



MINUTES OF THE EWIB MEETING

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2011
8:00 A.M.

Members Present: Pete Connair, Emmett ‘Gene’ Harper, Jacqueline Korengel, Cynthia Lamb, Michelle Landry, Tina Rice, Andrea Stillman, Donna Weisenberger, Jim Butler, Karen Eichstaedt, Shelly Giménez, *Marge Valentin*, Marion Lynch, John Markowicz, Rhonda Mathieu, & Ross Tomlin.

Staff Present: John Beauregard, Carol LaBelle, Virginia Sampietro, Guy Saporito, & Sheila Taurianen.

Others Present: Cheryl Egan, Pat Dixe, Cindy Chester, Roger Mason, & Kathy Crees.

Call to Order

Chairman Harper called the meeting to order at 8:14 a.m.

Public Comment

None.

Acceptance of Previous Minutes

A **MOTION** was made to accept the minutes of the November 23, 2010 EWIB Board of Directors meeting, as presented (*LAMB/BUTLER*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

CETC Report

None.

Correspondence/Communications

Mr. Beauregard reviewed the following three (3) items:

1. **“Norwich Bulletin” Editorial Article** – December 13, 2010 article, *“Board a strong resource for workers ~ Our View: The Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board is deserving of the recognition it has received,”* overviews EWIB’s recent award for its online training innovations & notes the importance of EWIB’s numerous partnerships throughout the region.
2. **CTDOL Quarterly Desk Review Letter** – Recaps last year’s end of year WIA performance. The East met or exceeded all Adult, Dislocated Worker, & Youth performance measures.
3. **CT Workforce Development Council (CWDC) Legislative Letter** – The Council submitted its priorities for this legislative session to the heads of the Legislative Committees of Cognizance & Appropriations Committee, in an attempt to maintain both the Summer Youth & Incumbent Worker Training (*IWT*) programs in the upcoming budget.

Chairman/Executive Director Report

- Financial Update – Mr. Saporito provided an audit review, noting that this past fiscal year was a milestone year with revenue up to \$9.7 million. He outlined the Board’s growth in revenue while holding overhead in-check, thus dropping Admin & Oversight costs to 11%, which resulted in a regional investment rate of 89%, an increase of nearly \$3.4 million from the prior fiscal year.

Executive Directors Report

Referred to two (2) Hartford Business Journal.com articles: **1)** Jan. 17, 2011, “*Report: CT’s annual employment growth expected to be worst in country,*” which states that the State’s annual employment growth is expected to be the slowest nationally through 2016; and, **2)** Jan. 21, 2011, “*Economist: CT added some 2K jobs in Dec.*” which quotes a leading state economist, Don Klepper-Smith, commenting on the State’s tepid job growth, which it may not recover from until 2019.

Mr. Beauregard provided the group with a presentation entitled, “*Looking Forward’ ~ Current economic conditions and the factors that will shape future labor market success.*”

- Current Regional Labor Market Activity – Over the last 12 months the region has experienced a slight labor market deterioration
- Areas Impacting Us
 - The use of temporary employees has increased significantly when compared to the last recession, due to a lack of business confidence
 - The number of individuals on long term Unemployment Insurance (UI) has exploded to more than 6.3M, which is more than 3x the number of long-term unemployed workers than any other recent recession.
 - It’s taking increasingly longer to recover from each recession (*when looking at the last five (5) recessions and the length of time it took to return to peak employment*)
 - Consumer confidence is currently at nearly half the level it was pre-Recession (*52.2 Dec 2010 vs. 90.6 Dec 2007 ~ Note: 80.0 is the goal for “Recovery” mode*)
 - With New England currently at a level of 48 (*below national levels*), we remain 25-30 points from “*Real Economic Recovery,*” and this may be an indication why recovery in our area is slower.
- Job Recovery – CT’s job recovery could be one (1) of three (3) scenarios: **1) Moderately Strong** – Recovery just before 2014; **2) Weak** – Recovery by 2016; and, **3) Very Weak** – Recovery by 2019. Although it’s unclear exactly when the jobs will return to their pre-Recession levels, the skill requirements for those jobs will be much different, necessitating the need to continue exploring out-of-the-box ways to keep people learning and continually moving ahead.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee Report

Committee Chairman Harper reported that the Committee met on January 13th where they discussed:

- Audit Acceptance – Mr. Saporito recapped the Independent Auditor’s Report, noting that the Audit Sub-Committee reviewed the draft report on 12/7/10, prior to recommending it to the Executive Committee for approval. No findings or material weaknesses were found. A **MOTION** was made to approve EWIB’s 2009/2010 Independent Audit Report, as presented (**MARKOWICZ/STILLMAN**). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.
- EWIB Budget & Certificate of Incorporation Modifications – Recommendations were made to: **1)** increase the FY10/11 budget by \$21K to continue temporary support through 6/30/11; and, **2)** modify the Certificate of Incorporation to authorize all officers to act as signatories on contracts, modifications, and checks. A **MOTION** was made to increase EWIB’s FY10/11 Budget by \$21K, and amend the Certificate of Incorporation to authorize all officers to sign all contracts, modifications, & checks, as presented (**MARKOWICZ/BUTLER**). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

Youth Council Report

Council Co-Chair Landry reported that the group met on January 13th where Mel Olsson was unanimously nominated as Co-Chair. Staff is working with EASTCONN to identify the required individuals to join the Council (*eligible youth & parent*), which was highlighted during USDOL’s recent monitoring. The group was provided an overview of the Adult Literacy Improvement Plan, & EASTCONN reported on the WIA In-School (*Healthcare, Green, and STEM focus*) & Out-of-School (*STEM focus*) Youth programs. The Council also discussed EWIB’s on-going effort with CT State Department

of Education (*SDE*) to align high schools, colleges, & workforce development programs within the State.

An advocacy session for the summer youth program is being planed for Jan 10th at the Legislative Office Building.

Negotiations are underway with the Bureau of Rehab. Services (*BRS*) for the 2011 Summer Youth Program, as well as a small WIA Summer Youth Program. Budgets are being developed and will be finalized soon. The combined program total is expected to be ~\$150K.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Mr. Beauregard reviewed the following EWIB Resolution with the Board:

- **EWIB-11-01 (On-the-Job Training NEG Grant)** – This National Emergency Grant (*NEG*) item had been previously approved, however, due to a delay in the Board's receipt of the contract, a change in Chairmanship has occurred, necessitating a new Board Resolution. A **MOTION** was made to approve Board Resolution EWIB-11-01, as presented (*BUTLER/LAMB*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

Adjournment

A **MOTION** was made to adjourn the meeting (*EICHSTAEDT/LAMB*). **ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 A.M.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted for Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board Secretary James S. Butler by Executive Assistant, Sheila R. Taurianen.