



MINUTES
EWIB BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2016
8:00 A.M.

Members Present: Ray Coombs, Jr.; Karen Eichstaedt; Susan Hibbard; Thayne Hutchins, Jr.; Lynn Iverson; Howard Jenkins; Chris Jewell; Armelde Pitre; Darlene Serra; Jason Vlaun; Donna Weisenberger; Kelli Vallieres; John Murphy; Lisa Arends; & Marion Lynch.

Staff Present: John Beauregard, Mark Hill, Virginia Sampietro, Carol LaBelle, Guy Saporito, & Sheila Taurianen.

Others Present: Gumwatty Garcia; Jody Lefkowitz; Pat Dixie; Suzanne Cimochoowski; & Emily Boushee.

Call to Order

Chairman Hibbard called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. She welcomed Lisa Arends to the Board, who replaces Rhonda Mathieu as CTDOL's representative.

Chairman Hibbard also congratulated Kelli Vallieres, Ray Coombs, & the Eastern Advanced Manufacturing Alliance (*EAMA*) for recently being honored by Three Rivers Community College Foundation during their "*Pathways to Success*" breakfast (3/3); Kelli Vallieres for her recent "*Outstanding Professional*" award by the University of Connecticut School of Education Alumni Society (3/19); and Trey Wells, EASTCONN Out-of-School Youth Program student honored as "*Conference Learner of the Year*" by the CT Association for Adult & Continuing Education (3/19).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

A **MOTION** was made to accept the meeting report of the January 26, 2016 EWIB Board of Directors meeting, as presented (*MURPHY / IVERSON*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

- 1) **Appointment Letter** – Letter from CTDOL's new Commissioner, Scott Jackson, appointing Lisa Arends, replacing the recently retired Rhonda Mathieu, as CTDOL's representative on EWIB's Board of Directors. Mr. Beauregard will be meeting with the Commissioner this afternoon & is looking forward to establishing a relationship with him.

CETC REPORT

Chairman Hibbard provided a report that EWIB CETC Representative, Deb Monahan sent in, noting that CETC met last Thursday and approved the submittal of the State's WIOA plan.

CHAIRMAN/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- **Advancing The Pipeline Concept** – EWIB staff took advantage of two (2) recent opportunities to continue getting the word out about the Manufacturing Pipeline Concept. Mr. Beauregard provided an interview with U.S. Rep. Courtney to Fox 61 News after EB's annual stakeholder breakfast. Board member, Chris Jewell, was also featured in the Fox 61 piece, discussing the role his company (*Collins & Jewell*) plays. Also, Mr. Beauregard was invited to participate in a roundtable press conference held by Senators Blumenthal & Murphy.

Mr. Beauregard provided an overview of activities accomplished since the last Board meeting in January.

- EWIB & CTDOL received authorization in March from USDOL to begin enrolling participants in the Pipeline training classes to better align the classes with the near-term hiring needs of employers.
- The draft Evaluation Design Report (*EDR*) was completed, a requirement of being granted the authorization to enroll participants.
- The EWIB website portal has ~495 individuals to-date registered & interested in the program.
- Two (2) dedicated CTDOL staff have been assigned to the program to contact portal registrants.
- American Job Center (*AJC*) staff have been trained to identify transferrable skills needed for the manufacturing industry.
- A 7-week pilot training program (*15 participants*) was completed at Quinebaug Valley Community College (*QVCC*), with the majority of participants gaining employment after the class.
- The cohort schedule for Pipeline training has been completed through the summer.

Mr. Beauregard reviewed the next steps in the Pipeline.

- A training class for Outside Machinists will begin on April 4th at Grasso Tech, sponsored by Three Rivers Community College (*TRCC*). The class is fully enrolled.
- A training class for all trades will begin on April 11th at QVCC. The class is fully enrolled.
- EWIB will continue to coordinate with EB & EAMA for hiring the graduates after each class.
- The instructors for all classes have been secured, and have completed a "train-the-trainer" seminar through EWIB Consultant Mark Vesligaj.

Work is underway on the Healthcare Pipeline initiative with the focus on identifying the regional demand for skills, and then creating demand-driven training programs, based on the Manufacturing Pipeline model. Committee members provided local demand data and a report is also being developed by Monster to track healthcare-related hiring in the region over the past 18-months.

- **WestRock Job Fair** – WestRock announced that it was closing its paper mill in Uncasville, impacting 89 workers. Workforce partners (*EWIB, CTDOL, AJC staff, EAMA employers, etc.*) responded to this news by holding a job fair in early March. WestRock employees talked to regional employers, as well as having representatives of the various services available to help them. The job fair was successful with a number of the workers finding employment as a result of the event.
- **Funding Shift** – Mr. Beauregard discussed the significant shift in funding source composition for EWIB in the past few years. He noted that EWIB's revenue in 2008 (*\$6.2M*) was more evenly divided between federal (*56%*) & state (*43%*) sources; however, in 2015/2016 (*\$15.5M*) the revenue has shifted to mostly federal (*84%*) with a smaller amount coming from the state (*15%*).
- **WIOA National Convening** – Mr. Beauregard attended the national WIOA leadership conference in Washington, D.C. in January as one of the State's 15-member delegation. Items discussed included: partnering with industry, upskilling, leveraging resources, career pathways, & sector strategies.
- **SB 398 Testimony** – Mr. Beauregard testified before CT Legislature's Commerce Committee on March 17th in support of Senate Bill No. 398, "An Act Requiring A Study Of Certain Employment Transition In Eastern CT." The bill resulted from meetings that Sen. Osten held with regional economic & business leaders on the future of the region's economy. Mr. Beauregard noted that the casinos have

been candid about the potential employment impact of the opening of the MGM casino in Springfield, MA, an issue of importance to our region. The Commerce Committee voted 19-1 in favor of the bill.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

▪ **Performance, Accountability, & Planning Committee**

- **Manufacturing Pipeline Sub-Committee Report** – Committee Chairman Murphy reported that the group met on January 29th where they reviewed & updated the project plan & received an overview of the Workforce Innovation Fund (*WIF*) evaluation.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Approval of Board Resolutions EWIB-16-01 & EWIB-16-02** – The resolutions authorize the Chair to enter into contracts with the CT Board of Regents for funding to support trade-specific training to be conducted by Quinebaug Valley Community College (*EWIB-16-01*) and Three Rivers Community College (*EWIB-16-02*), as part of the Workforce Innovation Fund (*WIF*) grant. A **MOTION** was made to approve EWIB Board Resolutions EWIB-16-01 & EWIB-16-02, as presented (*PITRE/WEISENBERGER*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn the meeting (*HUTCHINS/JEWELL*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted for Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board Secretary James S. Butler, by Executive Assistant, Sheila R. Taurianen.

The next meeting will be held 8:00 a.m., May 24, 2016.