



## MINUTES OF THE EWIB MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2015  
8:00 A.M.

**Members Present:** Tom Burns, Pierce ‘Pete’ Connair, Susan Hibbard, Cynthia Lamb, Darlene Serra, Jeff Beadle, Jim Butler, *Polly Silva*, Jessica Corneau, Carlee Drummer, Karen Eichstaedt, Lindy Lee Gold, Marion Lynch, Steve MacKenzie, Rhonda Mathieu, Deborah Monahan, John Murphy, Mel Olsson, Cheryl Parsons, & Maureen Wager.

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

**Others Present:** Andrea Messenger, Cheryl Egan, Gumwatty Garcia, & Pat Dixe.

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### Call to Order

Chairman Hibbard called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m. The Chair welcomed two (2) new EWIB staff members as a result of two (2) new federal grants: Mark Hill, Director of Operations; and Tim Murney, On-the-Job Training Developer.

### Public Comment

None

### Acceptance of Previous Minutes

A **MOTION** was made to accept the minutes of the November 25, 2014 EWIB Board of Directors meeting, as presented (*GOLD/MACKENZIE*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

### Correspondence/Communications

Mr. Beauregard reviewed the following items:

1. **Foundation Awards** – EWIB was recently notified that it was received generous donations from: The Mystic Aquarium (\$21,000); and, The Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT (\$5,000); for the Board’s Summer Youth Employment Program (*SYEP*). On Mar. 20<sup>th</sup> Chairman Hibbard, Youth Council Chairman Olsson, & staff participated in an E/CT Chamber check presentation press conference.
2. **Monitoring** – Letter from CTDOL informing the Board that it will perform its annual WIA monitoring review beginning Mar. 13<sup>th</sup>. EWIB staff is currently monitoring its vendors, as well.
3. **Economic Forecast Breakfast** – Mr. Beauregard provided a presentation on jobs information & regional trends during the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern CT’s business breakfast on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>, where the keynote speaker was CT Comptroller, Kevin Lembo. Preparing the presentation allowed staff to compile data & issue a press release (*covered later in the agenda*) for our Chief Elected Officials Council.

## CETC Report

EWIB CETC Representative, Tom Burns, reported that the group last met on Dec 11<sup>th</sup>. Reports presented included items such as: the CT's deficit, the CT Technical High School System's strategic plan; CTDOL's Job Driven grant; WIOA changes and, the Manufacturing priorities for 2015.

## Chairman/Executive Director Report

**Executive Committee Report** – Chairman Hibbard reported that the Committee met on Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> where they were updated on: the Schwab account(s), town & district reports, foundation pursuits, the Health Career Forum, the CT Advanced Manufacturing Initiative (*CAMI*), & the Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative.

Mr. Saporito provided an update on the two (2) Schwab Institutional Accounts (*Scholarship & General Investment*). With the receipt of four (4) new federal awards (*a 34% increase since May, bringing revenue level to ~\$11.3M*). It was noted, however, that the Transportation-to-Work grant has experienced a rescission of \$120,000 as part of the Governor's budget cuts. The group approved increasing EWIB's FY15 budget by \$160,335 (*pro-rated annualized budget now \$1,615,299*) to meet staffing responsibilities associated with newly acquired **federal** awards (*i.e., not subject to state rescissions*). The Committee also reviewed & approved the FY14 Independent Audit Report, which had no findings or material weaknesses. The report included a recommendation that the Board capitalize equipment at \$5K, aligning with grant regulations. A **MOTION** was made to accept the Executive Committee Report, as presented (**WAGNER/EICHSTAEDT**). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

Mr. Beauregard provided the Board with a presentation that updated members with several projects currently underway:

