

SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

October 10, 2007

Minutes of Board Meeting

The Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board Meeting was held on October 10, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. at United Alloy in Janesville.

Attendance was as follows:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	
Private Sector	Public Sector
Mr. James Finley	Ms. Amy Banicki
Mr. Richard Gruber	Ms. Carmen Granados
Ms. Jennifer James-Baker	Dr. Karen Knox
Ms. Regina Prude	Mr. Tom Larsen
Mr. Steve Scaccia	Ms. Suzanne Lee
Ms. Shari Schaff	Mr. James Otterstein
Mr. Tom Schraeder	Mr. Bruce Palzkill
Mr. Scott Stocker	Mr. Geoff Upperton
Ms. Margery Tibbetts	Mr. Larry Ward
(9)	(9)
	Total: (18)
BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED	
Private Sector	Public Sector
Mr. Gary Bezucha	Dr. Gary Albrecht
Mr. Charles Elliott	Ms. Anne Greenheck
Ms. Tammie Engelke	Mr. Randy Jacquet
Ms. Cindy Harrington	Mr. Walter Orzechowski
Mr. Ken Hendricks	
Mr. Tom Hogan	
Ms. Anne Hore	
(7)	(4)
GUESTS PRESENT	
Ms. Carmen Cornelius	
STAFF PRESENT	
Dr. Robert Borremans	Ms. Shannon Moe
Ms. Amy Charles	Ms. Mary Kay Runde
Ms. Annette Meudt	

1. Welcome and Tour

At 5:05, Ms. Terri Roessler, CEO/CFO of United Alloy gave a presentation on the history and future of United Alloy, Inc. in Janesville. She then proceeded to take Board members on a tour of the facility. Dr. Borremans thanked Ms. Roessler for hosting the Finance Committee and Board meetings and providing the dinner.

2. Call to Order

Mr. Stocker called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

3. Approval of SWWDB Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Gruber, second by Mr. Finley to approve the August 15, 2007 SWWDB Meeting Minutes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

4. **Financial Report**

Ms. Meudt presented the Financial Report and shared with Board members the impact of the WIA rescissions currently being considered by Congress. She noted that if approved, the rescissions would impact the current (2007-08) program year.

Motion by Mr. Ward, second by Ms. Tibbetts to approve the Financial Reports as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Unfinished Business**

None.

6. **Consent Agenda**

Motion by Mr. Gruber, second by Mr. Finley to approve the Consent Agenda as presented with the FY 2007-08 Budget Modifications. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. **New Business**

A. **Executive Committee**

There was no report since Executive Committee did not meet since the last Board meeting.

B. **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee met prior to the Board Meeting and in addition to the recommended action item addressed under the Consent Agenda, two items were discussed.

Recent changes in the standard Accounting and Auditing environments will affect the audit report for SWWDB, beginning with the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007. The Finance Committee recommended to the full Board that administration proceed with "Option 1". Wegner, LLP will continue to prepare the financial statements, which will result in written communication at the end of the audit identifying the material weakness.

The Committee recommended repeating last year's procedure for hearing the audit presentations. Mr. Odahl will do the detailed audit presentation at a special meeting of the Finance Committee in November and on January 9, 2008 he will be present for questions from the Board members. Any board member interested in hearing the detailed audit report is invited to attend the Special Finance Committee meeting in November.

C. **Program Operations Committee**

There was no report since Program Operations Committee did not meet since the last Board meeting.

D. **Workforce Services Committee**

There was no report since Workforce Services Committee did not meet since the last Board meeting.

E. **Other New Business**

1. **Regional Industry Skills Education (RISE) Overview**

Ms. Charles presented information on the RISE project which is a joint initiative of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development (DWD) and the Wisconsin Technical College System (WTCS). The project seeks to make Career Pathways a

core organizing principle for occupational education and workforce development in Wisconsin. RISE will support efforts to boost the skills and job prospects of low-income working adults by better aligning education and workforce services with employer needs. It will also build a progression of skills from low skill, entry level jobs to higher technical skilled jobs requiring technical college or baccalaureate degrees. Representatives of the workforce development and technical college systems have been engaged in discussions regarding current practices that will translate well into a career pathways strategy.

The Board members watched a video entitled "*Career Pathways Explored: Stories from Ohio*". The KnowledgeWorks Foundation sponsored the video that documents the importance of forming partnerships between education, economic, and workforce development organizations to address regional economic development. The video, featuring employers, students, and workers in their own voices, discusses the need for the labor force to continue to upgrade their skills and education to compete in a changing "knowledge economy." The video stresses the importance of Career Pathways as a methodology to revitalize regional economies and create career and education opportunities for low-wage adult learners.

