

Workforce Investment Board

2222 M Street, Merced, CA

March 17, 2011, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes



**WORKFORCE
INVESTMENT BOARD**
MERCED COUNTY

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

Members Present:

Alfonse Peterson (Chair)
Michael Altomare
Chuck Falkenstein
Edward Dietz
Karen Dower

Loretta Schlosser
Albert Montejano
Peter Fluetsch
Cordell "Corky" Price
Steve Gomes

Debra Glass
Steve Newvine
Joanne Presnell
Greg Vincelet
Rennise Ferrario

Members Absent:

Al Romero
Agustin "Auggie" Beltran
Supervisor Hubert "Hub" Walsh
James Wood Jr.

Henry Ildefonso
Darren Hughes
Ernie Flores
Richard Liszewski

David Spaur
Terry Nichols
Brenda Callahan-Johnson

Others Present:

Andrea Baker
Alfredo Mendoza
Roni Armstrong
Dave Heyer

Brian Cutler
Jackie Walther-Parnell
Teresa Kinney
Michelle Allison

Nancy Havens
Cynthia Mount
Anne McMonigle
Robert Bourke

Start with reports and presentations at 3:06 PM –

1. Call to Order/Roll Call: The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:06 pm and roll call was taken. The Chair introduced new members: Joanne Presnell of Presnell Farms and Steve Gomes, Merced County Superintendent of Schools.
2. Approval of Agenda: It was *M/S/C Fluetsch /Montejano* to approve the Agenda as published.
3. Approval of Minutes: It was *M/S/C Newvine/Montejano* to approve the January 13, 2011 minutes.
4. Public Opportunity to Speak: Teresa Kinney representing Congressman Dennis Cardoza shared that Mr. Cardoza is working closely on mitigating the foreclosure crisis.
5. Consent Agenda: It was *M/S/C Fluetsch/Altomare* to approve the Consent Agenda as submitted;
 - a. Amendment 3 to Green Jobs Corps – Merced Project: To ratify the Executive Committee's decision to approve Amendment 3 to Contract No. 2009216 with the Merced County Office of Education adding \$21,000 of unspent grant funding and extending the contract duration by one month to March 31, 2011. **Mr. Steve Gomes abstained.**
 - b. Amendment 1 to Business Assistance Contract: To ratify the Executive Committee's decision to approve Amendment 1 to the Interdepartmental Agreement with the Merced County Department of Commerce, Aviation, and Economic Development (No. 20-10159) reducing the contract duration to June 30, 2011. **Ms. Loretta Schlosser abstained.**

6. Action Agenda

- a. Enterprise Zone Support – Dave Heyer, Program Manager with the Merced County Department of Workforce Investment presented a request for WIB support and a letter writing campaign. It was *M/S/C Altomare/Dietz, Vincelet voted no*, to support and advocate the continuance of the Merced County Regional Enterprise Zone. It was noted that individual members may also utilize an advocacy link connected to the Enterprise Zone located at <http://www.mercedregionalez.com>.
- b. Youth Council Membership –It was *M/S/C Dietz/Glass* to accept the nomination of Ms. Mary Ann Navarra and forward action for final approval to the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Navarra shall represent Juvenile Justice on the Youth Council and is with the Merced County Probation Department.
- c. WIA Advocacy – Continued –It was *M/S/C Montejano/Dower* to support the effort for advocacy and continued funding of the Workforce Investment Act.
- d. Amendment 4 to Green Jobs Corps – Merced Project: It was *M/S/C Schlosser/Dietz; Mr. Gomes abstained*, to approve Amendment 4 to Contract No. 2009216 with the Merced County Office of Education extending the contract duration by three months to June 30, 2011, and forwarding action to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

