



Conference Call
Friday, November 13th 2009
10:00 a.m. EST

MINUTES

Present on the conference call were:

Eric Karmecy – West Central WIB
Rebecca Moder – West Central WIB
Tina Hoch – Barber Trucking
Tad London – McClymonds Supply and Transit
Mary Salony – Tri-County WIB
Shirley Ponce-Reyes– Stevens Transport
Brad Ehrhart – Clarion County Economic Development Corporation
Ben VanVerth – Chadderton Trucking, Inc.
Gary Dietsch - Falcon Transport
Karen Ekas – Freeport Transport
Regis Schultz – Transport Tech
Michael Kiehl - Crossett Trucking
Connie Frantz - Economic Progress Alliance of Crawford County

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

The group discussed the changes in the hiring situation that has happened since April. Several of the employers have hired new drivers since August. Tina Hoch noted that Barber had been receiving a lot of applications, but many of the applicants aren't able to pass the background check. For recruitment, companies have been using many different methods including the PA CareerLinks[®], ads and employee referrals. Gary Dietsch noted that Falcon Transport is using the "Ten Street" Recruiting program directly on their website that allows the applicants to submit an electronically signed waiver to allow the company to run the necessary background checks. Other than the driver jobs, a few companies are also looking to hire mechanics.

Budget Update

For the 2008-2009 Fiscal year the Partnership had received \$200,000 for Worker Training monies and \$70,000 for IP development that has all been expended. For the 2009-2010 FY, the Application was submitted to the Department of Labor & Industry back in July and we just received the Notice of Obligation letter notifying the partnership that it will be receiving \$170,000 in Worker Training funds and \$40,000 in Industry Partnership funds a total of \$210,000 for the year. We are expecting the funds to be available at the end of the year or in

early January. There are some things that need to be revised in the proposal – the budget and budget narrative need to be revised to take into account the extra monies (since we applied for \$190,000 and received \$210,000). We also have to revise the Abstract, Data Analysis, Schedule of Meetings and acknowledge that the Partnership will adhere to the required 75% consortia-style training requirement. We are hoping that the funding will be available at the end of the year or in early January.

We would also like to review some of the goals that we highlighted in our application through June 30th of next year:

- Widen the scope of the Partnership participation through drill-down of local infrastructure, identifying additional elements of logistics operation throughout the 17 counties of Northwest PA.
- To increase management efficiency through education and training opportunities via increased higher education and community college interaction.
- Identify and implement consortia based training opportunities – We saw a need for Supervisory training in the Training Plans that were collected and
- Research additional advances in technologies, working with employers toward next generation implementation of those practices within warehousing, inventory, tracking and distribution.
- Foster enhancement commutation and relationships between economic development in order to attract new facilities to the region.
- Partnership dialogue and focus on emerging trends in commercial transportation related to bio-diesel fuels, renewable energy systems and national security relevant to the industry.
- Increase the participation of regional education and training providers – to identify all the education and training providers within the region and find out what they can offer specific to the Logistics & Transportation Industry. This is a goal for all of our Industry Partnerships and we were in discussion about issuing an Invitation for Bids to hire someone to go out to all the education and training providers and compile information on what curricula they have or could customize for different industries.
- Maintain cognizance of the proposed monorail transit system between Cleveland, Ohio and Pittsburgh, Pa to discern relevance to commercial transit and ancillary effects that it might have upon local transit of goods.
- Increase focus on commercial passenger transit issues for L&T workforce support occupations such as maintenance technicians and CDL Class B passenger transit licenses.

A copy of the 2009-2010 proposal is available to anyone that requests it and we will also get that up on the website.

The \$210,000 that we are set to get for this year does not include the cash match that we collected from last year which was, as of now, \$23,844.06, that is also available.

Outreach Update

TeenIndustryPartnership.com that the partnership worked with Vision to develop is up and running. Please email Eric or Rebecca with any updated/changes that you would like to see made to the site.

The TV and radio commercials were put together based on the T.E.E.N. DVD and aired throughout the 17 county region. They are also viewable on the website. The ads ran for 13 weeks through October. We are waiting on reports from the spots where the commercials were aired. Once we receive it we will make that available to anyone interested. The Transportation Employment Network sent us the leads that were received as a result of the commercials and the results weren't as good as advertising that we had done just in print in previous years. For future outreach we may look more into print instead of radio and TV ads.

Other Business

The Industry Partnership Application was distributed by email. We developed this to formalize the process of becoming an Industry Partner and to help us to update the contact list. We are asking that everyone complete it and return it as soon as possible. Some people mentioned that they had problems opening the file – Eric will resend the form in a different file format to the group by email.

We would like to consider hiring a Program Manager to manage the Partnership through December of next year. We would like to work with the Steering Committee in order to issue an Invitation for Bids. To work more exclusively with the companies across the 17 counties, run the Partnership meetings, assist in putting together the consortium training and to be in contact with the companies to determine common needs. We will be in contact with the Steering Committee to develop and approve this and look to issue it by the end of the year. There were no objections from the group to looking into issuing the IFB and seeing what is submitted.

Brad Ehrhart informed the group that the PA Turnpike has submitted to the US Department of Labor, for the third time, an application for the tolling of I-80. There a draft of a letter in opposition of the tolling of I-80 on the website www.callclarionpa.com off of the homepage that folks can use to send to US Secretary of Transportation Reymond Lahood to voice their opposition. Eric will send a copy of the link via email.

The next Full Partnership Conference Call – Friday, February 26th at 10:00 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.