

**Workforce Development Board of Okaloosa and Walton Counties  
Board Meeting \* May 5, 2010 8:30 a.m.  
Ft. Walton Beach JobsPlus One-Stop**

**Call to Order:** Chair David Miller called the Workforce Development Board of Okaloosa & Walton Counties (WDB) meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

Board members in **Bold** were present:

Don Amunds	Carlene Anderson	<b>Jack Azzaretto</b>
Dianne Barlar	Felix Beukenkamp	<b>Larry Boldin</b>
<b>Don Brown</b>	<b>Mike Brown</b>	<b>Sam Burkett</b>
<b>Earnestine Carswell</b>	Dale Cope	<b>Marj Cummins</b>
<b>Bill Dillman</b>	John Eckert	<b>Cindy Frakes</b>
<b>Ron Garriga</b>	David Goetsch	<b>Leigh Grantham</b>
Barbara Griffin	Sylvia Hanks	Dwight Howard
<b>David Miller</b>	<b>Martha Miller</b>	Dawn Moliterno
Kenneth Pridgen	Bobby Rains	<b>Lane Rees</b>
Judy Byrne Riley	<b>Bill Robinson</b>	<b>Larry Sassano</b>
<b>Greg Sheffield</b>	<b>Greg Smith</b>	Shayne Stewart
Pam Tedesco	<b>Janice Thomas</b>	Alexis Tibbetts
<b>Al Ward</b>	David Whalen	<b>Lynn Yort</b>
Bill Zell		

**Jerry Miller**, Board Counsel

**Guests present:**, Arun Varanasi, Mary Beth Jackson, Diane Thomas, Mike Davis

**WDB/JobsPlus staff members present:**

<b>Mary Lou Reed</b>	<b>Linda Sumblin</b>	<b>Art Lee-Drewes</b>
<b>Will Miles</b>	<b>DeDe Haynes</b>	<b>Sue Berntsen</b>
<b>Rebecca Pazik</b>	<b>Rita Smith</b>	<b>Valerie McLaughlin</b>
<b>Kate Doheny</b>	<b>Larry Tipton</b>	<b>Mike WrightReynolds</b>

**Approval of Minutes:** Dr. Miller asked if there were any corrections or comments from the April 7, 2010 Board minutes as distributed.

*Motion by Bill Robinson, seconded by Sam Burkett to approve the Board meeting minutes for April 7, 2009 as distributed. All Ayes.*

**By-Laws Amendment:** Proposed amendments to the by-laws were emailed to Board members from Mary Lou Reed on April 27, 2010 and are contained in the packet. The amendments revise the timeline for the election of officers to allow the election to take place at the June Board meeting, along with approval of the preliminary budget, and therefore eliminate the need for a May Board meeting for the election and a June Board meeting for approval of the budget.

*Motion by Bill Robinson, seconded by Marj Cummins to approve the proposed by-laws amendments as distributed.*  
*All Ayes.*

**Nominations Committee:** Chair Bill Robinson presented the slate of nominees, which was emailed to Board members by Mary Lou Reed on April 27, 2010 and is contained in the packet. The proposed slate of officers is:

Dave Miller, Chair  
Martha Miller, Vice Chair  
Earnestine Carswell, Secretary  
Lane Rees, Treasurer  
Leigh Grantham, Walton County Member at Large  
Jack Azzaretto, Okaloosa County Member at Large

Dave Miller asked if there were any nominations from the floor, there were none.

*Motion by Bill Robinson, seconded by Bill Dillman to approve the proposed slate of officers for 2010 - 2011.*  
*All Ayes.*

**Conflict of Interest Statements:** Conflict of Interest policy statements must be signed by Board members annually. A statement for the upcoming 2010 – 2011 program year is in the packet. Please sign and return to the Board administrative office or contact Mary Lou Reed if you have any questions.

## **COUNCIL REPORTS**

**Business Competitiveness Council:** Dr. Jack Azzaretto provided an update on the Eglin manpower acquisition program, the EDC/TeCMEN grant providing training in Project Management and Technical Supervision Skills and other needs in those areas.