7. Presentations

- a. California Labor Federation: Anne McMonigle is working with the North Valley Labor Federation and Building Trade Councils of Merced, Mariposa, Stanislaus and Tuolumne. Ms. McMonigle’s mission is to create a partnership and/or a working “workforce coalition” with economic development, community colleges, and workforce investment boards and focus on regional grant scholarships. Greg Vincelet, Training Coordinator for the Plumbers and Pipe Fitters Union, would like to see how to coordinate using Workkeys to ascertain the aptitude of the jobseeker, and possibly direct the job seeker to the construction industry. The presenters shared that the WIB may be asked to join the California Labor Federation on upcoming grants focused on “green technologies”.
- b. Business Resources Team: Mr. Dave Heyer, Program Manager for WI shared how employer focus groups have shaped services provided to businesses. Mr. Heyer shared how Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) training was requested by businesses and the subsequent partnership between the WIB, Merced College and Rexel Inc. (PLC training provider in Modesto). He added that Computed Tomography classes were started for incumbent workers in the medical field who were looking to upgrade their skills with another training group starting in May.

Another service of the Business Resource Team (BRT) includes Rapid Response activities for businesses that are laying off personnel or closing their doors altogether. The BRT is able to meet with those employees affected and advise them of the various resources available at no cost to the Business or employee.

Ms. Baker informed WIB members that the Bellevue school has been approved and WI received a call from the company that was awarded the project saying they will be working with WI.

- c. Success Story – Michelle Allison introduced Robert Bourke explaining that Merced established a regional contract including Stanislaus, Madera and San Joaquin Counties that provided waste water and water treatment training which Mr. Bourke attended. Mr. Bourke shared his success story with WIB members and thanked everyone including his career coach, Yang Her.

8. Reports

- a. Youth Council : Debra Glass – The Request For Proposal for youth programs was released on March 10th with the deadline for proposals due on April 7th. The program hinges on availability of WIA funding. An ad-hoc committee was formed by the Council to find a way to recognize the companies and/or businesses that have participated with the youth programs in providing work sites for work experience or hiring youth from the youth programs.

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- b. Quality Employment and Development Committee (QUED): Steve Newvine reported that the QUED met earlier in February and discussed some of the advocacy challenges mentioned earlier in the meeting and how the WIB may mobilize to get the message out regarding the importance of Workforce Investment programs.

9. Information

- a. Fiscal Report
- b. Labor Market Information – Unemployment rate as of January is 21.2%
- c. Customer Satisfaction Report – Beginning March 2011, this report shall be collected electronically.
- d. Customer Service Report
- e. Final Performance 2009/2010

10. Director Comments: Ms. Baker shared that Governor Brown has appointed Marty Morgenstern as California's new Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development Agency and Julie Su as the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency Labor Commissioner. The Undersecretary of Labor and Workforce Development Agency is Doug Hoffner. She added that the state proposals may shift agencies around and specifically a proposal may result in moving Economic Development and Labor and Workforce Agency closer.

She added that a green job innovations grant application is being prepared with WI working with Anne McMonigle for a regional pre-apprenticeship program.

The San Joaquin Valley Entrepreneurial Challenge had 65 applicants from 3 counties; 20 were selected to do their first presentation (with 5 from Merced County); two of the 21 finalists were from Merced County – Sun Thermal (new way to do solar energy) and Waterfinds (develop a new way of water distribution with buried pipes that have sensors to tell the water system when to water). She added that Supervisor Walsh welcomed everyone to the first event. The two Merced finalists will present their entrepreneurial ideas at the March 22, 2011 Board of Supervisors meeting. The final event presentations are scheduled for March 23rd from 4:00 to 7:00 pm at the Stockton Country Club (entry cost of \$15 per person). There is cash and service awards totaling \$20,000 for the first and second place winners.

Additionally, Ms. Baker added that Supervisor Cardoza acknowledged the WIBs letter of support for the high speed rail and he stated that he will continue to support the high speed rail for Merced.

11. Chair Comments: The Chair stated that this has been an enlightening meeting having all the union representatives.

Steve Gomes added that the Merced Ahead group is in the process of producing a video promoting Merced County's economical social culture and recreational areas and are currently looking for project sponsors.

12. Next Meeting – May 12, 2011 – Room 310, Merced County Administration Office, 2222 M Street

13. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 4: 13 pm.