

Region 14 Regional Workforce Development Board Meeting
IowaWORKS Center, 215 N Elm, Creston
Official Minutes, January 20, 2020

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jolene Griffith at 6:37 P.M.

Roll Call – Regional Workforce Development Board members present: Jolene Griffith, Ann Schlapia, Karin Freml, Darla Helm, Jane Briley, Katrina Fleharty, Don Keast, Wayne Pantini, and Randall McQueeney. Absent were Dorene Rusk (excused), Billie Jo Greenwalt (excused), Steve Gilbert (excused), Lana McMann, Jason Cook. Ex-Officio member present: Dave Homan. Ex-Officio members absent were Rod Shields, Paul Griffen and Tom Kedley. **RWDB Quorum – Yes.**

County Elected Officials present: Merlin Dixon (Adams Co.), Dan Christensen (Decatur Co.), Charles Ambrose (Taylor Co.), Ron Landphair (Ringgold Co.) and Dave Homan (Adair Co.). Absent were Dennis Brown, excused, (Union Co.); Dean Robins, excused, (Clarke Co.); Rudy Kinard, excused, (Montgomery Co.). **CEO Quorum – Yes.**

WIOA/MATURA staff present: Ron Ludwig and Sue McElwain.

Minutes – Dan made a motion to approve the minutes of the 11/18/19 meeting. Don seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

January Agenda – Dan asked that the Financial Report be added next on the agenda. Don made a motion to accept the January agenda with the Financial Report added next. Jane seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Realignment/Transition Update: Charles Ambrose/Ron Ludwig – The DOL appeal has been approved. The current 15 regions will remain in place for the time being. The next step is for the CEOs to work together to come up with a different configuration to determine how we proceed. Three positions are required, but we don't have job descriptions yet: 1) Fiscal agent (could be the county auditor), 2) One stop operator, 3) Board manager. CEOs have compliance training next week. Dan has heard we are moving forward with the realignment. A lot is up in the air. Our goal is to try to maintain the integrity of this region while coordinating with CEOs from other areas. Need to try to meet the needs of people in rural Iowa. The State has hired a consulting firm. We don't know if this will change their format. Bottom line: the 15 regions are required to become compliant with WIOA guidelines and standards.

Partner Report Updates: Title I – Ron Ludwig – Ticket to Work Update – This program was designed to help individuals receiving SSI/SSDI get back into the workforce. In the past we have helped pay for equipment for employment (safety glasses, steel toed boots, etc.), the smart board, etc. We would like MATURA designated as the TTW provider to put more focus on case management and getting these folks employed. We would hire a full-time staff person to work with individuals in our 8 county region who meet the requirements. This is what the program was designed to be. Charles asked if these are included with Title I dollars? Ron said no, they are separate. There is about \$62,000 in the fund now which could be used for a staff member and to help 12-14 customers who qualify. Social Security will reimburse MATURA. Is anyone else using the money this way? Ron said Des Moines and Waterloo use it this way. Since we are so small, Waterloo would be the employer of record. Darla asked if there would still be an approval process by a committee? Ron said eligibility for the program is based on Social Security's requirements. A report would be given to the Board. Randall asked if we are working with ticket holders here? Ron said if so, it is very passive, it is not case managed. Would Title I staff have their salary supplemented? Yes. Do Title I staff have time to take on more case management? Will this hinder Title I operations? Ron explained it would be a gradual transition. The current 3 staff should be able to handle it. Ann asked if the position would be in the field? Ron said they would operate out of this office, but also do outreach. They would not be limited to our 8 counties. Jolene asked what the recommendation is? Ron would like MATURA designated as the fiscal agent for TTW funds, and for the Board to select MATURA to manage all aspects of the TTW program. Charles asked if the fiscal officer for the Board would be the financial agent for this? Ron thinks this will be different. Randall likes the idea of case managing ticket holders to help them achieve success finding a job, but is concerned about conflict of interest. If MATURA case manages these individuals, can they continue to manage the funds? Randall said in some regions Title I staff case manage these ticket holders, in Region 13 both State and Title I staff case manage them. Ron pointed out MATURA would work under Waterloo, like a sub contractor. Because of realignment, Charles would like to see the financial transactions in the same format as the realignment, using the same agent. Randall suggested tabling this topic until the next meeting. Dan made a motion to table this issue until the 3/16/20 meeting. Merlin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Update Youth Standing Committee Membership – We are required to have a Youth Standing Committee, which hasn't convened since Eula Dolecheck retired. The committee reviews reports on the interests of businesses, labor, etc. who work with youth to determine if we are offering what this region needs as far as youth services. Darla said the committee heard student's testimonials, did outreach, etc. Darla, Ann, and Randall are interested on serving on the Youth Standing Committee. Wayne may ask someone from this office to be on it as well.

Iowa Workforce Development – Randall McQueeney – Randall gave an update on the Future Ready Iowa Project. The goal is for 70% of Iowa’s workforce to have training. They would also like each region to work on an additional project. Randall and Sara Bath are working with SWCC and the AEA to offer teachers employer tours this summer. Teachers will find out what training and education employers require and take this information back to their classrooms. They will try to stick with local businesses. This will also showcase jobs in the area. Several businesses want to give this a shot. They want to work with 15 teachers this summer in Region 14.

There is not a strong business service presence here. Des Moines will not be sending anyone down. A business service rep from Villisca is training right now, Blaine Thunderman. He will spend the majority of his time working with businesses in Region 14.

Adult Education Literacy – Darla Helm – The WIOA unified plan for Iowa has been written. Comments can be made through 2/5/20. The comment portal is:
<https://comment.iowa.gov/Notice/Details/WIOAUSP>

Need to align the local plan to the State plan and the AEFLA grants. A town hall meeting and webinar was held on 1/16/20 to present the plan. The goals are pretty much the same as the previous plan, just building on them. Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) grant application will be released 2/15 and due on 4/3. This will be a 5 year grant cycle. MOUs will need to be redone this year too.

SWCC was not selected for a DOE onsite visit this year.

Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation – Dorene Rusk – Not in attendance.

Economic Development – Wayne Pantini – Adult Leadership Program is Wednesday with 13 individuals going through it. Twenty youth leadership students are going to the State Capitol on Wed. Economic Development will be scheduling a Future Ready event this spring.

Jane said East Union School has a page up at the State Capitol who just started.

WIOA Budget Summary – Ron went over the budget summary in the packet. It covers the period of 7/1/19-6/30/20. Due to the appeal approval, DOL might extend the end date of the fiscal year to 12/31, but we are still assuming it will end 6/30. Jolene asked to get the number of clients served on the next report. Dan made a motion to approve the WIOA Budget Summary. Jane seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Ann said a career fair was held last week in Red Oak. 14 businesses participated and it was well attended by the public.

Requests for agenda items for next meeting to be held on 3/16/20

Adjournment – Dan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Don seconded the motion.
Meeting adjourned at 7:40 P.M.