NORTHEAST INDIANA WORKS BOARD

JUNE 7, 2024
9:00-10:30 AM

IN PERSON AND VIRTUAL MEETING
FINAL MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Richard Beck, Phil Brown, Patrick Buesching, Angie Dane, Lance Halsey, Leroy Jackson, Alayne Johnson, Kim Barnett-Johnson, James Phillips, Kent Prosser, Rebecca Schroeder, Shelly Stearns, Chris Straw and Michael Venturini.

STAFF PRESENT: Rick Farrant, Erica Lillie, Edmond O'Neal, Lori Rice, Kim Tempel, Cindy Neal and Megan Voirol

I. **Call to Order**
Chair Elect Rebecca Schroeder called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. A quorum was present.

II. **Consent Agenda: Board Minutes, Financial Report, Meeting Dates**
The minutes of the April 12, 2024 meeting, financials and proposed PY 2023-24 meeting dates were provided in the packet of advance materials. Leroy Jackson moved to approve the minutes, financial report and meeting dates. Angie Dane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. **PY 2023-24 Proposed Budget**
Northeast Indiana Works Chief Financial Officer Lori Rice presented the proposed $7,596,430 budget. The proposed budget is based on a projected 10% Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding reduction. Jackson moved to approve the budget, Michael Venturini seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. **Make Startups Fellowship Presentation**
Rhonda Ladig, vice president of operations with the Northeast Indiana Innovation Center (NIIC), led a three-person presentation about Make Startups, a national organization that provides credentialling for entrepreneurs designed to make it easier for them to obtain financing. The NIIC is part of a Make Startups fellowship that will allow the NIIC to oversee the program in northeast Indiana. Eric Parker, Make Startups co-founder and CEO, said Make Startups has trained, mentored and invested in more than 2,500 startups across the country.

V. **President/CEO Remarks**
Edmond O'Neal said work has begun on the region's four-year workforce plan, which must be finished by the end of August for a public comment period and submitted to the state by September 30; monitoring has been completed by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development (DWD) but Northeast Indiana Works has yet to receive a report; Career and Technical Education (CTE) activities were carried out across the region by CTE districts and other education entities as part of CTE Month in May, and the Indiana Workforce Board Alliance (INWBA) will partner with the Indiana Chamber of Commerce for a workforce summit October 28 and 29 in Carmel. O'Neal and Kim Tempel, senior director of business services/human resources, also provided updates on a Northeast Indiana Works employer seminar October 3 at Sweetwater. O'Neal and Rick Farrant, director of communications, discussed unemployment trends.

VI. **Board Chair's Remarks**
Schroeder, who's a member of the Governor's Workforce Cabinet, updated the progress of a cabinet subgroup she sits on.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

(The next meeting of the board will be from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. October 4, 2024. There will be a virtual option, but all are encouraged to attend in person.)