grant, and the Clean Economy Grant. New positions will be posted for each of the three grants. Carrie mentioned an upcoming visit from the DEED Commissioner on October 4<sup>th</sup> in addition to a visit from the Division Director of Employment and Training Programs, Ama Akakpo, on December 9-10<sup>th</sup>. Carrie thanked Board Members for securing an Electrician Professor for the Lower Sioux, and Scott Marquardt for sponsoring dinner after the meeting.

**Important Dates**

Carrie Bendix reminded Board members of the Drive for Five committee Meeting on October 14<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 5:00p.m and the Workforce Development Board and Executive Committee meetings on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

Hearing no other business, the meeting adjourned.

Approved by:

  
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Beth Wilms, Secretary

Approved by:

  
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Carrie Bendix, Recording Secretary

