

FINGER LAKES WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 15, 2020 8:30-10:00am

del Lago Resort & Casino, Waterloo

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Baker, K., Culeton, D., Davis, M., DeVault, J., Doeblin, R., Eighmey, S., Fisher, M., Freid, L., Kauffman, M., Morgan, B., Mueller, J., Murphy, J., Parish, L., Pellerite, J., Percy, B., Plympton, R., Rowe, M., Tiberio, E.,

Guests: McGraw, Northrop, D., A., Vary, S., Whirley, M.

Staff: Lesterhuis, A., May, J., Sowards, D., Springmeier, K., Woloson, M., Weise, J.

Absent: Bekisz, P., Brennan, L., Brooks, Z., Burnell, M., Davids, K., Facer, T., House, R., Knecht, S., Maloy, D., Manikowski, M., Nye, R., Ramos, V., Rusinko, M., Scheetz, A., Wright, J.

At 8:30 a.m., Mr. Plympton called the meeting to order and introductions followed.

Welcome – Ms. Morgan, del Lago Resort & Casino

Ms. Morgan welcomed board members and guests and shared a few highlights from del Lago: the casino will see its third anniversary in February and its 1,200 team members will celebrate by participating in “Spirit Week”. There are 50 team member openings and turnover has decreased significantly. Ms. Blair shared that she personally works with new hires to explain the nature of the casino business: working holidays, working odd shifts and customer service. She and del Lago are also passionate about hiring veterans. Along with the change in ownership, from being co-owned by the Wilmott Family and Peninsula Pacific Entertainment to being owned solely by Peninsula Pacific Entertainment, del Lago is also announcing a new dining venue soon to open, Thai Me Up Express.

ECONOMIC NEWS AND UPDATES:

Economic Issues/Trends/Concerns:

- Dairy/Farming – Mr. Mueller – The industry is enjoying mild weather and has been able to get a lot of things done that normally couldn't have been accomplished. 2019 books have closed and proved that it was a much better year than 2018. The year started out badly for apples, cherries and grains, but ended better. The dairy industry had a comeback year after being down for four years and 2020 looks even better. Agricultural labor is now under new overtime rules, such as salary workers tracking their hours, a mandatory day of rest and a raise in minimum wage.
 - Wineries/Vineyards – Ms. Eighmey – The 2018 vintage at Anthony Road was recently tasted and it is fantastic. Ms. Eighmey also stated that tariffs on wine are trickling down and Governor Cuomo is proposing changes to archaic prohibition laws that would allow training programs to sell completed products. Additionally, the federal tax relief program for the industry has been extended for another year.
 - Advanced Manufacturing – Mr. Plympton – There has been a lull in the industry and it is expected to continue to mid-2020. Businesses are using the down time to advance technology in the workplace and they expect to have one or two robust years after the lull. Optimax is slowing down hiring during this period and has doubled the size of its facility and is planning to make the transition later in January.
 - Healthcare – Ms. DeVault – Thompson Health has doubled the size of the ICU, which necessitates the hiring of thirty new employees. Ms. DeVault stated that across the industry, every profession has to do their highest level of license to meet the demand of patients.
 - Retail – Mr. Kauffman – 2019 was a strong year for retail, partially thanks to a solid holiday season. Shopping malls across the nation are looking for ways to diversify, such as leasing space for entertainment, medical practices and offices.
 - Skilled Trades – Mr. Davis – The electric trades are hiring a lot of people now. If you are licensed in the field, you will be able to find work.
 - Banking – Ms. Parish – Generations Bank is celebrating their 150th Anniversary this year.
- Department of Labor - Ms. Murphy informed the group that the Geneva Career Center is moving to Lake Geneva Plaza on January 17th and will reopen to customers on January 21st.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

