



Conference Call  
Wednesday, April 15th 2009  
10:00 a.m. EST

### **MINUTES**

Present on the conference call were:

Eric Karmecy – West Central WIB  
Rebecca Moder – West Central WIB  
Debbie McNerney – Oil Regional Alliance  
Marsha Walker – Regional Center for Workforce Excellence  
Larry McCauley– McCauley Trucking  
Mike Kellis – Werner Enterprises  
Tad London – McClymonds Supply and Transit  
Allan Leard – Altman Trucking  
Roni Bralich– Yourga Trucking  
Ariel Borejdo – Stevens Transport  
Shirley Ponce-Reyes– Stevens Transport  
Brad Ehrhart – Clarion County Economic Development Corporation  
Rich Milner – Klapac Trucking Company  
Mary Salony – Tri-County WIB  
Regis Schultz – Transport Tech  
Ben VanVerth – Chadderton Trucking, Inc.  
Susie Paradise – Transport America, Inc.  
Karen Ekas – Freeport Transport  
Heidi Powley - Warren County Business Service Unit

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. Eric Karmecy thanked everyone for participating. He asked if everyone had received the minutes along with the email reminder for the conference call and asked if there were any changes or corrections.

### **Steering Committee Update**

Since this Industry Partnership is such a large group covering the 17 counties, we have attempted to form a Steering Committee over the course of the last couple years with one private sector representative from each of the four Workforce Investment Areas as well as one private sector representative from the national carriers and a rep from the local WIB. At the last full partnership meeting in January, we had asked for volunteers to serve on the committee. So far the representatives are: for West Central - Roni Bralich from Yourga Trucking, for North

Central – Barber Trucking, for the National Carriers – Duane Bosewell of TMC. Local carrier representatives are still needed for the Tri-County and Northwest areas. Marsha Walker offered to sit on the committee for RCWE. Mary Salony from Tri-County said that they will find someone to represent their local companies.

In the mean time, Eric has had some discussion with individual companies as to how the remaining balance of the Industry Partnership funds should be allocated. One of the items that was discussed was the development of a brief survey that would go out to all of the employers in the region. A number of companies, especial the local companies, had indicated that they were hiring less because of the decrease in demand. Because of this, we would like to hear feedback from all the companies that participate. Eric said that there were almost 800 individuals who responded to the T.E.E.N. outreach campaign that ran last May through September and they were interested in seeing if and what occupations these individuals would be getting hired in.

Karen Ekas noted that she gets about 4-6 phone calls each day from individuals asking if they are hiring. She said that she had not only been taking their information, but also referred them to the CareerLink so that when the company was ready to start hiring again they could match up the ones who have called. Though they are not doing any hiring at present, they are would be interested in looking at those individuals when they started hiring again. Eric said that that had been the general consensus from the companies that he had talked to.

Eric noted that the survey would be sent out by email sometime next week and requested that a representative from each of the 30+ companies that are participating would complete it and return it to us so that we can report the general findings to the entire group by email.

### **Worker Training Update**

West Central has issued contracts to each of the four local WIBs. In West Central, contracts have been issued to \$30,000 to Yourga, Chadderton and Strimbu and have started to receive invoices for the training costs. North Central WIB received \$30,000; Eric said that he received an email from Pam Streich the majority has been received and that they are preparing to invoice for close to \$29,000. Marsha Walker said that in the Northwest awards have been made to AR Trucking and Crossett. Heidi Powley said that she is currently working with those two companies to collect the information that is needed to invoice. There was an issue that AR Trucking had received both an award from the Northwest and the North Central WIBs but the issue has been resolved.

For the National Carriers, Eric said that they had begun issuing some contracts, but not all of them. There were a few issues of putting together an invoice because of the amount of 1<sup>st</sup> seat driver training that was being done. Since there were some questions on how the invoicing would be done so they have been preparing very specific instructions and directions on how to complete the invoicing process specific to the 1<sup>st</sup> seat driver application. For the Nationals who have not received a training award yet, it is on the way and should be out by the end of the week. The four companies that received the initial awards include: Stevens Transport, TMC, Falcon and Werner.

Still have between \$15,000 and \$20,000 available so if there is a local area that could use additional funds, please let him know and they can modify the agreement to include additional funding. If the local companies cannot spend the funds, the National Carriers would be able to absorb those funds.

### **Other Discussion**

Eric said that he will be sending out the contact list by email and requested that everyone review it and notify him of any changes that need to be made. He said that they wanted to make sure that everyone's contact information was correct and that everyone who is participating is receiving the emails.

Eric also noted that they would like to reach out to companies and send out information throughout the 17 counties. If you know of any companies that might be interested please inform your local WIB. The state just released a new PA employers file and they plan to pull a list of all the Logistics & Transportation companies in the 17 county region and send them to the WIBs in order to perform this outreach.

Eric reminded the group that it is never too early to start thinking about next year's training plans. The next application to the state for 2009-2010 funds will be . The local WIBs should start collecting training plans next month because they will need them by the end of July if we want to include them in the T.E.E.N. proposal.

Regis Schultz asked if any of the companies had been looking into stimulus funds. He said that 10 companies had represented T.E.E.N. in Harrisburg during the Stimulus Summit and had a chance to speak to Arlen Specter. Regis said that he was impressed with our project. He noted that they have made contacts on the state and federal side and to let him know if any company was looking to acquire funding for specific projects that have to do with job creation. Brad Erhart said that they were looking into Stimulus funds for Infrastructure, Water and Sewer lines, Broadband, and other areas.

**The next Steering Committee Conference Call – Wednesday May 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

**The next Full Partnership Conference Call – Wednesday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

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

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