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NWCEP, INC. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, April 19, 2023 – 10:30 a.m.

NWCEP, Inc. Office – Ashland, WI & Via Teleconference

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Dave Willingham, Joe Pinardi, Rollie Thums, Emmett Byrne, Bob Kopisch, Charlie Glazman, Larry Fickbohm, Elizabeth Franek-via Zoom, Terry Wedwick, Patricia Stephan, Thomas Gordon, Sr, Dee Gokee-Rindal, Zoom; Brent Blomberg, Zoom (alternate)

Excused: Bill Kacvinsky, Michael Maestri

Staff/Guests Present: Jeff Muse, CEP; Jenny Decker, CEP; Mary Zinnecker; Mari Kay-Nabozny, NWWIB CEO

Call Meeting to Order/Roll Call

Dave Willingham, CEP Board Vice Chairman called the meeting to order. For the record, the public meeting notice was published on the CEP website, social media, the area Library System, and the area County government websites in WDA #7. Roll call was taken, a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge of allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Mission Statement

Larry Fickbohm 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 workers.

Discuss CEP Board Officer Vacancy

Jeff noted for the record the unfortunate passing of Tom Mackie, Washburn County Board Chair in March who was a dedicated member of the CEP Board for nearly seven years. His passing left the Secretary/Treasurer vacancy open on the CEP Board. A letter has been mailed to the Washburn County Board seeking a replacement for him on the CEP Board.

Larry Fickbohm nominated Bob Kopisch as Secretary/Treasurer of CEP Board. Second by Joe Pinardi. Vote taken, motion carried.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes from 2/15/2023

Jenny will amend the time of when meeting ended on the 2/15/23 minutes.

Tom Gordon, Sr. made a motion to approve the 2/15/23, meeting minutes as amended. Seconded By Bob Kopisch. Vote taken, carried unanimously.

Client Success Story

Jeff discussed a success story from Park Falls regarding a male with four dependents. The CEP client had a part time job. He felt that obtaining a CDL would further his goals. He filled a position driving school bus and is able to continue doing part time farming.

NORTHWEST WISCONSIN CEP

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

Executive Director's Report

Jeff explained his ED report included in the meeting packet. He explained that CEP has written for several grants. CEP is applying for their own FSET grant. He explained that the current contract that WRI was cut with CEP. He noted that we have two WRI staff who rent from CEP's office space who we have a good relationship with. He noted that the DVR program has been very successful. Jeff noted that CEP services was highlighted in Business North recently. It was a good article promoting the value of CEP services.

Jeff updated the Board on the Crex Camp and noted that we're looking at doing a day camp instead.

Jeff updated the Board on the CEP Park Falls Office move. He noted that there are some possibilities and he will keep the Board apprised.

CEP Ashland Office Update

Jeff explained the CEP relocation to the old Sears building is not going to happen. The buyer backed out of the deal.

Regional Employment Report

Jeff discussed the DWD Regional Employment report for April 2023 which was included in the meeting packet.

Discuss Fiscal Monitoring at CEP

Jeff noted that he received an email from Wegner Auditors and they're still working on it and federal regulations require this to be done March 30th. This delay is due to the separation of the CEP and WIB and some cost issues with payroll and benefits between the two entities.

State & Federal Updates

It was noted that there have been some staffing updates at DWD including Stephanie Elmer who replaced Annette Muedt as DWD Bureau Director.

Jeff noted that he attended the TDCON Talent Development Conference last week by the Wisconsin Workforce Development Association (WWDA). Jeff noted it was a very informational conference.

Discussion took place with immigrants coming in for services and how we get past language barriers, among other services, they need.

Comments & Announcements

Jeff discussed a financial balance sheet from WIPFLI from last month.

Next Meeting Date/Location & Adjournment

The next meeting of the CEP Board of Directors will take place on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, in Ashland or at the call of the Chairman. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

