

**Workforce Investment Board**  
**Dept of Workforce Investment, Large Conference Rm**  
**1880 W. Wardrobe Ave, Merced, CA**  
**September 18, 2008, 3:00-5:00 p.m.**  
**Meeting Minutes**



<http://www.mercedwib.com/>

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**Members Present:**

Lee Andersen  
Kathleen Crookham  
Debra Glass  
David Long  
Alfonse Peterson  
Vann (Mike) Smith

Andrea Baker  
Ernie Flores  
Darren Hughes  
Albert Montejano  
Al Romero  
Mike Sullivan

Brenda Callahan-Johnson  
Peter Fluetsch  
Henry Ildefonso  
Steve Newvine  
Loretta Schlosser

**Members Absent:**

Bob Bittner  
Carol Greenberg  
Joseph Lombardi  
John Stewart

Edward Dietz  
Amalee Jayasinghe  
Terry Nichols  
Nancy Ugarte

Rennise Ferrario  
Garith Krause  
Rick Osorio

**Others Present:**

Brian Cutler  
Alfredo Mendoza

Eddie Harding  
Joanne Presnell

Patricia Hinson  
Jackie Walther-Parnell

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1. Call to Order/Roll Call – The Chair, Mr. Albert Montejano, noted at 3:10 p.m., there was no quorum so the board would listen to the first discussion (item 7.a. below). After the discussion, the Chair called the meeting to order at 3:20 p.m. Roll call was taken.
2. Approval of Agenda – It was *M/S/C Peterson/Flores* to approve the agenda.
3. Approval of Minutes – It was *M/S/C Romero/Peterson* to approve the July 10, 2008 minutes.
4. Public Opportunity to Speak – None.
5. Consent Agenda: It was *M/S/C Ildefonso /Newvine* to approve items a. through c. of the Consent Agenda.
  - a. Domain Name for Workforce Investment Board Website
  - b. Merced County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
  - c. Technology-Based Learning Grant
6. Action Agenda:
  - a. Youth Council Membership – Sam Rangel: It was *M/S/C Andersen/Ildefonso* to approve the nomination, and forward to the Board of Supervisors for approval.
  - b. Amendment to Merced College PLATO Lab Contract: It was *M/S/C Ildefonso/Flores* to approve the amendment to Merced College Westside PLATO Lab contract due to the modification of Employment Services Contract No. 200414 (CalWORKs), and forward to Board of Supervisors for approval.
7. Discussion Agenda:

a. **WIB Retreat:** Staff noted the WIB retreat is scheduled for November 13, 2008, 12:00 to 5:00 p.m., 1880 W. Wardrobe Avenue. The date is the same date as the scheduled WIB meeting for the month of November. The topics will be determined by an email poll of WIB member's preferences. Ms. Virginia Hamilton with the California Workforce Association will be the facilitator. Lunch will be provided.

**8. Presentations:**

**2 Million Minutes:** The WIB members viewed a video documenting six (U.S., China, India) high school students from freshman to senior and how they each spend their time preparing for their future.

**9. Member Committee Reports:**

a. **Youth Council:** Staff noted the Youth Council was provided information by Ms. Eldonna Caudill on the Tulare County Youth Transitions Program. Tulare County has a program that assists youth in transitioning to adult roles and responsibilities. Tulare County also shared their efforts in creating a youth focused-website designed by youth. Mr. Lee Andersen has been invited to attend the next Youth Council meeting and provide information about the school system in Merced County.

b. **P-16 Council:** Mr. Lee Andersen noted the committee will start to meet again. The committee will focus on providing access to all students to attend higher education, and continuing success.

c. **BEAM Committee:** Mr. Lee Andersen noted the committee had its first meeting hosted by Hilmar Cheese. Several employers and legislators attended. It was a very good turnout.

d. **Item d added-WIB Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee Meeting:** The Chair asked Mr. Steve Newvine to give a brief report about the Ad Hoc committee meeting. Mr. Newvine noted the meeting had a very good turnout. One of the items members discussed was what can the WIB do with economic development. Businesses throughout the county view the WIB as a valuable resource. Members decided to continue to keep in touch and share information. The Merced Chambers of Commerce will publish information about WIB activities in their newsletter.

**10. Information Agenda:**

- a. Fiscal Reports
- b. Labor Market Information
- c. Connectory.com Training
- d. Letter to Congressman Cardoza regarding HR1332 and YOP
- e. Career Advancement Academy Update
- f. Customer Service & Satisfaction Report
- g. State and LWIA Youth Performance Goals for PY 2007/08
- h. New Start Employment Program

**11. Director's Comments:** Ms. Andrea Baker noted Rapid Response activities are services provided to employers who are forecasting future layoffs or will be closing. Staff and One-Stop partners visit employers and talk to the employees about how Worknet can help them get services needed, and assist in helping them find a new job. As of July '07 to June '08, the County has had nine county businesses to downsize or close and 119 employees affected. Between July and August this year, the county has had six businesses that either laid off or closed, and about 300 employees were affected. So far, for the

month of September there are seven businesses that are involved in layoffs or will close, and 135 employees will be affected. This is a reflection of the economic impact Merced County is going through.

Staff has been assisting new employers in their hiring process by providing services such as Job Fairs, interviewing and screening candidates. Some of the new businesses in Merced County include: Petco, Target, and Tractor Supply.

**12. Chair Comments:** The Chair noted he attended the Annual Meeting of the Minds Conference in Monterey, and was very impressed with the new trend of “jobs going green”. The Chair is pleased with how the Merced County WIB is already moving towards preparing for these new green jobs. The WIB plans to host an event and invite knowledgeable guests who can share information about “going green”.

He noted the focus should be finding ways to retrain employees who have lost their jobs, so the County could maintain its workforce here. He thanked Mr. Alfonse Peterson for bringing the poster “Exploring the Emerging California Workforce Gap,” and thanked everyone for their participation and attendance.

**13. Next Meeting –** Nov 13, 2008, Dept. of Workforce Investment, 1880 W. Wardrobe Ave, Merced.

**14. Adjourn –** Meeting was adjourned 3:45 p.m.