- Finance and Audit – Mr. Doeblin – By the November 27th meeting, NOAs still hadn't been received and the committee approved the internal transfer of \$50,000 from Dislocated Worker to Adult; NOAs have since been received from the state. The committee also approved the authorization to release a request for proposal regarding independent auditors, which is on today's agenda. Mr. Doeblin also mentioned that the reconciliation process is nearing completion.
- Governance and Membership – Ms. Springmeier – The committee will be meeting in the spring to approve the Slate of Officers for PY'20. Ms. Springmeier and staff are also reviewing board member terms that are expiring at the end of PY'19.
- Marketing – Ms. Culeton – On December 11th, the committee discussed the mobile version of fingerlakesworks.com being revamped and ideas for more “Finger Lakes Features” articles. Mr. Woloson

spoke to the committee about “SkillUp Finger Lakes”, which now has 120 participants and is scheduled for a public relaunch later in January.

- Performance & Evaluation – Mr. Plympton – The committee met on December 17th and reviewed the different types of unemployment numbers, the Dashboard report and formally recommended changes to the On-the-Training Policy, which is on today’s agenda.
- Economic Development – Ms. Springmeier – On January 10th, the committee met and was given a presentation by Todd Sloane regarding the Foundations in Advanced Manufacturing Project, which consists of courses that were created for apprenticeable, in-demand locally and employer verified positions that are foundational, portable and flexible. The committee will meet again on March 13, 2020.
- Youth – Ms. Parish – InterviewStream, modernizing SkillUp badges and certification, and digital badging were discussed at the January 8th meeting. The healthcare career day will take place on March 17th and the agricultural day on April 22nd. The committee meets again on March 11th.
- Health & Human Services – Ms. DeVault – The Healthcare Alliance met via webinar on December 18th and discussed the upcoming career event and the healthcare badges available through “SkillUp Finger Lakes”.
- FAME – Mr. Plympton – The FAME scholarship fund is now self-sustaining, over \$50,000, which allows for \$1,000 individual scholarships to be awarded. The annual event is scheduled for April 27th at Monroe Community College.
- Director’s Report – Ms. Springmeier – Revisions to the Local Plan are available for comment now, on fingerlakesworks.com. Ms. Springmeier will be involved in the first WIB Director Training session in Albany on January 23rd and 24th.

Presentation – State of Seneca County, Mr. Rowe

Mr. Rowe discussed the Changes, Opportunities and Challenges currently involving Seneca County.
Change – of the fourteen member board of supervisors, six are new in 2020. Bob Aronson has retired and the search has begun for a new Executive Director of the Seneca County IDA; applications are due by January 17th.
Opportunity – Seneca Falls won \$10 million in Downtown Revitalization Initiative funds and developers are ready to get started on multiple projects. Mr. Northrop noted that Waterloo received \$500,000 of CFI funds for downtown revitalization as well.
Challenge – Hillside and White Deer Tours have both pulled out of the Seneca Army Depot, leaving room for a new 100,000sqft fabricating facility, but the established electric and water/sewage infrastructure needs to be updated.

NEW BUSINESS/CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of minutes from November 20, 2019
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| Resolution 09-19 | Approval of OJT Revised Policy |
| Resolution 10-19 | Approval of Budgets and Contracts Youth Funding – In School Programs |
| Resolution 11-19 | Authorization to Release Request for Proposal for Independent Audit and Tax Services |
| Resolution 12-19 | Authorization to Release |

A motion to approve the minutes from November 20, 2019 was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Tiberio. All in favor, motion carried.
A motion to approve Resolutions 09-19 through 12-19 was made by Ms. Eighmey and seconded by Mr. Pellerite. All in favor, motion carried.

Success Story – Quarterly Performance Measures, Mr. Woloson

Mr. Woloson reviewed the Primary Indicators of Performance for PY’18. The report shows that Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates counties have met and/or exceeded the goals for Employment Rate and Median Earnings in the Adult, Dislocated Worker and Youth programs.

Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES Williamson Campus

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Davis and seconded by Ms. Culeton. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer May
Executive Assistant