

FINGER LAKES WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 8:30-10:00am

Via Zoom

ATTENDANCE:

Members: Kathy Baker, Pete Bekisz, Jennifer DeVault, Bob Doeblin, Sarah Eighmey, Tom Facer, Michelle Jungermann, Richard House, Michael Kauffman, Danielle Maloy, Michael Manikowski, John Mueller, Dr. Robert Nye, Lori Parish, Joseph Pellerite, Bonnie Percy, Rick Plympton, Dr. Vicky Ramos, Christi Rollo, Mitch Rowe, Michael Rusinko, Eileen Tiberio

Guests: Joseph Davis, Andrea McGraw, John Vrabel, Mike Whirtley

Staff: Jordan Bates, Lynn Freid, Amanda Lesterhuis, Jen May, Debbie Sowards, Michael Woloson

Absent: Lina Brennan, Zachary Brooks, Mike Davis, Julia Murphy, Karen Springmeier, Karen Tyler, Jona Wright

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

Ms. Freid took this opportunity to introduce herself as the incoming Executive Director; her tenure will commence with the retirement of Ms. Springmeier in February. Ms. Freid also gave a brief overview of her experience in the workforce development system.

ECONOMIC NEWS AND UPDATES:

Economic Issues/Trends/Concerns:

Dairy/Agriculture – Mr. Mueller shared that the Willow Bend field team is now indoors, working on equipment and other winter projects. He stated that 2021 looks to be about the same as 2020 as far as pricing, and will be dependent on demand; COVID restrictions and restaurant closings could adversely affect demand for dairy products. Ms. Eighmey reported that bottling will begin at Anthony Road at the end of February, beginning of March and the wines will be beautiful, especially the reds.

Advanced Manufacturing – Mr. Plympton reported to the group that the sector is robust at the moment. Many companies have increased hiring and training. Companies are also learning to more effectively, to adhere to COVID restrictions.

Healthcare – Ms. DeVault revealed that Thompson Health hospitals are full, but going steady. The hospital system has not stopped elective surgeries and all locations are engaged in vaccinating staff, with 70% now vaccinated. They are also running vaccine clinics for essential workers.

Banking – Mr. Rusinko stated that the new round of Paycheck Protection Program loans has begun and The Lyons National Bank is assisting. With the first round, there was a great deal of fear that money would run out and there were many questions about the program. Mr. Rusinko reported that this round is different, in that there are fewer questions. Those businesses not part of the first round have “first draw” of the second round. “Second draw” will consist of businesses that received a loan during the first round and can show a need for additional funds. Ms. Parish stated that Generations Bank is also assisting with the program.

Privilege of the Floor:

Mr. Manikowski spoke of being stunned to learn of the passing of Peter Pecor. Mr. Pecor was a longtime friend of the workforce community, serving as the Executive Director of the Monroe Workforce Investment Board. Mr. Manikowski wanted to offer his condolences to Mr. Pecor’s family and recognize his great service to the community. On behalf of Ms. Springmeier, Ms. Freid shared that Mr. Pecor and Ms. Springmeier were great friends and Ms. Springmeier acting as his “work wife” and keeping Mr. Pecor “in line”. Mr. Pecor will be greatly missed by all.

New Business/Consent Agenda

Approval of Minutes from the November 18, 2020 meeting

Resolution #08-20 Amendment of FLWIB Budget July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Resolution #09-20 Approval to Enter into the Finger Lakes Memorandum of Understanding for
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023

A motion to approve minutes from the November 18, 2020 meeting was made by Mr. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Manikowski. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion to approve Resolution 08-20 was made by Mr. Rusinko and seconded by Mr. Pellerite. All in favor, motion carried.

A motion to approve Resolution 09-20 was made by Michelle Jungermann and seconded by Dr. Nye. All in favor, motion carried.

In lieu of a formal presentation, stories and sentiments regarding Ms. Springmeier were shared by Mr. Plympton, Ms. Jungermann, Mr. Manikowski, Dr. Ramos, Dr. Nye, Mr. Pellerite, Ms. Freid, Mr. Woloson and Mr. Rusinko. A recording of these remarks can be found at

https://fingerlakesworks.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/FLWIB_Meeting_1-20-21_Recording.mp4.

COMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance & Audit Committee – Mr. Doeblin stated that the committee last met on December 30th and reviewed current fiscal reports and recommended approval of Resolution 08-20. The committee will meet again on January 27th.

Governance & Membership Committee – Mr. Manikowski welcomed the two new members, Ms. Rollo of Rochester Regional Health and Ms. Tyler of ITT. He and Ms. Freid reported that there are two board vacancies in Seneca County, now that Blair Morgan has left her position with del Lago. She has recommended her replacement to the Board. Additionally, Ms. Brennan has been assisting Ms. Springmeier in finding a healthcare representative. Maria Fisher has also left her position on the Board, leaving a workforce vacancy. With the retirement of Deb Culeton, a vacancy also exists in Ontario County. Mr. Manikowski stated that the committee and Ms. Freid will work on finding replacements.

Marketing & Communications – Ms. Freid reported that at the December 16th meeting, the committee reviewed currently used OJT testimonials and discussed the need to update and market them to both businesses and jobseekers. The committee also reviewed the Committee Purpose Statement and approved updates. During the meeting, Mr. Plympton and Ms. Springmeier mentioned their contact with the National Women's Hall of Fame (NWHF) regarding partnership between the two agencies. The agency will be contacted again once a new NWHF Executive Director is in place.

Performance & Evaluation – Ms. Freid stated that at the January 5th meeting, the committee discussed the available and upcoming online learning platforms: SkillUp Finger Lakes, Coursera, Future Skills Exchange and Credential Engine. As Ms. Freid has stepped down from her position on the board, a new committee chair is needed. Ms. Freid will continue to chair the committee until a replacement is named. The committee will meet again on February 22nd.

Economic Development Committee – Mr. Manikowski shared that at the December 18th meeting, the committee was provided a presentation about Remote/Independent Workers and their impact on the local economy by Peter Fairweather of Fairweather Consulting. The next meeting is scheduled for March 12th.

Youth – Ms. Parish stated that the committee last met in November and will meet again on March 10th. The scheduled January meeting did not take place due to school breaks and virtual learning schedules.

FAME – Mr. Plympton noted that FAME is currently considering a virtual format for the next annual event and that G.W. Lisk and Optimax have partnered with Flint BOCES on a microscope project, which is allowing the students to make the microscopes. Mr. Plympton also informed the committee that BOCES tech centers are creating virtual tours of local manufacturers. Additionally, the FAME scholarship account did well in 2020 and the balance is now over \$60,000, thanks in part to recent donations by Sam Samanta, Advanced Atomization Technology and Parlec.

Director's Report – On behalf of Ms. Springmeier, Ms. Freid recognized former Board member Deb Culeton. Ms. Culeton recently retired and stepped down from the Board after 19.5 years of service. Ms. Culeton served as a member of the Youth Committee, Chair of Marketing, on the Executive Committee and as past Chairperson. Ms. Culeton was also recently recognized in a Finger Lakes Features article. With the retirement of Ms. Culeton, a new Marketing Chair is needed.

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Next Board Meeting – Wednesday, March 17, 2021, *via Zoom*

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Rusinko and seconded by Mr. Pellerite. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer May, Executive Assistant