

MEMORANDUM



Date: May 17, 2010

From: Art Carter, Chief Local Elected Official

To: **Local Elected Officials**

Mr. Dave Bauer

Ms. Ann Greenheck

Mr. John Patcle

Mr. Russ Podzilni

Mr. Jack Sauer

RE: **Southwest Counties Consortium Meeting Notice**

May 25, 2010 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Iowa County Courthouse

222 North Iowa Street, Dodgeville, Wisconsin

The next meeting of the Local Elected Officials, Southwest Counties Consortium is scheduled for Tuesday, May 25, 2010 at the time and location listed above. The agenda and enclosures for the meeting are included for your review.

The Southwest Counties Consortium (SCC) meeting will follow the Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC) meeting. In the interest of time, the SCC meeting is "noticed" to begin at 11:30 a.m. rather than 12:00 p.m. If the SWWRPC meeting ends early, the SCC meeting can begin immediately for the convenience of SCC members.

All county board chairs are urged to attend the meeting. If you cannot attend, please arrange for an alternate to represent your county.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Kathy Kessler at k.kessler@swwdb.org or 608-741-3568 two days prior to the meeting date.

Southwest Counties Consortium

Tuesday, May 25, 2010

Iowa County Court House
222 N. Iowa Street, Dodgeville, WI
11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M.

Agenda

1. Election of Officers – (Action)

The By-Laws of the Southwest Counties Consortium (SCC) require an election for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair every two years following County Board election of Board Chairs. Mr. Carter, from Green County, has been the Chair of the SCC and Ms. Greenheck, from Richland County, has been the Vice Chair for the past two years.

The person elected to the position of Chair of the SCC will be the Chief Local Elected Official (CLEO). The CLEO is a member of the Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board (SWWDB) and is a non-voting member of the SWWDB Executive Committee. The CLEO is also the person who signs documents and represents the SCC in matters related to WIA. The Vice Chairperson assumes the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair.

An election for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of SCC is in order. Action is requested to nominate and elect someone to serve as Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Southwest Counties Consortium.

2. Approval of the Minutes – (Action)

Minutes of the Local Elected Officials Meeting held on November 24, 2009 are contained in **Enclosure 1**. Approval of the minutes is requested.

3. PY 2010 WIA Allocations – (Information)

Wisconsin has received its PY 2010 WIA allotments from the Department of Labor (DOL). Wisconsin received a PY10 formula allotment totaling \$59,132,207. This is a 21 percent increase from PY 2009. Changes in the allocation by program are detailed in the Table 1.

	Youth	Adult	Dislocated Worker	Wagner Peyser	Workforce Information Grant	Total
2009	10,740,989	9,022,419	16,363,236	12,954,947	624,534	48,708,134
2010	13,963,286	11,729,145	19,934,322	12,881,393	624,061	59,132,207
Amount Chg	3,222,297	2,706,726	4,571,086	(73,554)	(473)	10,424,073
% Change	30%	30%	30%	-1%	0%	21%

The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development, Division of Employment and Training (DWD/DET) distributes eighty-five percent (85%) of the Youth (\$11,868,797) and Adult (\$9,969,963), and sixty percent (60%) of Dislocated Worker (\$11,960,593) allotments to local workforce development boards. Twenty-five percent of the Dislocated Worker allotment (\$4,983,580) is set aside for the Rapid Response program. DWD retains the balance of the WIA funds for state level for program administration and oversight, (\$2,281,337) and statewide activities (\$4,562,675).

The distribution of WIA funds by workforce area is shown in **Enclosure 2**. SWWDB's WIA funding will increase from \$1,740,273 to \$2,060,901; an unexpected gain of \$320,628 (18.42%). While SWWDB's allocation increased, SWWDB's share (percentage of funds) declined. The WIA allocation history for SWWDB is shown in **Enclosure 3**.

Enclosure 4 shows the proposed distribution of PY 2010 WIA funds recommended by administration.

Annette Meudt and Bob Borremans will review the PY 2010-11 WIA allocations. The final WIA allocation amounts will be presented to the SWWDB Board in June and will be used to establish the SWWDB budget and finalize grant awards to program operators. This item is presented for information and no action by the committee is required.

4. Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) – (Information)

The WIRED project is winding down. It will officially end on June 30, 2010. A number of activities are planned to highlight the projects that have been funded and develop the sustainability plan that promote ongoing collaboration once the WIRED funding ends.

The big event is on June 3, 2010. WIRED is hosting a Regional Innovation Showcase at the Alliant Energy Center - Exhibition Hall (upstairs Lakerooms) in Madison. This event is required for WIRED contractors (but open to any interested party) and is centered around sharing of best practices, peer learning and planning for next steps. The morning session will feature a speaker from the National Skills Coalition focused on national momentum, career pathways and sector work.

