

# Workforce Investment Board of Columbia & Greene Counties

**Minutes for October 4, 2005**

*Columbia Greene Community College- Room 105*

## **WELCOME**

Chairman Zibella welcomed all members and guests.

### **Guests:**

Bob Keup, NYS Department of Labor, Suzanne Pollard, Empire State Development, Mike Portz, CGCC student.

**Chairman Anthony Zibella called the meeting to order and did roll call.**

### **Attendance:**

*Present:* Kit Ali, John Betts, John Craft, Jim Cullie, Karen Diffley, Diane Franzman, Jim Galvin, Warren Hart, Stan Ingalls, Ken Johnson, David Leavitt, David Lester, Cindy MacKay, Jim Molloy, Siobahn Pellegrino, Barbara Roemer, Sarah Witham, Terry McGee-Ward, M. A. Wiltse and Anthony Zibella.

*Excused:* Bruce Bohnsack, Russ Coloton, Paul Dellio, Pam Dusharm, Barbara Eacott, Tom Every, Susan Hollister, Ralph Marino, Lynn Strunk, Laurie Goff, David Segalla, Tina Sharpe, Patricia Shaw and Dawn Saul.

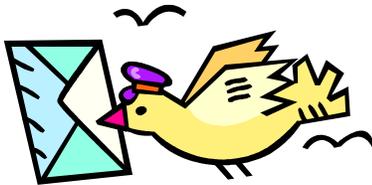
**WIO Staff:** Maureen Boutin

**Consultant:** Betty Ann Falkner

With 20 members in attendance, a quorum is present.

## **STATUS OF VACANCIES**

- There are a total of four vacancies, one business vacancy and one for a community representative in Greene County. There is one business vacancy in Columbia County and one labor union vacancy.



## **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were fourteen letters sent and nine letters received. Correspondence was not read due to time concerns. Correspondence was made available to all members.

## **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

A motion to accept the June 14, 2005 minutes was made by Jim Cullie and seconded by Diane Franzman. All were in favor and the motion was passed.

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The reading of committee reports was dispensed with in favor of time. All reports were provided to members and are made a part of these minutes.



## **One Stop Operator Director's Report**

The One-Stop Operator's report was provided to all members. M. A. Wiltse informed all members that our Workforce area has passed all performance measures for Program Year 2004. A copy of the report is attached and made part of these minutes.

## OLD BUSINESS

*There was no old business to discuss*

## NEW BUSINESS



### Resolutions & Discussion:

1. **The Executive Committee resolved to recommend to the WIB that the Three Year Strategic Plan be adopted.** A motion was made by Anthony Zibella and seconded by Diane Franzman. All were in favor with proxies from Lynn Strunk, David Segalla, Thomas Every, Dawn Saul, Pam Dusharm, Susan Hollister, Russ Colton, Patricia Shaw, Paul Dellio and Tina Sharpe. The motion passed.
2. **The Executive Committee resolved to recommend to the WIB that the Plan Year 2005 MOU be approved.** A motion was made by Anthony Zibella and seconded by Jim Cullie. All were in favor with proxies from Lynn Strunk, David Segalla, Thomas Every, Dawn Saul, Pam Dusharm, Susan Hollister, Russ Colton, Patricia Shaw, Paul Dellio and Tina Sharpe. The motion passed.

## GOOD AND WELFARE

### Member Education- WIA Authorization and Washington Buzz



John Twomey, Executive Director of the New York Association of Training & Employment Professionals (NYATEP) since 1987 and the President of the National Workforce Association, addressed the Board. John first congratulated the Board on its performance; Columbia-Greene is only one of seven of the thirty-three workforce boards who will qualify for a special New York State Department of Labor Incentive award for outstanding performance.

John then shared a PowerPoint presentation with the members. He discussed three topics; WIA Reauthorization Status and Prospects, Appropriations Pre-Katrina and Appropriations Post-Katrina.

John told the group that the WIA Act ended on September 30<sup>th</sup> 2003 and has been operating on continuing resolutions. In the last Congress, the House passed a bill on a purely partisan basis that included Republican items including, consolidation of funding streams, Personal Reemployment Accounts (PRA), One-Stop Operating Contributions from Partners, and Charitable Choice. The Senate passed a bipartisan bill that did not include these items (except for some One-Stop Partner contributions). Senate Democrats refused to conference the bill and time ran out.

In the current congress the House passed a bill that included only the consolidation of WIA Adult, WIA Dislocated Worker and Wagner Peyser (state employment service). PRAs have been introduced as a separate bill. The Senate bill began as a bipartisan effort and worked its

## Workforce Investment Board of Columbia & Greene Counties

way out of committees. However, USDOL has pushed amendments that include WIA Plus and Charitable Choice. Senator Kennedy has threatened that either there are no amendments added or unlimited amendments will be allowed, and the Democrats will add 100 amendments. This is where the Bill stands today.

