

Minutes
Local Elected Officials/Grow Southwest Indiana Workforce Board
8:30 a.m. CDT, April 23, 2021
Zoom Meeting

WDB Members Present:

Makenzie Coulter	Michelle Schaefer	Darin Lander	Bob Birge
Heather Watts	Marcia Forston	Theo Boots	Terry Marsh
Chris Thorsen	Lawrence Taylor	Jon Keck	Chris Pfaff
Sara Worstell	Amy O'Dell	David St. Clair	Drew Gerth
Jason Nord	Kyla Dowell	Sue Habig	

Chief Local Elected Officials Present:

Mayor Steve Schwinghamer	Commissioner Ken Montgomery	Mayor Joe Yochum
Commissioner Ben Shoulders		

Elected Officials Present:

Mayor Lloyd Winnecke	Ashley Davis for Senator Todd Young
Allie Johnston for Congressman Larry Buschon	

Others Present:

Carla Crowe	Nancy Schroering	Jody Robinson	Bryan Norman
Kim Stevenson	Michael Thomas		

Staff Present:

Kay Johnson	Dana Gustafson	Mary Hamilton	Linda Jones
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Call to Order: The Local Elected Officials Zoom meeting was called to order by Chair Makenzie Coulter at 8:32 a.m. Central Time.

Welcome: Makenzie Coulter expressed appreciation to everyone in attendance and thanked those in attendance for their continued support before introducing guest speaker Jeff Whiteside, Talent 2025 Executive Director.

Guest Speaker: Jeff Whiteside's presentation included the composition of the Evansville Regional Business Committee, the target initiatives and data trend indicators beginning with 2005. Also included in the presentation were three objectives: 1) identify performance indicators, 2) establish goals that can focus investment and 3) align public and private sectors behind indicators and goals. Jeff Whiteside shared his power point outlining Talent 2025 in much greater detail.

Fund Diversification and Development Plan: Makenzie Coulter stated during the last few years federal funding has decreased requiring the need for the WDB to diversify funding and to develop a new plan. The plan will include rebranding and moving the WDB in a new direction.

LEO Roll Call: Four Chief Elected Officials were present for roll call.

Elected Officials' Roles/Responsibility Overview: Makenzie Coulter gave an overview of the Chief Elected Officials duties and responsibilities as outlined in the Chief Elected Officials' Agreement.

Elected of Regional Chief Elected Official: Mayor Steve Schwinghamer nominated Mayor Joe Yochum to serve as the Regional Chief Elected Official.

Mayor Steve Schwinghamer motioned to elect Mayor Joe Yochum Region 11's Chief Elected Official. Commissioner Ben Shoulders seconded. Motion passed. **LEO 2020-01**

Adjournment:

Mayor Joe Yochum motioned to adjourn the Local Elected Officials portion of the meeting. Ken Montgomery seconded. Motion passed. **LEO 2020-02**

WDB Roll Call: Quorum of 19 WDB members present.

Additional Agenda Items: None

Consent Agenda:

WDB Minutes: Makenzie Coulter asked for comments or questions on the March 26, 2021 minutes.

Executive Committee: Makenzie Coulter reported the committee received and reviewed committees' reports.

Finance Committee: Lawrence Taylor reported the committee is closely reviewing grants to expire June 30, 2021 to ensure maximum use of funding. The committee also discussed two questions asked by the Fund Development Committee.

Operations Committee: Michelle Schaefer reported the committee reviewed reports and discussed increasing placements. The discussion included getting those filing for unemployment to meet with case managers. Michelle Schaefer reported new training opportunities at IVY TECH such as OSHA.

Business Services Committee: Sue Habig reported the committee discussed the Drive thru Job Fair in Jasper and one scheduled in Vincennes May 20th. Next Level Jobs will be starting in July.

Youth Committee: Makenzie Coulter reported the committee reviewed the monthly reports and focused on how the neighborhood associations could help. The committee discussed the misalignment of what is thought to be the needs of youth versus the real needs such transportation and childcare barriers. Rebranding was discussed and the need for JAG expansion.

Staff Report: Sara Worstell reported on work with Talent 2025 committees: Education Attainment, Ascend Network and Poverty and Stability group work. Registered apprenticeship discussion with So. INFAME and Perry Central High School.

WDB Consent Agenda: The Board reviewed the consent agenda items with no concerns.

Sue Habig motioned to approve all items in the consent agenda including:

- *WDB Minutes –March 26, 2021*
- *Executive Committee Minutes – March 19, 2021*
- *Finance Committee Minutes -March 19, 2021 and Financial Reports - March 31, 2021*
- *Operations Committee Minutes - March 19, 2021 and Reports - March 31, 2021*
- *Business Services Committee Minutes - March 19, 2021*
- *Youth Committee Minutes – March 19, 2021 and Reports – March 31, 2021*
- *WDB Staff Report*

Amy O'Dell seconded. Motion passed.

WDB 2020-22

New Business:

Slate of Officers: The slate is: Chair – Makenzie Coulter, Vice-Chair – Sue Habig, Secretary – Jason Nord, Lawrence Taylor – Treasurer.

Sue Habig motion to elect the slate of officers as presented. Jon Keck seconded. Motion passed.

WDB 2020-23

DWD Update: Bob Birge reported the State Budget was approved and DWD received requested funding. DWD asks for testimonials from customers of their successes. The DWD website has an unemployment insurance data dashboard. Makenzie Coulter stated companies are facing challenges filling open positions due to the relief packages noting they were very much needed early but now having a serious impact and asked what can companies do to influence a change. Bob Birge stated one important step is the work search requirement and he would share Region 11 concerns.

Old Business: None

Executive Director Update: Sara Worstell's update included the Evansville and Jasper offices move and having rotating teams to address Covid requirements. The Business Team processed Employer Training Grants totaling \$2,000,000 and noted new grants will be available in July. An Employment Recovery Grant has provided a Case Manager to travel to counties without WorkOne offices such as the Pike Co Working Space.

Public Comment: Sue Habig congratulated Sara Worstell on completing the Masters program recognizing the amount of work required while working.

<p><i>Jason Nord motioned to adjourn at 9:37 am Central Time. Sue Habig seconded. Motion passed.</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">WDB-2020-24</p>

Jason Nord
Jason Nord, Workforce Development Board Secretary

May 24, 2021
Date