- **Audit** – Mr. Saporito reviewed the audited financial statements contained in the package, noting that support & revenue on the federal awards has been incrementally increasing over the past several years. Recognized Revenue came in a \$7.943M ~ the largest fiscal year in a non-ARRA environment. Internal efficiencies allowed for an 85% investment rate in workforce development activities in the Eastern region.
- **E/CT Healthcare Discussion**  
Ms. Sampietro reported that the EWIB-sponsored event was held on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> at Three Rivers Community College (*TRCC*). 24 representatives from 19 healthcare entities participated, 67% of whom expressed interest in continuing the partnership. EWIB Board members Karen Eichstaedt (*UCFS*), Carlee Drummer (*QVCC*), & Mary Ellen Jukoski (*TRCC*) were in attendance for the event. Initial findings show: 1) a lot of hiring is occurring in the healthcare industry, but primarily in the lower- & higher-skilled jobs; and, 2) there is a lack of “*soft-skills*” with candidates coming out of training (*sense of entitlement, people skills, etc.*). Next steps: a report will be issued to all attendees, & staff is looking at the Hartford WIB's on-going healthcare group for ways to keep providers engaged. The next event, a behavioral health summit, will be hosted at QVCC tentatively in late May.
- **Regional Placement Numbers**  
Staff reviewed the annual impact that our four (4) American Job Centers–East (*AJC-East*) had on the region. Results showed 9,784 jobs (*5,466 direct & 4,318 in-direct*), which averaged \$260M in annualized wages. Letters were sent to 41 municipal leaders, CT legislative leaders (*House & Senate*), U.S. Sen. Blumenthal, U.S. Sen. Murphy, and U.S. Rep. Courtney showing the impact on their respective municipality/district. The CEO Council issued a press release with the information on Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>, resulting in positive local media coverage.
- **State Budget Issue** – A \$150,000 funding rescission has been levied on the Transportation for Employment Independence Program (*TEIP*) in Eastern CT. The program assists low-income adults achieve self-sufficiency and is the “*linchpin*” to the Welfare-to-Work grant. Under the current budget proposal, DSS will transfer \$1.9M to the DOT fixed-route service, which will provide low-income workers with access to bus passes (*vs. current customized solutions*). This is a problem because public transportation is limited/non-existent in rural areas, which makes obtaining/retaining employment difficult for those workers. A memo was jointly sent to the Transportation & Appropriations Committees by the CT Workforce Development Council (*CT's 5 WIBs*) and three (3) COGs (*Northeast, Southeast, & Capital Region*) on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**DECD Proposal Application** – At the invitation of DECD Commissioner Smith, Mr. Beauregard & three (3) Electric Boat (EB) staff participated in developing the state’s Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) federal solicitation. The State of CT will submit one application, consisting of the Eastern & Hartford regions, focusing on shipbuilding and aerospace. Twelve (12) will receive “designated communities,” nationwide, & will receive preferential consideration for \$1.3B of funding opportunities. EWIB has agreed to serve as the lead for the Workforce Team section of the proposal, which incorporates a “pipeline” approach. Ms. Wagner noted that Adult Education was not depicted in the pipeline. Mr. Beauregard stated that Adult Ed. would be included. Mr. Beauregard thanked Lindy Gold (DECD) for informing EAMA members of opportunities available through DECD.

**Electric Boat Manufacturing Pipeline Planning** – To-date, intermediate and long-term training activities have been established as a result of the CAMI grant. To meet short-term hiring needs, the next meeting on Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>, will focus on short-term programs.

**Labor Market Area Changes** – The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) just released their new Labor Market Areas (LMA), which is revised every 10 years based on census data. The version moves Windham into the Hartford LMA. It also moves several NE/CT towns into the Hartford LMA, leaving the NE/CT COG with a region consisting of 27K jobs total. Staff has called Rep. Courtney’s office to make them aware of the change. Mr. Butler offered SCCOG’s assistance with raising these issues. This change has a major, negative impact on regional jobs numbers, and is important for planning such as CEDS & grant applications.

## **Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee Report** – Previously covered under the Executive Director’s Report.

## **Youth Council Report**

Carol LaBelle, EWIB Programs Director, reported that a meeting scheduled for February to discuss the transition from WIA to WIOA was postponed, because the regulations haven’t been released.

## **Old Business**

- **Board Resolution EWIB-15-01**

Authorizes changes to the vesting schedule for the EWIB 401-K plan, as previously approved by the EWIB Executive Committee on May 16, 2012. A **MOTION** was made to approve EWIB Board Resolution EWIB-15-01, as presented (**GOLD/EICHSTAEDT**). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

## **New Business**

None.

## **Adjournment**

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.

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