Time is again running out for anything to happen this year. John feels that reauthorization is important in that it will give us six more years to further refine the system. He considers the major obstacles to passage to be the issues of Consolidation, One Stop Infrastructure, Community College Initiative and the charitable choice option. The bitterest dispute is about Charitable Choice, which is an issue in a number of different bills, not just WIA. Also, USDOL wants more consolidation of programs and less local workforce boards. In fact, even without the reauthorization bill they are pushing in some states for the elimination of all local boards and the creation of a state run system. WIA does have supporters in Congress. Republican Congressman Buck McKeon, who has been in office since 1982, is a strong supporter of WIA and local WIB's. John is hopeful that with McKeon's and other supporter's help all these obstacles can be overcome.

On the Appropriations side, John told the Board that before Katrina there was a deficit of 300 billion dollars. In addition, the war in Iraq is costing 87 billion dollars and the prescription drug bill may cost another 300-500 billion dollars. Funding for Hurricane relief takes another 62 billion dollars out of the pool. In attempts to deal with these deficits the Executive Budget office proposes ending programs, and Congress puts them back in and/or adds new ones. A lot of programs are looking to be funded while the overall the money keeps getting tighter. Currently, the total dollar amount of workforce spending is approximately 1.3 billion dollars. On the House side, there are very tight domestic discretionary funds. WIA money is protected by Congressman Regula whose committee oversees some 500 programs, with three billion dollars less this year than last. Any increase to one program requires an "offset" in another. Offsets are the new Washington word for funding cuts. As an example, John told about PBS looking for 100 million dollars. This funding would have been off-set by taking 58 million dollars from WIA. Instead the committee found that Medicaid was funding 58 million dollars for Viagra. Eliminating the Viagra benefit actually netted 100 million dollars in savings, so the WIA funds were returned. WIA will have slight cuts if all Appropriations bills pass. No new amendments can be introduced after September 30<sup>th</sup> 2005.

John summed up his review with his best bets. He feels workforce funding will be okay for this year, as it's largely protected. With the hurricane and the need to rebuild a number of schools being first priority this could make the next few years a rough game of musical chairs, with very good programs increasingly pitted against themselves. With the economy taking a dip, government spending will decrease and philanthropic spending may pass it.

The question was asked **'How does the Board respond?'** With a new governor coming on board and the locally-operated question lurking everywhere, we need to build a real workforce system. The local WIB's will have to prioritize their investments-what training to offer and how to offer it. John mentioned that many jobs that will appear in ten years do not exist today and aren't being trained for. This is a wake-up call to raise awareness of challenges we face. We need to have a skilled workforce policy in place. We also need to build workforce champions. John is working with Sweeney, McNulty, Bruno and Canestrari in the Capital region. NYATEP is also looking to have a May summit meeting with workforce professionals, educators, politicians and



Investment Board of Columbia & Greene Counties

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business people. John remains positive that raising awareness of the upcoming situations will go a long way in coming up with solutions. WIB's need to look for other areas to get funding, and we need to do better job of showing value. We need to define, as a WIB, what we consider success. Our WIB will need to be more strategic in how we look at resources and go out and look for other money. Our members need to remain energized if we are going to accomplish the tasks we face.

Chair Anthony Zibella thanked John for providing us with this update.

**Mark Your Calendar**

<b>Upcoming Special Events</b>	<b>Date, Time, Location</b>	<b>Information:</b>
<i>Columbia County Chamber: Regional Business After Hours</i>	Finnish Line Fitness Center will host a Business After Hours on October 27 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm at their Hudson location	Reservations appreciated call 828-4417
<i>Columbia Greene JSEC Breakfast (Job Service Employer Committee):</i>	Interviewing Skills John Adams-Adams Career Transition Fairways Thursday , November 17, 2005	Contact: Deb Spaulding, NYSDOL, 828-4654 ext. 205 <a href="mailto:deborah.spaulding@labor.state.ny.us">deborah.spaulding@labor.state.ny.us</a>
<b>WIB Meetings:</b>	Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2006-8:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 4, 2006- 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 12, 2006- 8:30 a.m.	Contact <i>Betty Ann Falkner</i> 634-2882 <a href="mailto:organizer_1@netzero.com">organizer_1@netzero.com</a>

**ADJOURNMENT-** A motion to adjourn the Board meeting at was made by Jim Cullie and seconded by Diane Franzman.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Ann Falkner  
WIB Consultant