

**Workforce Investment Board
Executive Committee
1880 W. Wardrobe Ave
September 8, 2008, 2008, 7:30-9:00 a.m.
Meeting Minutes**



<http://www.co.merced.ca.us/wi/wib/wib.html>

Members Present:

Kathleen Crookham	Edward Dietz	Rennise Ferrario	Albert Montejano (Chair)
Steve Newwine	Alfonse Peterson	Al Romero	Vann (Mike) Smith

Others Present:

Andrea Baker	Brian Cutler	Patricia Hinson	Alfredo Mendoza
Joanne Presnell			

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1. Call to Order/Roll Call: The Chair, Mr. Albert Montejano, called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m. Roll call was taken.
 2. Approval of Agenda: It was *M/S/C Romero/Ferrario* to approve the agenda as published.
 3. Approval of Minutes: It was *M/S/C Smith/Peterson* to approve the August 4, 2008 minutes.
 4. Public Opportunity to Speak: None.
 5. Action Agenda:
 - a. Technology-Based Learning Grant: It was *M/S/C Peterson/Romero* to approve the submission of the Technology-Based Learning Grant to Department of Labor in the amount of \$500,000 entitled "Merced Industrial Automation Technologies".
 - b. Incentive Funds: This action item was tabled until October 6, 2008 meeting.
 6. Discussion:
 - a. Merced County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): Mr. Robert Harmon noted he attended a meeting with Mr. Brian Cutler and Mr. Scott Galbraith to review the content of the CEDS report. Members suggested looking into the possibility of WIB representation at MCEDCO's meetings.
 - b. Regional Survey (Careers in the Valley.com): Staff noted The Central California Workforce Collaborative has conducted an employer survey to determine current and future employer needs in the San Joaquin Valley. The Department of Workforce Investment participated in this study by verifying information as well as adding information to the website. In Merced County, the employment study displays information from 204 County employers from the following primary industries:
 - Agribusiness, including Food Processing, Agriculture and Biotechnology
 - Manufacturing
 - Health and Medical Care
 - Supply Chain Management and Logistics
 - Renewable Energy

The survey results will be released October 1st. Ms. Andrea Baker provided a copy of the employment study template that will be posted on the website: www.careersinthevalley.com.

c. New Start Employment Program: Ms. Joanne Presnell noted the Governor has been working on a four-pronged strategy for bringing rehabilitation programs back into the California corrections system. A phase-in approach is being implemented with Phase III involving all California Workforce Investment Boards (CWIBs) by early 2009. The Local WIBs will be part of this program by providing assessments and placement of offenders in a rehabilitation program and increase offenders' participation in vocational education. The improvement of basic skills, such as reading and math are a primary focus of this program. Merced County has not started this program yet. Ms. Presnell and Ms. Andrea Baker met with Sheriff Pazin to discuss the possibility of starting a pilot program here in Merced County.

Stanislaus County has a similar program called "Friends Outside." Members would like to look at the possibility of inviting someone to come to Merced to help with the start-up of this pilot program. Ms. Baker will contact Stanislaus County and give more information at the next meeting.

d. "Authorization to Sign Documents" Resolution: Staff noted, the CEO's office has provided Workforce Investment with Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) access. AOR will ensure and expedite the approval process when applying for grant opportunities.

7. Reports:

a. Youth Council Report: Ms. Rennise Ferrario was unable to attend the August Youth Council meeting. Ms. Baker was present at the Youth Council meeting and noted Ms. Eldonna Caudill gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Tulare County Youth Transitions Program. Tulare County has a program that assists youth in transitioning to adult roles and responsibilities. Tulare County has a youth website designed by youth.

Ms. Ferrario asked members to recruit a new Youth Chair. Staff will review the WIB bylaws to determine if the Youth Chair is required to be a WIB member from the private sector.

b. Regional Alternative Energy Meeting: Mr. Steve Newvine reported on an Alternative Energy meeting he attended with other counties. Some of the topics discussed were:

- Alternative energy - Representing future job growth in the valley.
- Jobs with public utilities - How the system is changing.

c. Meeting of the Minds in Monterey (MMM): WIB members who attended the statewide meeting shared their experience.

- Mr. Al Peterson was impressed with the Richmond "Green Program-Solar Panel" presentation.
- Mr. Steve Newvine was also impressed with the "Green Program-Solar Panel" presentation.
- Mr. Albert Montejano noted that Greenfield wants to be the first city in California to combine wind and solar power. A number of WIBs are moving toward a vision of "Going Green," and have incorporated into their board, members from the community who are connected with transportation, industry, real estate, builders and utilities.

8. Information:

a. Connectory.com Update: Staff noted there will be a training to learn how to use the Connectory on October 1, 2008, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Department of Workforce Investment, 1880 W Wardrobe Avenue, in Merced.

b. Fiscal reports

9. Director Comments: None

10. Chair Comments: The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and for their input. He also thanked Mr. Robert Harmon for attending the meeting with MCEDCO.

11. Next Meeting: October 6, 2008, Dept of Workforce Investment, Large Conference Room, 1880 W. Wardrobe Ave.

12. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.