



Region 2000 Workforce Area Council

Region 2000 Conference Room
828 Main Street, 12th Floor, Lynchburg
September 21, 2017
4:00 p.m.

Minutes

Members Present:

Kenneth Campbell, Amherst County
Joan Foster, City of Lynchburg
John Sharp, Bedford County

Members Absent:

Bob Good, Campbell County
Bryan Moody, Appomattox County

Others Present:

Ben Bowman, Director, Region 2000 Workforce Development Board
Gary Christie, Region Local Government Council
Susan Cook, Region 2000 Local Government Council
Rosalie Majerus, Region 2000 Local Government Council

1. Welcome

Mayor Joan Foster called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Approval of the May 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes

The motion was made by Kenneth Campbell, and seconded by John Sharp, to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2017 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Review and Approve the Local Workforce Development Area 7 Budget

Ben Bowman explained that this year's budget is less than last year, a drop from 1.4m to 1.3 m.

There are four primary areas of focus with the budget:

- 1) Adult
- 2) Adult Dislocated
- 3) Youth
- 4) Out of School Youth

Under the new regulations, 75% of the youth budget has to be used on out of school youth. Out of school youth encompasses the ages 16 to 24. Mr. Bowman also advised that 10% of the budget is administrative.

A portion of fund is also used to operate the One-Stop Center, which is located in the Virginia Employment Commission building on Odd Fellows Road.

The motion was made by John Sharp, and seconded by Kenneth Campbell, to approve the FY18 budget. The motion was unanimously approved.

Also:

- HumanKind is the new One-Stop Operator. Keith Cook is the supervisor, and there are three Career Navigators. The VEC will have one full time employee dedicated to dislocated workers.
- The Workforce Development Board is operating the Youth Program, with Alvin Jones as the leader for the Youth Program, and two case managers.
- There is conversation with Bedford for a pilot project. This would be a shared funding position for a Youth Program employee dedicated to Bedford. The Dept. of Social Services and Bedford County Schools would each provide 25% of the cost, with the Workforce Board contributing 50%.
- Savannah Cook will begin as Communications Coordinator the end of August.
- Before July 2018 there will be a marketing plan in place that will target how to reach employers and job seekers.

The motion was made by John Sharp, and seconded by Kenneth Campbell, to approve the FY18 budget. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Review and Approve additional Workforce Development Board Members

Ben Bowman presented a list of the Workforce Development Board to the Council members to review, and asked Council members to be on the watch for potential members from the business community.

Mr. Bowman presented two new members for approval to the Workforce Development Board:

- 1) Dr. John Capps - President, Central Virginia Community College
- 2) Ms. Caitlin King - Director of Professional Development, Lynchburg Regional Society for Human Resource Management

The motion was made by John Sharp, and seconded by Kenneth Campbell, to approve the two new Board members. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Discussion on Strategy for Improving Workforce Effectiveness and Diversifying Funding

Mr. Bowman explained that under the new guidance and regulations, guidelines have been given on diversifying funding streams. At this stage, all of the funds the WDB has are federal funds which come with many strings attached. The mission of the Workforce Board is to develop a Workforce system. Mr. Bowman stated that in his opinion, in order to do this, contact needs to start in middle school, making young people aware of careers that are out there, and where the employers are. With current funding, the earliest age that can be reached out to is 14. Also, 75% of the Youth budget has to focus on high school youth 16 and over. He would like to develop an operational structure and additional funding that will allow the Board to partner with the school systems, both public and private, to bring in more career development resources. Part of the vision of Workforce Development is to have after school, weekend, and summer programs that can engage young people and their parents. By building a stronger information and communication system, Mr. Bowman said that he hopes to get young people more engaged in careers that exist in the region. He added that there is a great

need for skilled manufacturing in this region, and for those students who struggle with traditional academics, or do not want to go on to a four year college or university, the hands-on learning available through apprenticeship is one of the best ways to get those skills in order to get into a living wage position.

Mr. Bowman recommends establishing the Workforce Development Board as a non –profit (501c3), in order to have additional funding options beside the Workforce federal funds, in order to not be totally reliant upon government funding. He asked that the Workforce Council think about his proposal, and added that it would also be discussed at the next Workforce Development Board meeting on October 10.

6. Adjourn – There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Approved by: _____

Date: _____