

<p>Region 4 Workforce Board – Annual Event Lunch Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2023 Location: Wabash & Erie Canal Conference Center and Virtual-GoToMeeting</p>	<p>NEXT MEETING Wednesday, January 24, 2024 Location: Kokomo, IN - TBD</p>
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Directors Present:

Randy Vernon, Chair
Matt Lewellen, Vice Chair
Spencer Buchanan
Dennis Carson
Melissa Harwood
Judy Hasselkus

Ethan Heicher
Matt Huston
Rebecca Jones
Donte Wilburn
Amy Wood

Excused:

Holly Moore, Treasurer
Steve Snyder, Secretary
Deb Close
Alicia Hanawalt
Elva James

Guests Present: *Region 4 Chief Elected Official, Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski; Kathy Vernon, Tippecanoe County Council District 3, and Representative for Congressman Jim Baird; Trey Barton, Representative for Congressman Jim Baird; and Local Economic Development Officials: Jake Adams, Carroll County; Brooke Robertson, Miami County; Cheryl Morphew, Montgomery County; Ben Dispennett, Warren County; Randy Strawser, White County; and WorkOne/Service Provider staff: Terri Simons, Treva Nichols, Jeremy Bolinger, Nikki Worl, Gerry Vasquez, Faith Willoughby, and Ethan Groff.*

Staff Present: *Roger Feldhaus, CEO; Deb Waymire, COO; Mellisa Leaming, Director of Operations; Blake Sempsrott, Controller; Kathy Burns, Lead Business Consultant and Data Analyst; and Tina Overlay-Hilt, Executive Assistant*

Call to Order and Welcome

On November 15, 2023, the WDB meeting and Annual event was held in-person at Delphi Opera House, Delphi, Indiana. The meeting was called to order and attendees were welcomed at 10:30AM by Chair, Randy Vernon. Guests and Board members in attendance were introduced. A quorum was present.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda items as presented.

Motion: Matt Lewellen

Second: Spencer Buchanan

Action: Unanimous approval

New Business

Operations

Infrastructure Grant (REV)

Region 4 was awarded a \$2 million USDOL *Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs* Grant (REV). The grant funding is for five years to upskill 700 individuals in electric vehicle battery manufacturing. We are partnering with Ivy Tech in Kokomo; StarPlus Energy, the new electric battery manufacturer in Kokomo; and Huston Electric and Steinberger Construction to assist with training of individuals interested in electric battery manufacturing and solar panel charging station manufacturing. Funding will also help train individuals at Stellantis for the manufacturing of electric vehicles.

Employer Training Grant (ETG) Update

Region 4 have applied for an additional \$1 million in Employer Training Grant funds. Our region had \$1.2 million of ETG funds in PY 22 which are fully obligated to employers. There is also a list of employers interested in the additional funds to upskill their workforce.

DWD Monitoring

During the week of October 30th, DWD conducted a thorough annual review of WIOA and all grant programs and services delivered by our WorkOne offices. The monitoring team was very complementary of our WorkOne staff. The initial comments from the team were positive. An update will be provided once the final report is received.

Board Administration

Succession Plan Progress

Succession planning is moving forward following the Board approval of the short-term and long-term succession plans at its September 27, 2023, meeting. We are currently seeking applicants for the CEO position. The process includes reviewing submitted resumes, scheduling an initial introductory phone call, and then scheduling formal interview with Succession Committee if the candidate is a fit for the organization.

CTE Local Needs Assessment

Region 4 Workforce Board hosted the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) Regional Collaborative Meeting with our Career and Technical Education (CTE) partners. There is a new initiative to be fully implemented by the Fall 2024 semester to ensure the districts are aligning their program offerings to the interests of students and demands of the local labor market and workforce development opportunities.

Senator Braun Staffer Visit

Lauren Hickey, Legislative Correspondent for U.S. Senator Braun, met with Region 4 Workforce Board members on Thursday, October 12, 2023, to hear Region 4's priorities to consider for the upcoming WIOA reauthorization and contribute to the discussion on reauthorization. Concerns expressed during the meeting were to simplify the requirements under WIOA and replenish the funding available.

Region 4 Mission Statement and Vision

Randy Vernon, Chair, Region 4 Workforce Board, shared the Board's Mission and Vision Statements. Randy acknowledged the WorkOne staff's efforts to assist individuals, to meet performance metrics goals and, in the end, to be worthy of the positive feedback they receive from customers. The Board staff were also recognized for their efforts to seek grant funds and develop partnerships that significantly contribute to Region 4's economic success.

2022-2023 Annual Report (PY 22)

The PY 22 Annual Report for the period from July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023, was shared with Board members and guests.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM for networking and lunch.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Overlay-Hilt
Executive Assistant

Stephen Snyder, Secretary
Tecumseh Area Partnership, Inc.
d/b/a Region 4 Workforce Board