



## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

422 3rd Street W, Suite 200  
PO Box 616  
Ashland, WI 54806

P 715.682.9141 W [nwcep.org](http://nwcep.org)



CEP Board of Directors

Wednesday, February 21, 2018 – 10:30 a.m.

CEP Office – Ashland, WI

### Meeting Minutes

#### Present

Tom Mackie  
Dee Gokee-Rindal  
Bill Voight  
Emmett Byrne  
Donna Williamson  
Kay Pluemer  
Dave Willingham  
Dan Makovsky  
Joe Pinardi  
James Crandall  
Brent Blomberg, alternate

#### Excused

Charlie Glazman  
Doug Finn  
Bill Kacvinsky

#### Others Present

Jeff Muse  
Jenny Decker

#### Call Meeting to Order

Dave Willingham, CEP Board Vice Chairman called the meeting to order. Roll call was taken, a quorum was present. It was reported that the public meeting notice was published in two class A newspapers in the WDA.

#### Approve the Minutes from 12/14/17

Tom Mackie made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 12/14/17 as presented.  
Seconded by Bill Voight. Vote taken, carried unanimously.

#### Mission Statement

Jeff Muse reported that the mission of CEP is to strengthen the economy of northwest Wisconsin by providing effective and efficient workforce development services to businesses and job seekers. Jeff shared a success story from Stacey Plemon, Career Planner at CEP. She met with a participant from Taylor County and hit a rough patch and wanted something new. She had a varied work background. She wanted to get her CDL Class A license. She attended the hands on truck driving course at Lake Holcomb which is south of Ladysmith. She passed her training and she is now an over the road truck driver and is very thankful to CEP for all their help.

#### Executive Director's Report

Jeff reported that it has been quiet lately and all staff positions filled. Jeff discussed CEP's Rescue Divas program which provides EMT training to middle school aged female. He noted that we have been fortunate enough to be funded through AHEC, however, their funding has decreased. He reported we were able to secure funds from Essentia Health for \$2,500 and Gogebic Range Health awarded CEP \$2,000 so there's enough money to fund the program. Jeff discussed the Crex Camp and how funding is up and down with it. Jeff noted that Josh Kinneman, Crex Director has been instrumental in saving

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Strengthening our region, one person, one business, one job at a time.

money in the Crex budget. Jeff reported that he received a call from Enbridge Energy yesterday who are going to award Crex \$4,000. Jeff noted that the CHIPs grant is going to be funded for five years. Jeff reported that the contract with FSET has been a good partnership. Discussion took place about what Indianhead Community Action Agency (ICAA) does. It was noted that not everyone knows the services they offer. Their office is located in Ladysmith. It was suggested to ask the Executive Director at ICAA to present at a CEP Board meeting. It was noted that every county in the state is covered by a CAP agency.

### **Job Center Customer Counts**

Jenny Decker reported that the total count for visits in the ten county area is a little over 10,000. She noted that for 2018, 37% of the sign ins are repeat visitors and 63% are returners. She noted that the Job Center has been very busy with people needing assistance with filing unemployment insurance claims and job search. Those are the top two reasons that people come in for assistance.

It was reported that Sierra Pacific is looking to buy out Hurd and provide around 200 jobs, many starting at \$17.00 p/h.

### **OJT Report**

Jeff Muse reported that beginning July 1, 2017, CEP had a total of 32 OJT contracts to date. Training hours are 315 and wages are an average of \$14.19 p/h. Jeff said there's a bit of a struggle with OJTs because of the reporting required on wages earned preventing us from doing more OJTs. A suggestion was made on doing a breakdown of OJTs by Tribe.

### **Regional Employment Report**

Jeff discussed the Regional Employment Report that is put out by DWD with a change in color coding addressing unemployment increases and decreases for the month of February. It was noted our region is at 4% unemployment. Iron County is doing better than ever.

### **CEP Staffing Updates**

Jeff reported that CEP hired Sara White as the Career Planner at the Superior Job Center. There are no other new staff or hires.

### **Dislocated Worker (DW) Report**

Jeff distributed an updated DW report which he explained. Discussion took place about a recent closing at Northwoods Behavioral Health Services LLC in Sawyer County which affects two employees who are a husband and wife getting out of it. The other dislocations were discussed. Dave heard a nursing home in Rice Lake is for sale, Heritage Manor. Jeff encouraged members to let him know as soon as they can of any closings they may hear of. He said a lot of times, we don't hear of the smaller closings. Jeff noted that we need to talk about the positive business openings such as the Burger Barn that is moving to Ashland to the old Buddies Burger location on Main Street. It was reported that there's a craft brewery opening in Spooner, along with a restaurant. This will be located down the street from the Civic's Center.

### **Ladysmith Embrace Update**

Jeff reported that he's been in discussions with ICAA and the Embrace Domestic Shelter in the Ladysmith Area. The Embrace Shelter wants to provide a long term fix for those in need with such services as housing and job training. CEP is trying to partner up to provide assistance to those who need jobs and training. It was noted that the number one reason that domestic abuse victims go back to where they were abused is because they have nowhere to go. Dave explained that ICAA has empty apartments. Embrace applied for grants that will provide money for shelter services and shift money to renting apartments. It was noted that they could replicate a similar arrangement in other areas that aren't in their service area. It was noted that CEP and ICAA need to work more collaboratively on similar projects.

### **Superior Days Discussion**

Jeff noted that he thought Superior Days was next week, so he missed it. Jeff noted that CEP's presence is extremely important to let legislators know what our needs are and the work that we do and how important it is.

Jeff discussed the Transitional Jobs Program (TJP) that CEP runs which he explained. He noted there are a lot of hoops to jump through to qualify for this program. He noted that clients also have barriers such as transportation. He noted that the state legislature needs to know that there are other populations, such as area Tribes and older workers that could use assistance and the TJP could help. He also discussed the need for more childcare for the single parents out there. Jeff noted that he'll go down and do some solo work to let them know what's going on and invite them to our Board meetings. It was noted that we need our legislators to know who we are.

### **Comments & Announcements**

Bill Voight discussed the Birkebeiner Race in the Hayward area, noting around 40,000 people will be expected in the area for this event.

### **Next Meeting Date and Location**

The next meeting of the CEP Board of Directors will take place on Wednesday, April 18, 2018, at 10:30 a.m. in Ashland.

### **Adjournment**

**Thomas Mackie made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Bill Voight. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.**