

**WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
MEETING NOTES - NOVEMBER 17, 2004**

The Workforce Investment Board meeting was called to order at 8:10 AM at the Quality Inn Massena. No business was conducted due to lack of a quorum.

Members Present: Jack Backus, Lynn Blevins, Sue Caswell, Donald Hooper, Joseph Kennedy, Linda Manchester, Steve Novacich, Mike Noble, Don Brining

Members Absent: Tim Weaver, Joanne Novak, Ron McDougall, Rich Daddario, Bruce Green, Doug Beachard Genevieve Baxter, Ken Garwood, Walt Paul, Linda Randi, Ryan Schermerhorn, Paul Catanzarite, John Tubbs

Others Present: Raymond H. Fountain, Jr., Patrick J. Kelly, Brian Lee, Suzan Denny, Ed Short and Dave Williams, of the Office of Economic Development.

- Mr. Hooper commented on the recent Strategic Planning meetings, noting that a new committee, Education Committee, had been formed as a result of these meetings. He asked Linda Manchester to report on the Education Committee's first meeting.
- Ms. Manchester reported that the members of the Education Committee were Bruce Green, Mike St. Thomas, Walt Paul, Linda Manchester, and Paul Catanzarite. She handed out the WIB Education Action Plan which was developed to set criteria for educating WIB members and to develop a WIB Resource Guide. The committee would like to meet with WIB members and One-Stop Career Center staff some time in December to gather information for the next WIB meeting in January. The Education Committee would also like to have each partner do a short presentation at future meetings.
- Sue Caswell reported on the last Youth Council meeting on November 4th, noting that the State is moving forward with implementing new standards. As of September 1st, every new youth that is enrolled will come in under the new standards. She also noted a \$30,000 commitment from the County for computer upgrades. Mr. Hooper noted that he had asked that the next meeting be held later in the day at 5:00 p.m. so he could attend.
- Mr. Fountain noted that the Board needs to be sure that it meets the requirements of the Strategic Planning grant. One item that must be accomplished is to compose a WIB Strategic Plan. He will continue to meet with Tom Plastino, Citec, to complete the Strategic Plan and to discuss WIB training.
- Mr. Fountain noted that the budget is going before the BOL on November 22nd. He discussed how the One-Stop Career Center was serving more customers with less funds and how the services provided would need to change to keep providing adequate service.
- Mr. Fountain referred to Table O – Local Program Activities handout which shows the overall performance of our LWIA. The LWIB did not meet 1 of the 17 standards (Earnings Change/Earnings Replacement). He explained that we had met the standard last year but missed it this year because each time a standard is met it is raised and we could not meet the new standard. He also referred to pages 2 and 4 of the handout from the bi-monthly WIB Director's meeting – WIA Report Cards – which compares St. Lawrence County to the other LWIA's and

New York State as a whole. Mr. Fountain went on to explain that the data may be manipulated by the LWIA to meet the standards. Some LWIA's spend a significant amount on training and some don't which can also affect the numbers.

- Mr. Novacich commented that he feels industry often drives the amount and kinds of training we do and decreased WIA funds have a direct impact on WIA programs. Mr. Backus talked about how organizations are becoming "entrepreneurs" to make ends meet by charging for their services, and Dr. Kennedy suggested that programs must be more discriminatory in choosing which customers they will fund.

- Brian Lee gave a presentation entitled "A Review of Dairying in St. Lawrence County – Facts, Trends and Comparisons." Highlights included: St. Lawrence County was #2 in milk production in New York State in 2003; number of farms in St. Lawrence County in 1993 was 1635, in 2003 was 1440 which is caused by urbanization and land values; milk production continues to be healthy; and the Northern Tier continues to be a desirable venue for manufacturing and industry.