

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**8:00 A.M.**

**FEBRUARY 2, 2010**

**ROYAL COURT RESTAURANT**

**PRESENT:** M. Coldren, B. Myers, B. Bantle, J. McPheeters, P. McKee

**EXCUSED:** A. Pedersen, L. Patz, C. Haynes, M. Stamm

**STAFF:** J. Mattick, J. Luu

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chairman Coldren called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of January 5, 2010, were accepted as written.

**WIB/CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIAL AGREEMENT**

One of the requirements under the Workforce Investment Act is that activities are carried out in cooperation with the chief elected official and that there is an official agreement be in place between the WIB and the chief elected official. In the past the agreement contained a clause that it would remain in effect unless otherwise decided. Some WIA's do an annual agreement especially in areas that contain multiple counties; in Tompkins County this has not been necessary. Ms. Mattick stated that she believes that this agreement should be reviewed because the County Legislative Chair has changed and this will provide an opportunity for them to better understand their role and the WIB's, and that there is an agreement that defines how the two parties work together. She stated that she does not see any issues with the current agreement that has been in place since 2002 and there are no items in the current agreement that is outside of the current law.

Ms. Myers asked if the review is intended in order to renegotiate the agreement or is intended to just provide both parties with the awareness that there is an agreement in place; these are two different processes. Ms. Mattick stated, and the group agreed, that the process should be to provide awareness of the agreement, not renegotiation of it. The Committee also asked Ms. Mattick to reach out to Joe Mareane to ensure he is aware of the agreement as well.

**WORKFORCE STRATEGY ROLLOUT, JANUARY 26, 2010 BOARD MEETING FOLLOW UP - STANDING COMMITTEES**

At the last WIB meeting there were some suggestions made around each of the areas that was worked on in terms of creating actions plans and tasks related to goals and there was also a suggestion that committees be formed to take on some of the work of rolling out the workforce strategy. There was consensus that the session went well and there were good suggestions made. Ms. McPheeters spoke about her group and indicated that one thing she thought was a very good suggestion is that there isn't enough being done around the "working class hero" and the issue that there is a need for entry level workers, but not enough is being done to model good jobs that you don't necessarily need a four-year degree for. She stated that she believes this is true, but American society as a whole is geared toward college education.

Mark stated that some of what came out of the group he was in was more tactical so Board members can actively participate and contribute with the process. For example, if there are calls that need to be made, they could be making those calls. Ms. Myers asked if Board members as a whole see this as their role on the Board. Mr. Coldren stated he does not believe that Board members see their role this way. Some see it more of an advisory board rather than action oriented. Ms. Myers agreed saying she sees the board as advisory where in other arenas members sign on for specific tasks when they join the membership.

There was lengthy discussion about the role of the WIB and whether it is seen as an advisory or action oriented board. Some members see more value when they are actively engaged in activities and others prefer to stay more in an advisory capacity. Mr. Bantle stated that you cannot flip a switch on a group of people who have not had a lot of expectations and make them a hard charging group of engaged board members without taking them through some type of process. Some people will fall away based on this because that is not what they signed on for, and others will become more engaged and move forward. The larger group needs to decide what direction they want the WIB to go in.

Ms. McPheeters noted that you cannot ask a group of volunteers (WIB members) to take on additional responsibility without have the staffing to manage the work. Rolling out the Strategy is going to take a lot of staff time and this needs to be carefully considered when looking at the number of outcomes being sought.

Mr. Coldren suggested looking at the strategy as “what can it do for me and my organization” allowing each member to look within their own organization to see how they will benefit and by doing so they will look at what they can do to help move the actions forward.

Mr. Bantle stated that it was his belief that federal contractors are required to list jobs with the job service and when we talk about creating a job bank, it seems there is a disconnect because we currently have one. Mr. Coldren stated it was his belief that the group wanted to make the job bank more accessible. Mr. Bantle stated he would be willing to work on this area because for his organization it isn't very effective and the group was talking about having a job bank that is effective that helps both the clients and the community.

Ms. Myers stated that when the Board was doing their group report out she thought the next step strategically would be a gap analysis. Her group talked about the one Stop and how the one stop welcomes both the underemployed to the professional but when they were generating their thoughts there were big gaps among members about what was already in place and being done. In order to find the gap the One-Stop needs to be mapped out so there is a better understanding of the multiple avenues available first. Mr. Bantle agreed and noted this can go a long way if it is done in a way that engages the employer community and provides meaningful help to employers.

Mr. Coldren stated that right now businesses are spending a lot of time on shared services models. The bottom line is what is in it for the employer that they can benefit from and if employers can see the benefit they will be willing to put the time and effort into it.

He asked if this conversation should be a larger Board discussion or should the work be done in Executive Committee where the group decides the Board's next activity. Ms. Mattick stated the Executive Committee is more action oriented and has a long history that would help set the direction of the Board. Mr. Coldren suggested taking the next Committee meeting to look at the Strategy and review the compilation of work conducted the last Board meeting to set the direction of the next Board meeting in March in order to provide the questions necessary for Board members to decide if they want to be an action or oversight entity.

Ms. Myers asked that prior to the next meeting that all of the notes be provided from the WIB's last meeting noting that the summary that was provided was truncated and difficult to follow after listening to all of the report outs that were done. This may help in deciding action items for the group.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 8:15 a.m. at Ithaca College for a working session.