**Joint JobsPlus and Youth Councils Report:** Earnestine Carswell highlighted the information in the packet regarding the Panhandle Job Fair, the Mobile One-Stop activities and the most recent unemployment figures. The next meeting will be May 27<sup>th</sup>. Marj Cummins invited any interested parties to attend the next meeting to contribute to the great interaction in the group. It was noted that different unemployment rates are reported and it needs to be noted what period they are for and if they are seasonally adjusted.

**Finance Committee Report:** Lane Rees announced the next Finance Committee meeting is May 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. at the Shalimar office, and Budget Mod #5 and the initial budget for 2010-2011 will be reviewed.

**Dept. of Children and Families:** Janice Thomas reported that the local DCF office is participating in the Back to Work program. They are currently publicizing where people may apply for regular benefits and waiting on information regarding any special benefits related to the Gulf oil spill. DCF will have a Community Strategic Planning session in Pensacola on May 12, 9:30 – 2:00.

**Education Updates:** Mary Beth Jackson, on behalf of Dr. Tibbetts, reported that Embry Riddle will be in four high schools next year. They are opening two new institutes in Baker and Laurel Hill and moving others. They are working on partnerships with local businesses that will hire career and technical graduates. She stated that 10% of Okaloosa students do not graduate, and nationwide 12 million students will not graduate high school in the next 10 years costing \$3 trillion in lost wages and productivity.

Mike Davis for Superintendent Anderson of Walton County Schools discussed new career academies being opened in Walton Schools including a partnership with Sacred Heart and NWFSC for a new medical sciences institute. Walton County students competed regionally and statewide and six will receive full scholarships to Pensacola Junior College.

NWFSC had no representative at the meeting today.

Dr. Jack Azzaretto for UWF reported that graduation was last Saturday and summer sessions begin this week. UWF has articulating and dual enrollment agreements with both Okaloosa and Walton Counties to provide pathways from high schools to the university systems. Dr. Bill Cook of Choctaw High School was appointed a faculty member with UWF in engineering to encourage students to use him a role model and establish a pathway to the University.

Ron Garriga for Embry Riddle also discussed the networking and paths being established, and that Eagle Vision is active for distance students. Ninety percent of Embry Riddle graduates are employed in the aerospace and aviation industry. They will graduate 119 students on May 15.

**Economic Development:** Don Brown reported the Freeport Industrial Park plan has been approved and they plan to close a deal which will bring 60 jobs in the next three years tomorrow, and another employer with 20 jobs is next.

Larry Sassano noted that the Okaloosa ECD small business incubator is full and they are looking for more space. Occupants are Defense contractor startups. Companies affected by the oil spill need to be tracked and catastrophe bridge loans may be available if needed. The Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners approved tax abatement in general and specifically to DRS, who has hired 80 new employees, and has plans for hiring 150 total in the next two years. This will bring DRS workforce to 1000 by 2011.

Larry Sassano announced that the EDC Quarterly Roundtable will be June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 am at the Ramada sponsored by the Workforce Board. The topic is BRAC and keynote speakers from the Army, Air Force and Marines are scheduled. The next WDB Board meeting will follow immediately. The Strategic Defense Initiative is making the annual trip to Washington DC May 12<sup>th</sup>.

If the oil spill impacts our area, there may be opportunities for existing business to deploy and assist in cleanup. The flow of information is vital. There was a public meeting yesterday, and the WDB will filter and consolidate information as available. There is an

WFI/AWI teleconference at 2:00 pm today, and a \$25M grant from BP to Florida has been awarded.

**BRAC Families:** DeDe Haynes reported that the trip to Ft. Bragg/Fayetteville, NC is May 11 & 12, where town hall meetings and seminars will be conducted for the families. The WelcomeToNorthwestFlorida.com website has been updated with interactive maps. A tentative schedule is in the packet. She shared an overview of the presentation that Earnestine Carswell will be delivering. A group of 55 from the entire community is traveling.

