

Pam Lancaster
CEOB Chair

Lisa Wilson
GNWDB Chair

Meeting Minutes – Greater Nebraska Workforce Development Board Executive Committee

Monday, September 9, 2019

DURATION: 1:06 pm to 1:29 pm (CST)

LOCATIONS:

Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL)
203 East Stolley Park, Suite A
Grand Island, NE 68801

Crow Butte Resources
86 Crow Butte Road
Crawford, NE 69339

Lincoln Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Center (JATC)
1415 Old Farm Road
Lincoln, NE 68512

Collins Aerospace
2800 Division Avenue
York, NE 68467

Kearney Public Library
Large Study Room
2020 1st Avenue
Kearney, NE 68847

Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL)
5109 W Scott Road, Suite 413
Beatrice, NE 68310

CALL TO ORDER:

Lisa Wilson, Greater Nebraska Workforce Development Board (GNWDB) Chair, called the meeting of the GNWDB Executive Committee to order at approximately 1:06 pm. on Monday, September 9, 2019.

ROLL CALL:

A quorum was established with 4 members present at the time of roll call.

GNWDB Members Present (7):

Denise Pfeifer
Jill Smith
Karen Stohs
Lisa Wilson
Greta Kickland
Roy Lamb II
Stacey Weaver

Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) Staff in Attendance (3):

Kelsey Miller, Workforce Services Administrator, Business Services & Special Projects
Ashley Mathers, Greater Nebraska JT Program Coordinator
Yvette Montes Jung, Recorder/Staff Assistant

Guests in Attendance (2):

Randy Kissinger, Region 3-Grand Island Regional Manager
Erin Cooper, Workforce Services Administrator, Job Seeker Services

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION:

Adequate legal notice of this meeting was posted in the Beatrice Daily Sun, the Grand Island Independent, and the Scottsbluff Star-Herald. The record reflects that the notice was published in accordance with the Open Meetings Act requirement and published in the Greater Nebraska area. A copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act was available at this meeting and can be obtained from administrative staff.

Meeting agendas, minutes, and handouts for this meeting, or any of the standing committees, are also available online at www.dol.nebraska.gov under the heading **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act > Local Workforce Development Areas > Greater Nebraska.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jill Smith motioned to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2019 GNWDB Executive Committee Meeting, as distributed, and Denise Pfeifer seconded. The motion carried with 4 yea's in favor, 0 nay's against, 0 abstains, and 3 absences.

Meeting Minutes	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Greta Kickland				X
Roy Lamb II				X
Denise Pfeifer	X			
Jill Smith	X			
Karen Stohs	X			
Stacey Weaver				X
Lisa Wilson	X			
	4	0	0	3

NEW BUSINESS

Kelsey Miller presented an overview of the Nebraska Disaster Recovery Employment Program (DREP) Grant. As a result of the March 2019 flooding disaster, funds are available to offer temporary employment to unemployed persons for the purpose of restoring public infrastructure and services to enable businesses and employment activities to resume to business as usual. The grant would assist individuals that were temporarily dislocated, self-employed, under-employed, or long-term unemployed, as defined by the State, as a result of the March disaster. Worksites damaged by the March disaster are eligible and damage to worksites stemming from the flooding in June or July are not. Worksites are limited to public entities and private, non-profit facilities located in a county listed in the press release to include cities, counties, state parks, city parks, and non-profit organizations. Eligible worksites would hire qualified dislocated workers and be reimbursed up to one year at 100% of paid wages. All NDOL regional managers and their staff were tasked to conduct extensive outreach and contacted over 100 different locations. Findings were limited and included employers not currently working on projects, work hasn't gone out for bid, projects have already been completed, employers not interested in hiring additional help or dislocated workers, or projects haven't yet started.

Randy Kissinger reported contact with 13 different municipalities, counties, and communities in his region and reported employers are not currently doing the work, doing the work with their own staff, have already done most of the work themselves, have not let bids, or not sure if they will let bids in the future. Only 1 potential small project at Harlan County Lake was found.

Karen Stohs stated she received similar responses from the cities, counties and municipalities she contacted and the work had already been done, employers didn't need additional people because they had enough of their own staff, and contractors were not going to bid those jobs.

Kelsey Miller reported the application is due on September 10, 2019. The State has until Friday, September 13, 2019 to collect the information from Greater Nebraska and submit the final application. Greater Omaha and Greater Lincoln both voted against applying for the funds.

