

Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Finger Lakes Workforce Investment Board, Conference Room B
41 Lewis Street, Geneva, NY 14456
Friday, March 13, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Members: K. Bailey, J. Celso, S. Griffin, T. Hassler, P. Jones, G. Maine, M. Manikowski, R. Plympton, M. Sykes
L. Principio, T. Sloane, J. Vrabel

Guests: S. Gerling, C. Wheeler-Carmenatty

Staff: Karen Springmeier, Michael Woloson, Jennifer May

I. Geneva Food and Beverage Hub (Sage Gerling and Carrie Wheeler-Carmenatty)

Ms. Gerling's presentation, titled "Driving Innovation and Growth in Geneva's Food and Beverage Industry" expanded on the following points: Background of the project, what makes Geneva's food and beverage industry unique, the industry's priorities, work group plans, metrics and success and the implementation structure.

II. Economic Development Updates (State of the County)

Ontario County – Mr. Manikowski - The Daily Messenger has been acquired by Gannett Co. and they will no longer be publishing a printed version of the newspaper locally, which affects slightly over 30 full-time employees. Cheribundi has moved to Michigan and COVID-19 is obviously affecting the area and the stock market.

Seneca County – Ms. Jones – The Seneca County Strategic Plan was approved by the Board of Supervisors and now heads to the Seneca County Chamber of Commerce for approval. Interviews for the Executive Director position have been completed and a new director is expected to be named at the next board meeting, at the end of the month.

Wayne County – Ms. Hassler – Edge Factor videos are now available to all Wayne County residents. Expansion of IEC Electronics in Newark is going well.

Yates – Mr. Griffin – The new conference center attached to the Hampton Inn will be breaking ground soon. Also, the USDA's Reconnect Broadband grant will be used to bring internet into more rural and low-incomes homes within the county.

III. Workforce Development Updates

Ontario County – Mr. Sykes – There has been a lot of front door traffic to the career centers lately and Business Service Representatives have connected with many businesses.

Seneca County – Mr. Vrabel – Seasonal hiring is now picking up. Mr. Vrabel also stated that jobs are plentiful and job orders are coming in to the centers.

Wayne County – Mr. Celso – Wayne County hosted a mini job fair for seasonal positions in late February

Yates County – Ms. Principio – Seasonal businesses are reopening in the county and are hiring.

IV. FLWIB Update

- a. Ms. Springmeier stated that the mini job fairs hosted by the career centers are working well and Rapid Response specialists are working with those affected by the changes at Daily Messenger. She also mentioned that the new location of the Geneva Career Center is working out well and that it's a great space.
- b. Mr. Woloson shared that he is planning to get outreach postcards for the "SkillUp Finger Lakes" program and has been in contact with libraries in the four counties regarding program icons on their desktops for patron's usage. Since July 1, 2019, 210 customers have registered for "SkillUp" and 129 of those have completed their selected programs.
- c. Mr. Plympton informed the group that the FAME 2020 Annual Event has been postponed until the fall due to COVID-19.
- d. Mr. Sloan shared that FLCC will not have face to face classes and all will be moved online. Student's spring break will be extended by one week and they will be given the option to stay in student housing if their situation requires. Some programs that train off-site will follow the lead of that location, as far as in person classes taking place.

Next meeting: Friday, June 12, 2020, FLWIB Offices, Conference Room B

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer May, Executive Assistant