



Conference Call
Wednesday, January 14th 2009
10:00 a.m. EST

MINUTES

Present on the conference call were:

Eric Karmecy – West Central WIB
Rebecca Moder – West Central WIB
Brad Ehrhart – Clarion County Economic Development Corporation
Debbie McNurty - Clarion County Economic Development Corporation
Deb Lutz – Oil Region Alliance Venango County
Mary Salony – Tri-County WIB
Larry Reichard – Penn-Northwest Development Corporation
Paul Newlin – Regional Center for Workforce Excellence
Roni Bralich – Yourga Trucking
Susie Snelick – North Central WIB
Mike Kellis – Werner Enterprises
Duane Boswell – TMC Trucking
Ron Gross – Ron Gross Trucking
Ben VanVerth – Chadderton Trucking, Inc.
Allan Leard – William B. Altman Trucking
Tad London – MST Associated Companies, Inc.
Shirley Ponce Reyes– Stevens Transport
Tina Hoch – Barber Trucking
Karen Ekas - Freeport Transport
Ariel Borejdo – Stevens Transport
Larry McCauley– McCauley Trucking

The following wished to express their regrets prior to the meeting as they would not be available to represent their company on today's conference call: John Timmer (Nick Strimbu Inc., Regis Schulz (Transportation Employment Network), and Rich Milner (Klapec Trucking).

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. Eric Karmecy thanked everyone for participating.

2008-2009 Industry Partnership and Worker Training Awards

Eric stated that this is the fourth year of the T.E.E.N. Industry Partnership. The IP proposal was submitted to the state back on June 30th and the WIB was notified that they would be receiving funding in November, but the funds did not become available until two weeks ago. The proposal

requested \$85,000 for Industry Partnership funds and \$300,000 for Worker Training; the IP received \$70,000 for Industry Partnership funds and \$200,000 for Worker Training. The monies will be divided, as needed, among the four participating Workforce Investment Boards with \$5,000 – \$10,000 available to each for local Industry Partnership activities (face-to-face meetings/local projects/etc) and \$25,000 - \$30,000 for Worker Training for the WIBs to divide among their local companies or consortium-based training efforts. The remaining balance of Worker Training funds will be divided among the national carriers for 1st Seat Driver training.

New Policy

a. Participation Rates

The WIB is required to submit both quarterly and annual reports that require information as to the participation of Industry Partners. Like many other Industry Partnerships, they will be instating a 75% required participation rate for companies that wish to be involved in the Partnership. There are a total of four (4) quarterly conference calls in 2009 in addition to local meetings scheduled by each local WIB (at their discretion) and Steering Committee conference calls. The 75% requirement is for regional (quarterly) conference calls only. Exceptions will be determined on a case-by-case basis. In some instances, when an issue arises and small local companies are unable to have someone that can participate in the Regional conference call, they may delegate a regional organization such as local economic development branch to represent their interests on the call. Local meetings held by the local WIBs can be counted toward the participation requirement in addition to full quarterly partnership meetings. The WIBs will be responsible for reporting local participation rates to the fiscal agent, WCJP.

b. Matching Funds

Local Training: In the past, the WIB has required a minimum 25% cash match for Incumbent Worker Training funds, but did not collect those matching funds. For example, a company who was approved for \$10,000 in training might have received \$7,500. Now, the WIB may choose to collect the required 25% cash match. For example, a company who shows \$10,000 in training may received the full \$10,000, and then invoice the company for \$2,500 as match. The match that is collected will be the company's contribution to the Partnership's Sustainability fund so that monies are available for employers even if the Partnership is waiting to receive funding from the state. Matching policy for local companies will be determined and collected by the local WIB.

1st Seat Driver Training: The partnership will resume the \$3,000 cap for 1st Seat Driver Training. In past years, a company showing \$6,000 in training costs for one trainee could receive 50% of the training cost, or \$3,000 max. This year, the same will apply, only the 25% cash contribution will be calculated based on the \$3,000. In other words, a company showing \$6,000 in 1st Seat Driver training, will be awarded the maximum of \$3,000, but will then be invoiced for \$750 (25%) as the cash match.

A T.E.E.N. Notice similar to the item issued in March 2008 (Found in Appendix C of the Continuation Proposal) will be distributed to all partners within the next week or two. The notice will clearly outline the changes required this year. A memorandum of understanding developed in cooperation with the newly formed steering committee will also highlight these requirements.

Training Plan Updates

Eric asked the national companies if they knew the number of workers that have been trained since the fiscal year began in July. Duane Boswell of TMC said that he did not know the exact number, but knew that they had a significant number from Pennsylvania. Mike Kellis from Werner Enterprises agreed. Eric told the group that now that the state funding had been received that the local WIBs/Business Services Representatives will be calling to collect updated company training plans.

Steering Committee

Eric asked for volunteers for the T.E.E.N. Steering Committee for the remainder of the fiscal year. The Steering Committee would have two conference calls on February 11th and on May 27th both at 10:00 a.m. and would discuss how the Industry Partnership funds should be spent. Last year, the steering committee was made up of five representatives, one representative from the national companies and one representative from each of the four Workforce Investment Areas. If you are interested in being on the steering committee, please contact Eric.

T.E.E.N. DVD

A copy of the T.E.E.N. Informational folder and DVD has been sent to one representative from every company on the T.E.E.N. contact list. The local WIBs have been sent 50 – 100 folders initially to distribute to the appropriate outlets. There are more folders available, if you would like more please let Eric know. Mary Salony said that they appreciated the inclusion of all the local companies in the DVD credits and that they have gotten a very positive response.

Contacts List Update

Eric noted that he had received some emails already about changes to the contact list. Please make sure that your information is correct so that you can stay updated as to Partnership activities. Once all changes have been made, an updated list will be sent out with the meeting minutes.

Other Discussion

Karen Ekas of Freeport Transport informed the group that they are in a hiring slump right now and asked if and how that could affect future funding. Roni Bralich of Yourga Trucking added that they were experiencing the same thing and that they haven't hired anyone since September.

Susie Snelick of the North Central WIB said the State is trying to pass legislation for these dollars, but she is not sure where they are at today. Eric noted that although the availability of funding and current economic crisis may be out of the partnership's hands, there are other things that can be done by the IP to offset some of the negative affects. We are hoping to identify some of these during discussions among the newly formed Steering Committee.

The next Full Partnership Conference Call – Wednesday April 15th at 10:00 a.m.

Reminders will be sent out a few weeks before and the week of the conference call.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:38 a.m.