Lisa Wilson and Kelsey Miller discussed if it made sense to apply for the funds based on the outreach results. NDOL has Dislocated Worker funds available through WIOA and Trade & Economic Transition which is state-wide. Through the other two funding sources, they are not able to hire dislocated workers and place them into temporary positions. The grant would allow for some flexibility for placement but they are having difficulty finding anyone impacted and dislocated by the flooding.

Jill Smith and Kelsey Miller discussed the implications if the grant is not used now. The State has the option to return the funds to the federal government and the only foreseeable repercussion would be a red mark on the State's future applications for discretionary grants. Specifically to Nebraska Department of Labor, not Greater Nebraska.

Lisa Wilson and Kelsey Miller discussed the likely outcomes of accepting the grant funds were the possibility of not being able to utilize the funds due to lack of qualified workers, the amount of return versus the amount of work it will require to administer the grant, and returning the funds to the State and eventually to the federal government.

Erin Cooper commented on returning the funds if NDOL is unable to use the grant and noted the grant was not easy to administer due to finding workers that met the specific criteria was difficult, the timing of the grant was not ideal, and roadblocks were not anticipated. She is prepared to work with U.S. Department of Labor if the funds are returned now or in the future.

Kelsey Miller added this grant could potentially play a role in their performance. If hiring a dislocated worker that was temporarily unemployed, and placing them into temporary employment, they would have to keep that worker until the worker reaches full-time, permanent employment status so they enter into their performance for wage match and obtained employment.

Without further discussion on this item, Lisa Wilson asked for a motion to approve the application for the Nebraska Disaster Recovery Employment Program (DREP) Grant. No one moved to approve the application for the grant.

Roy Lamb II moved to not approve submitting the DREP application, Jill Smith seconded. The motion carried with 6 yea's in favor, 0 nay's against, 0 abstains, and 1 absence.

DREP	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Greta Kickland	X			
Roy Lamb II	X			
Denise Pfeifer	X			
Jill Smith	X			
Karen Stohs	X			
Stacey Weaver				X
Lisa Wilson	X			
	6	0	0	1

Ashley Mathers presented the local plan modification for the Youth Program 50/50 Waiver. The State approved waiving the requirement that State's expend at least 75% of youth funds on Out-of-School Youth (OSY) and allow calculation of the OSY expenditures rate at the State level rather than within each local area. In accordance with Employment and Training Administration's approval on June 21, 2019, Nebraska can lower the OSY funds to 50% and the State can calculate the 50% OSY expenditure requirement at the State level. In-School (ISY) funds would also be at 50% allowing more opportunities for Pre-Apprenticeship, Youth Registered Apprenticeship, and Jobs for American Graduates. Greater Nebraska would set a goal to assist at least six participants

in one of these special categories. Currently, expenditures are set at 80% for OSY and 20% for ISY. The waiver is approved through June 30, 2020. If the plan is approved by this committee, the extra 30% transferred to the ISY program, would fund six or seven special participant projects in the Pre-Apprenticeship, Youth Registered Apprenticeship, and Jobs for American Graduates programs throughout Greater Nebraska.

Committee members did not have any questions or comments on this item. Lisa Wilson asked for a motion to approve the Youth 50/50 Waiver.

Stacey Weaver moved to approve the Youth 50/50 Waiver, Greta Kickland seconded. The motion carried with 7 yea's in favor, 0 nay's against, 0 abstains, and 0 absences.

Youth 50/50	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Greta Kickland	X			
Roy Lamb II	X			
Denise Pfeifer	X			
Jill Smith	X			
Karen Stohs	X			
Stacey Weaver	X			
Lisa Wilson	X			
	7	0	0	0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

MEETING DATES:

Upcoming meetings for GNWDB & Chief Elected Officials Board (CEOB).

October 24, 2019 – Holthus Convention Center, York, NE

January 23, 2020 – TBD, Kearney, NE

May 28, 2020 – TBD, Ogallala, NE

ADJOURNMENT:

Roy Lamb II motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1:29 p.m., Denise Pfeifer seconded. The motion carried with 7 yea's in favor, 0 nay's against, 0 abstains, and 0 absences.

Adjournment	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Greta Kickland	X			
Roy Lamb II	X			
Denise Pfeifer	X			
Jill Smith	X			
Karen Stohs	X			
Stacey Weaver	X			

Lisa Wilson	X			
	7	0	0	0

DRAFT

