

**Employer Engagement Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2023**

The Employer Engagement Committee Meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Cary Robbins, Committee Chair. Roll Call was taken.

NAME	ABSENT	PRESENT	NAME	ABSENT	PRESENT
Mary Boogemans	X		Cary Robbins		X
Tracy Morris		X	Deana Jones		X
Kevin Lindeman	X		Kris Noble		X
Patty Head		X	Jesse Nauman		X
Tera Bedei		X	Jim Hancock	X	
Palani Sakthi	X				

OTHERS PRESENT: Dianna Schuler

Business Meeting

Introduction of New Members at Large

Dianna introduced Jesse Nauman from LW Schneider in Princeton and Tera Bedai from US Truck Body in Streator. She also mentioned that Jim Hancock from IMEC and Palani Sakthi from Castor Healthcare will be joining as Member at Large as well.

Approval of Minutes

Patty Head motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes from April 4, 2023. Deana Jones seconded the motion. Roll call vote was taken.

NAME	Yes	No	NAME	Yes	No
Mary Boogemans			Kris Noble	X	
Cary Robbins	X		Deana Jones	X	
Tracy Morris	X		Tera Bedei	X	
Kevin Lindeman			Jesse Nauman	X	
Patty Head	X		Jim Hancock		
Palani Sakthi					

Motion carried.

Business Services Report

Dianna stated that the Business Services Report is informational only. She did remind members that it is only Title 1 reporting.

Regional Business Services Team and Apprenticeship Update:

Dianna reported that the Regional Business Services Team met in July with the purpose of discussing the new Apprenticeship Expansion Grant. Both Local Workforce Area 4 (BEST) and Local Workforce

Area 13 received fund through this grant opportunity. The meeting focused on discussions around each area’s plan for implementation of their respective grants and to set a referral strategy to the local areas’ point person for outreach. A second such event was also held with BEST’s local chambers and economic developers.

Dianna informed the committee that BEST had finally received a signed copy of the grant and can now move forward spending the funds on the items she outlined during the meeting:

- Staff have been working with Jo Carroll Energy and Morrison Institute of Technology (MIT) to standup a set of apprenticeship standard for broadband technicians at Jo Carroll Energy. Costs will include train the trainer training through the National Broadband Association, materials for hands on training at MIT, and the cost of the training curriculum for up to 7 employees at Jo Carroll Energy. Nondisclosure agreement need to be signed with the National Broadband Association before moving forward with completing the apprenticeship standards.
- Wolf Line Construction is currently training 7 to 8 of their employees through regular WIOA Incumbent Worker funds while their standards are being built to meet Illinois requirements including Anti-Sexual Harassment Training and Safety Training.
- Outreach to the rest of the 8 counties is also including and covering a portion of our 3 business service team members. We have a couple additional businesses already that have expressed interest in apprenticeship development. Dianna included that, this time around, outreach encompasses all Work Based Learning outreach: Incumbent Worker Training, On the Job Training, and subsidized Work Experience. So all our outreach is countable toward our grant goals.
- Staff will begin Talent Pipeline Management training as part of the new grant. This is a program that the US Chamber of Commerce developed and it begins October 10th.
- A press release was sent out to all area media, economic development organizations, and to the local chambers to announce the grant opportunity.

Other Business

Selection of a new committee chair due to Cary’s retirement in December 2023. Deana Jones made a motion to accept Patty Head as the new chair. Kris Noble seconded the motion. Roll Call vote was taken.

NAME	Yes	No	NAME	Yes	No
Mary Boogemans			Kris Noble	X	
Cary Robbins	X		Deana Jones	X	
Tracy Morris	X		Tera Bedei	X	
Kevin Lindeman			Jesse Nauman	X	
Patty Head	X		Jim Hancock		
Palani Sakthi					

Motion carried.

Public Comment

Everyone Thanks Cary for his years of service to NCI Works and wished him a happy retirement.

Adjournment

It was motioned by Kris Noble and seconded by Cary Robins to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

Next meeting will be the first Tuesday of February 2024.

Dianna Schuler