At the lunch session, there will be a panel discussion featuring career pathways and industry partnerships. After lunch, WIRED will showcase medical simulation. The day ends with a one hour Leadership Caucus meeting scheduled from 1:30 - 2:30 pm, the last for the WIRED Initiative.

One of the breakout sessions in the morning will feature a discussion with WIRED leadership from both parts of the region. Having input from the Consortium on past and future WIRED leadership and collaboration would be helpful. No action is required on this item.

5. DWD Monitoring of WIA Programs – (Information)

The annual DWD monitoring of WIA programs and activities occurred on May 4, 5, & 6, 2010. Karen Pfeil, Local Program Liaison for DWD conducted the monitoring on-site at Platteville and Janesville. The final monitoring report will not be available for approximately 60 days. Based on the exit interview with Ms. Pfeil there were no outstanding issues, although there was one "finding" that will result in a disallowed cost for boots for a client.

Bob Borremans will review the preliminary report of the monitoring. No action is required at this time.

6. On-the-Job and Customized Policy Changes – (Information)

SWWDB has historically used, as the principal method for training, classroom instruction at an accredited/certified technical college or trade school. Classroom training is the most viable option because DOL regulations established "earning a degree or certificate" as a mandatory performance criteria. Recently, DOL has gone to common measures thereby eliminating the "degree" requirement. They have also begun to encourage local workforce areas to consider both on-the-job training (OJT) and customized training.

The following is a brief description of OJT and customized training services:

- On-the-job (OJT) – OJT is defined as paid training by an employer that is provided to a participant while engaged in productive work. An OJT 1) Provides knowledge or skills essential to the full and adequate performance of the job; 2) Provides reimbursement to the employer of up to fifty percent of the wage rate of the participant, for the extraordinary costs of providing the training and additional supervision related to the training; and 3) Is limited in duration appropriate to the occupation for which the participant is being trained, taking into account the content of the training, the prior work experience of the participant, and the service strategy of the participant. Payments made to employers are considered to be reimbursements for costs of training, including lower productivity, which are over and above normal training that would be provided to non-WIA eligible new hires. Extraordinary costs are defined as the difference between the costs of training and the productivity associated with employing WIA participants to costs associated with others similarly employed. Employers are not required to document such extraordinary costs.
- Customized Training – Customized training is designed to meet the specific training needs of an employer or group of employers through a training curriculum that is "customized" to a WIA participant's skill needs. Under the terms of a customized training contract, the employer must commit to employ, or continue to employ, the workers upon successful completion of training. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has approved a sliding scale for the statutory employer match based on the State's waiver request. [The WIA provision that is waived is the employer 50% match of the cost of the participant's training]. Customized training may be developed for an employer who is hiring new employees as well as those currently employed by the employer.

OJT, as well as customized training, are exceptions to the requirement under WIA to establish an Individual Training Account for eligible individuals to finance training services. Both training activities require the employer to make a commitment to hire/retain the individual upon successful completion of the training.

OJT and customized training are considered as effective tools in assisting participants obtain or retain employment that allows for self-sufficiency. Given the high number of graduates leaving formal classroom training and the shortage of new job opportunities in the area, SWWDB will consider using more OJT and customized training. This will reduce the amount of funds available for classroom instruction and limit the number of participants who will be able to enroll in classroom training. Bob Borremans will review OJT and customized training options, and the steps that SWWDB will need to implement to use these training opportunities.

7. Appointment of Board Member – (Action)

Bruce Palzkill, the former regional director for Job Service has been promoted to an administrative position within the DWD. Amy Charles has been hired as the director for Southwest Wisconsin. DWD has requested that Ms. Charles be appointed to replace Mr. Palzkill.

Action is requested to appoint Ms. Charles to serve the remainder of Mr. Palzkill's term. Her appointment would become effective immediately and continue until December 31, 2012.

8. Southwest Counties Consortium Meeting Schedule – (Action)

Southwest Counties Consortium has been meeting quarterly on the 4th Tuesday of February, May, August and November following the Southwest Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission meetings to minimize unnecessary travel and adding another meeting dates to already busy schedules. The Consortium meetings range from 1.5 to 2 hours in length. Discussion of the meeting schedule and establishing the meeting dates is requested.

9. **General Informational Items** – (Information)

- Summer Youth Employment
- WIA Reauthorization
- WIA Program Operator Selection Update
- Exhaustion of Unemployment (See **Enclosure 5**)
- Department of Corrections Pipeline
- 35% Requirement
- Veteran’s Job Fairs (See **Enclosure 6**)
- Wisconsin Workforce Development Association – Gubernatorial Event

10. **Other Business**

11. **Adjournment**