

Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board, Conference Room B
41 Lewis Street, Geneva, NY 14456
Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: **Members:** B. Aronson, P. Churchill, S. Griffin, M. Lynch, A. McGraw, M. Manikowski, J. Murphy, J. Vrabel, J. Weaver

Guest: Katherine Campbell

Staff: Karen Springmeier, Michael Woloson, Jennifer May

I. State of the Workforce in the Finger Lakes

Ms. Campbell gave a brief update on her report entitled "State of the Workforce in the Finger Lakes". For the report, she will discuss the demographic and educational characteristics of workers in the area, as well as show an industry snapshot and labor and wage trends. Ms. Campbell will present her report, in its entirety, at the April 20th meeting of this Committee.

II. Regional Transit Service presentation follow up

On November 30th, the FLWIB presented "Public Transportation in the Finger Lakes by Regional Transit Service". Fifteen people from eight entities were in attendance and there was one follow up meeting with Pactiv. The Committee agreed that transportation issues have long plagued the region and more ideas and contributors are needed to find a solution. Both Ms. Churchill and Mr. Manikowski suggested that the RTS presentation become an annual event.

III. Recent announcements, layoffs and closings

Mr. Manikowski informed the Committee of Great Lakes Kraut Company's plan to move operations from Shortsville to Bear Creek, Wisconsin at the end of the year. This move will substantially impact three major cabbage growers.

Zylem, in Seneca County, is moving fifty highly skilled positions overseas. Mr. Vrabel and Ms. Springmeier attributed the FLWIB's early involvement in the transition to Zylem being named Business of the Month in January, 2016.

IV. Economic/Workforce Development Updates

Ms. Churchill mentioned that a couple of projects will be starting at Silver Hill Technology Park, in Newark, and the Mobile Chemical building is for sale at auction.

Mennonite manufacturing companies are moving into Yates County and Finger Lakes Community Health is currently hiring for bilingual positions. Mr. Griffin also shared that Yates County farmers are concerned about the future of the migrant workforce, as children of current migrant workers are showing more interest in attending college than working in the farming industry.

Ms. Lynch referred to the Mechatronics and Advanced Manufacturing Machinist programs offered through FLCC and said that there is access to subsidized transportation.

Solu Solutions, in Victor, is hiring approximately 100 people with an IT background. According to Ms. McGraw, the company will be offering a JAVA coding boot camp to new hires.

Mr. Manikowski reported on the meeting of the superintendents in January, at Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES in Newark. As a guest speaker, a futurist spoke of AI and automation in the workforce.

ACTION ITEM: Ms. Springmeier to research a speaker on generational diversity for a future event.

V. Finger Lakes WIB Update

Ms. Springmeier is currently partnering with the Geneva BID to develop a customer service training program. There is also a possibility of a new food technology cluster.

The next meeting will be Friday, April 20, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer May, Executive Assistant