**Operations Report:** Linda Sumblin shared that a National Emergency Grant may be associated with the oil spill if needed and proceeded to summarize the programs currently in place such as WT, WIA, OJT, TAP, CAA, BtW and REA.

Current numbers for One-Stop traffic are not available due to a sign in system problem. Numbers are being tracked manually.

Two partnerships with Monster for power jobseeker workshops and Elevate America for Microsoft training and exam vouchers are pending. The Summer Youth program is waiting on official availability of funding, but plans are in place.

**Executive Director's Report:** Mary Lou Reed stated that \$220K in additional Youth and Adult funding has been received for use by June 30. Federal funding for summer youth after July 1<sup>st</sup> is still pending. Total availability of workforce funding for this year is nearly \$10M.

Ms Reed introduced new Board member Gary Sheffield, who is now representing Vocational Rehabilitation. Ms Reed noted that while new to the Board, Gary is a familiar face at the JobsPlus Council.

The Interlocal Agreement between the two counties expires June 30 and is in the renewal process. The Agreement establishes the Region and the Board, and specifies composition and appointment processes.

An Honor Flight of WWII veterans is in Washington DC today and will return at approximately 6:00 tonight. All are invited to greet the veterans.

Ms Reed said she needed to officially inform the Board that an EEO complaint has been filed by a former employee alleging sex and age discrimination. Ms Reed stated that no discrimination of sex, age, or any other discrimination was involved. Ms Reed said that staff has analyzed the composition of the staff and is working with the Board attorney and insurance company in responding to the allegation. Ms Reed invited questions from any of the board members or if any board member would like additional information, please contact Ms Reed. Ms Reed said she would keep the board posted on any news.

A bill is pending in the legislature concerning purchase of food and beverages by Boards. It will allow purchases for participants, but not Board members or staff, if passed. Travel policies will mandate state rates for travel reimbursement, new guidelines for sponsorships

and memberships will be provided. Information regarding lobbying activities of the other organizations will be requested.

Because of conflict of interest, any contract with a Board member will require a 2/3 vote of the entire Board membership to enter the contract. If the contract is over \$25K, it will be submitted to the state for approval, as well.

The Project Management class sponsored by FGNW, TeCMEN, EDC and UWF, has a waiting list. Ms Reed said that some of the additional funds can be used for tuition for an additional class. if approved by the Board.

Ms Reed informed the board members that Goodwill has a program for recycling obsolete equipment. She said that she plans to use this method to dispose of our obsolescent and unneeded, qualifying equipment. Equipment which is still usable is transferred to One-Stop partners, education or other governmental or nonprofit organizations as approved by the Executive Committee or Board.

The next Board meeting will be June 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Ramada Okaloosa Island immediately following the EDC Quarterly Roundtable. The annual budget for 2010-2011 will be submitted for approval. Workforce Florida may have a representative for their annual visit as well.

**Old/ New Business:** None

**Comments:** Dr Jack Azzaretto announced that UWF Associate Dean Dr Joyce Gillie Gossom was appointed to the Ft Walton Beach City Council and was inducted to the Okaloosa County Commission on the Status of Women.

Dr. Miller introduced his special guest Mr. Arun Varanasi. Mr. Varanasi is a Project Management Consultant on a Group Study Exchange sponsored by District 6940 of the Rotary International. He has an MBA and is a certified program manager. The group is traveling from Pensacola to Orlando during the four week trip.

The next WFI Board meeting is May 13 and will be attended by Dave Miller, Mary Lou Reed and Linda Sumblin. Board Chairs will be asked to present two best practices from their Region.

Bill Robinson announced a meeting at Destin City Hall tomorrow at 10:30 concerning the 100 Days of summer and the oil spill.

Leigh Grantham announced a CHELCO program of prepaid metering to assist customers with budgeting after the extreme winter we experienced and the potential for high bills during the summer.

**Announcements:** None

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.