Mr. Ward inquired as to how long the state of Ohio has been using the Career Pathways Model and how long has the Career Pathways been around. Dr. Borremans did not have an exact answer, but assured Mr. Ward that the Career Pathways has been around for many years and has been very successful.

Mr. Gruber spoke briefly on the Healthcare Entry Academies operated by Mercy Health System, local secondary schools, and Blackhawk Technical College. Of the participating high school seniors, 20-25 students graduate from the program each semester. Of those, forty percent (40%) go on for more training and some have even gone on to medical school.

Mr. Ward said that he was pleased to see the incumbent worker component so well addressed in the video and considers this an important element of Career Pathways.

2. South Central/Southwest WIRED Initiative Update

Dr. Borremans presented an update on the Southwest Central/Southwest Wisconsin (SCSW) Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) Initiative. WIRED is designed to support the development of a regional, integrated approach to workforce and economic development and education. It stresses the critical role of talent development plays in creating effective regional economic development strategies. WIRED goes beyond traditional strategies for worker preparation by bringing together state, local and federal entities; academic institutions (including K-12, community colleges and universities); investment groups; foundations; and business and industry to address the challenges associated with building a globally competitive and prepared workforce. The ultimate goal of WIRED is to expand employment and advancement opportunities for workers and be a catalyst for the creation of high-skill, high-wage jobs. He stressed that programs implemented through WIRED must be transformational and sustainable. Dr. Borremans posed the question, "What needs to change?"

The first step in the process is the development of an Implementation Plan using a "Leadership Team" of key community members from across the region. The

Leadership Teams met with the DOL at a "Kickoff" meeting held in Madison on Thursday, September 27, 2007. Dr. Borremans shared the meeting agenda and several attachments, including the names of the leadership teams. The five (5) target industry sectors are: Laboratory Sciences, Healthcare, Agriculture, Utilities & Trades, and Advanced Manufacturing. The Leadership Teams will develop an Implementation Plan which must be submitted and approved by DOL before activities can begin.

Dr. Borremans said that while the Leadership Team has been formed there will be opportunities for Board members and members of their organizations to participate in WIRED activities. Dr. Borremans also congratulated and thanked both Mr. Otterstein and Mr. Gruber for agreeing to co-chair WIRED sub-committees. Dr. Borremans said the completed Implementation Plan needs to be submitted to DOL by the end of October. He also said that WIRED serves a twelve (12) county region and it is important that the strategies developed serve the entire region. He is concerned that there is a misperception that Dane County and Madison will dominate and that most activities will target the Dane County area. It is important to overcome this impression. One activity being considered is the creation of a Conflict Resolution Group to address sustainable transformation across the entire region.

8. Executive Director's Report

Dr. Borremans congratulated the Southwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC) and Executive Director Larry Ward on their national award for excellence in community planning program at the annual conference of the National Association of Development Organizations. The award recognized SWWRPC's efforts to assist 131 jurisdiction in Grant, Green, Iowa, Lafayette and Richland Counties prepare comprehensive plans to guide their futures.

Dr. Borremans also noted that through Mr. Ward's leadership, SWWRPC and several southwest Wisconsin organizations will participate in a regional economic development study in the Tri-state area. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) has approved a grant to study the rural region's changing economy in the Tri-state area, which includes our SWWRPC region, NW Illinois and NE Iowa. The study will generate relevant insights, data, and tools to address fundamental questions in today's changing rural economy.

Dr. Borremans spoke briefly on the national budget and the proposed rescission of \$335 million for the current year. He talked about efforts to remove the rescission from the budget.

Mr. Palzkill reported on the affects of the DWD staffing cuts. Due to declining resources, DWD cut 33 positions from Wisconsin Job Service. The Southwest Job Service region will lose six people, three from Rock County and three from the other five counties.

Dr. Borremans shared that the next Program Operation Committee (POC) and Workforce Services Committee (WSC) meeting dates fall during Thanksgiving Week. It is anticipated that both meetings will be rescheduled to the following week. Several members indicated Tuesday, November 27, 2007 will work well for the POC meeting. A special Finance Committee meeting will be held for the draft audit presentation and will coincide and follow the POC meeting in Monroe. Additionally, several members of the WSC were agreeable with their meeting being rescheduled to Wednesday, November 28, 2007 in Janesville.

9. Chairperson's Report

ENCLOSURE 1

Mr. Stocker extended a special thank you to Terri Roessler and United Alloy for hosting the evening meetings and dinner, and to everyone for attending.

10. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. The next SWWDB Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 9, 2008.