



**NORTHEAST INDIANA WORKS BOARD**

**JUNE 5, 2015**

**9:00 – 10:30 A.M.**

**NORTHEAST INDIANA WORKS OFFICES**

**200 E. MAIN STREET**

**FORT WAYNE, IN 46802**

**MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Keith Davis, Doug Bauman, Elaine Doherty, Larry Gerardot, Jane Gresham, Tim Hartigan, Leroy Jackson, Jeff Kellam, John Niederman, Joe Peters, Jac Price, John Sampson, Corey Schoon, Darlene Stanley and Sandy Widener.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Kathleen Randolph, Rick Farrant, Gary Gatman, Karen Green, Anne Meadors, Edmond O’Neal, Lori Rice and Kent Sellers.

**I. Call to Order**

Board Chair Keith Davis called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A quorum was present. Davis announced the addition of two new board members: Corey Schoon of Ashley Industrial Molding, who replaces Dave Hunter, and Dennis Wimer of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, who replaces Mike Barnes.

**II. Consent Agenda**

The minutes of the March 16, 2015 meeting were provided to the board in the packet of advance materials. Jac Price moved to accept the minutes; Darlene Stanley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**III. Financial Report**

Lori Rice presented the financial report and noted a \$1.2-million reduction in Northeast Indiana’s Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) allocation for the next program year. Kathleen Randolph said the federal reduction stems largely from job growth and placements in the region. She said the organization had anticipated a reduction and has been working for the past year to develop and enact a strategy to mitigate the loss of funding. She said adjustments made to offset the loss will be relatively seamless. Jeff Kellam moved to accept the financial report; Doug Bauman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Audit**

Davis reported that Northeast Indiana Works had another excellent audit report; Certified Public Accountants Dunton & Co. found for the year ending June 30, 2014 no material weaknesses in internal control over compliance. John Sampson moved to accept the audit; Tim Hartigan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**V. Governance**

A slate of board officers for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 was presented to the board: Chair Keith Davis, Vice Chair Darlene Stanley; and Secretary/Treasurer Dennis Banks. Kellam moved to approve the slate of officers; Jane Gresham seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

There was also discussion about changing the board meetings from once every two months to quarterly, largely in consideration of board members’ time. If necessary in the interim, the board could communicate via conference call or the board chair could schedule a special meeting. Information, including a metrics report, could also be supplied to the board

via the bi-monthly Compendium board newsletter. Gresham moved to approve holding board meetings quarterly; Bauman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**VI. Presentation – Regional Cities Initiative**

Sampson presented information about the region’s work to apply for matching funds for a Regional Cities Initiative and associated work to form a Regional Development Authority (RDA). The initiative is a public-private partnership proposed and led by Gov. Mike Pence with support from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC). The IEDC will choose one or two regions to support the goal of transforming Indiana’s approach to economic development by creating dynamic communities that attract and retain talent. Seven of 11 northeast Indiana counties have thus far formally supported the region’s pursuit of the initiative, Sampson said. Sampson noted that one of the region’s chief challenges is population stagnation. There was significant discussion about the initiative, particularly about the financial support that may be asked of the region’s counties.

**VII. NEIN Works Updates**

**WIOA Transition:** Randolph provided an update on the impending transition to the new Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), noting that the current board meets all of the WIOA qualifications. Although the final regulations haven’t been issued, Randolph said Northeast Indiana Works has been working toward compliance with what is known about WIOA. She said one significant programmatic shift involves youth funding: 75 percent must be spent on out-of-school youth and 25 percent on in-school youth. Under WIA, at least 30 percent had to be spent on out-of-school youth. She said 54 percent is now spent regionally on out-of-school youth, so the transition should not be especially difficult.

**Sector Partnerships:** Gary Gatman reported on an education/business initiative Northeast Indiana Works is helping facilitate with the regional chapter of the International Facility Management Association to strengthen the talent pipeline for the skilled trades. It is one of several sector partnerships in the region Northeast Indiana Works is assisting.

**Census Tract Data:** Rick Farrant reported on research conducted to determine the high-poverty Census tracts in northeast Indiana. The information will be used, in part, to help determine eligibility for services provided to in-school and out-of-school youth. There are 27 high-poverty Census tracts in the region, 24 of them in Allen County.

**VIII. Board Chair’s Remarks**

Davis thanked board members for attending and encouraged new board members to seek guidance from longtime board members if questions arise.

**IX. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

(The next meeting of the board will be from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Oct. 2 at the same location – 200 E. Main St., Suite 910, Fort Wayne.)