

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE BOARD RI
STRATEGIC INVESTMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2008**

MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Joseph MarcAurele, Chair, George Nee, William McGowan and Martin Trueb
Members Absent: Armeather Gibbs, Brandon Melton and Lorna Ricci
GWB Staff Present: Michael Koback, Nancy Olson, David Francis, Maureen Mooney
Others Present: Paul Harden

Minutes of 1/10/08

Chairman MarcAurele asked for a review of the meeting minutes of January 10, 2008 of the Governor's Workforce Board RI (GWBRI) Strategic Investment Committee. He then asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented.

VOTE: M. Trueb moved to approve. W. McGowan seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

Budget Update

M. Koback referred to the three budget reports available in the meeting packets. He indicated that these reports show the progression of funding transfers from various categories. The first report is based on 12/31/07 data. This report provides a snapshot of the funding prior to the board's approval of funds for the workforce training grants at the January 17th board meeting.

M. Koback reported that the second report, based on 1/18/08 data, indicates a funding shift in the Workforce Training category. This shift increases the funding allocation amount to \$2,350,000 to accommodate the \$1.5 million awarded for the 2008 Comprehensive Workforce Training grants. This report also indicates that the New Worker Training was reduced from \$527,096 to \$100,000 because this funding amount may not be fully utilized this fiscal year. The Workforce Expansion category was revised to \$1,500,000 to incorporate \$500,000 in carry-over funds from the prior fiscal year. Also noted were increases in the Partnership Grants from \$1.5 to \$2.5 million to accommodate the approval by the GWB to fund the Industry Skills Initiative, a collaborative effort of the 2 local WBS and netWORKri. The balance of \$679,196 in this category will cover the Year 2 Industry Partnership Grants due at the end of March. M. Koback noted that all of the allocated funds for the Youth Strategies category are obligated. He also noted that the original budget of \$4.5 million allocated to the Adult Education and Literacy category reflected only new FY '08 dollars. The revised allocation of \$4,616,700 includes a carry over amount of \$116,000.

In the Business Retention category the allocation of \$1,000,000 was reduced to \$50,000 which is the amount of funding awarded to Hope Global. M. Koback mentioned that the

Business Retention group would be reconvening in the future to discuss national models, programs, and policies.

Chair MarcAurele restated his position on business retention funding in regards to recent inquiries by the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to pilot this program. He reiterated that his preference is to concentrate funding those current initiatives that are successful. He noted that this decision has been affirmed by the GWB and the Strategic Investments Committee. However, he acknowledged his willingness to consider any well-thought out plan that will produce effective results.

M. Koback continued the budget status review and noted that in the funding category of Capacity Building, \$40,000 of the \$500,000 in allocations is obligated for the CSW contract. M. Koback mentioned that remaining funds may be used for new technology that could increase the capacity of labor market information.

J. MarcAurele asked for an explanation of the carry-in monies in the budget reports. M. Koback explained that most of the initiatives are inter-fiscal year programs. At June 30th when the books are closed, there are typically funds left in a category that may or may not be obligated. Already obligated funds as in the case of Adult Education may be carried in and added to any new obligation.

M. Trueb asked if these funds have to be carried into the same program. M. Koback stated that unobligated funds typically become part of the overall availability and subject to reallocation among the funding priorities set by the board.

It was noted that the third budget report of the budget listed was similar to the second; however the expensed amounts were included.

M. Koback reported that there are new State procedures established regarding the invoicing process. Beginning some time in February, all invoices will go directly to the Controller's office in the Department of Administration for processing. He added that staff is working to ensure a smooth transition to this process to avoid delays in processing payments.

Funding Request

P. Harden provided an overview of Electric Boat (EB) as background for the funding request of \$166,900. He noted that EB is expanding its workforce due to increased orders and production of two submarines per year for the next five years. He noted that primary operations are in the Groton, CT shipyard and there is a facility at Quonset Point, RI with a workforce of 10,500.

M. Koback noted a discrepancy in the reported pay rates stated in the grant application. It was clarified by P. Harden that the minimum amount is \$11.25 per hour. P. Harden will make corrections on the contract. M. Koback also inquired if they would meet the estimated training completion date of 12/30/08. P. Harden did not anticipate this being a problem.

Chair MarcAurele asked for a motion to approve the funding request for a Workforce Expansion grant to Electric Boat Corp. in the amount of \$166,900.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve. M. Trueb seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

Other Business

With no further business, Chair MarcAurele asked for a motion to adjourn.

VOTE: G. Nee moved to approve. M. Trueb seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at. 3.30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Mooney