

High Country Workforce Development Board Meeting

April 14, 2011

MINUTES

Call to Order: by Chairman Peterson at 3:06 PM.

Members Present: Mike Birkmire, Anne Bowlin, Skip Greene, Marie Gwyn, Jim Halsey, Jenny Harpold, Charley Nash, Bryan Peterson, Sam Ray, Truman Robbins, Julia Rowland, Stacy Sears, Earl Tipton, Don Williams

Staff: Misty Bishop-Price, Rebecca Bloomquist, Carole Coates, Don Sherrill, Adrian Tait, MaryAnn Urka

Guests: Sherri Dees, Calvin Dull, Drew Edwards, John Greene, Patrick McKemie, Brenda Savage, Ginger Shaffer, Georgia Steele, Pam Wilson

Consideration of Minutes: The minutes of the February 10, 2011 meeting were approved as submitted.

Information

Executive Committee Report: Chairman Peterson reviewed committee actions taken during the meetings of March 10th and February 3rd (April Board Book, pp. 5-6), and announced a special Board work session scheduled for November 10th, 12 noon-4:00 PM, which will include lunch. The session, which **replaces the regularly scheduled October Board meeting**, will be dedicated to developing a new Board strategic plan.

Workforce Update: Director Carole Coates reported on an expected 10% cut in Program Year 2011 WIA funding, with all cuts anticipated to occur in the first quarter of PY 2011. Coates also called the Board's attention to the Governor's Executive Order (EO) 85, which moves the Employment Security Commission into the NC Department of Commerce and consolidates employment services and the Division of Workforce Development. Ms. Coates announced that the Board's Program Year 2011 Workforce Investment Act Plan is currently available for public review and comment. She distributed a brief overview of the plan process and directed members and guests to the Board website to review the plan and obtain guidance on how to comment.

Industry Profiles: Board member **Skip Greene** described the local history and progress of his company, Greene Construction, Inc., and emphasized the need for a motivated and well-trained workforce.

Program Presentation - Julia Rowland, ASU; **Jimmy Hunt**, Yellow Dog Enterprises; and **Barry Baugess**, B & R Service, Inc. offered perspectives on the relevance of entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial thinking on regional workforce development.

NC Division of Workforce Development staff members Brenda Savage and Georgia Steele provided an update on the state's implementation of special On-the-Job Training services under a USDOL National Emergency Grant. Savage reported on the site visit the two made earlier in the day to a highly successful OJT worksite in Wilkes County. Steele discussed the High Country's strong rate of enrollment in the program.

Appointment of Nominating Committee: Mr. Peterson appointed Marie Gwyn, Truman Robbins, Sam Ray and Stacy Sears to present candidates at the June meeting for Board Chair and Vice-Chair for the term of July 2011-June 2012.

Mr. Sam Ray was presented with an engraved plaque, honoring his contributions over the last 25 years as a member of the WDB. Chairman Peterson expressed appreciation for his years of generous service and invited all to a reception in Mr. Ray's honor, immediately following the meeting.

Announcements: Patrick McKemie, NCESC, presented labor market information packets to members.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:06 PM.

Next Meeting: June 9, 2011 at 3:00 PM in the HCCOG Board Room, 468 New Market Blvd., Boone.