



LANE WORKFORCE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

Thursday, January 21, 2016
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES

In Attendance: Jennifer Adams, Todd Edman, Joe Henry, Sheri Moore, Angela Peacor, George Poling, Stan Pickett, Paul Wynkoop

Absent: Pete Sorenson

Staff: Kristina Payne, Tiffany Cink, Anne Nestell, Shelley Wilson

Others: Sara Hummel and Nadia Oliveira (Jones & Roth)

<u>Action Summary:</u>	<u>Motion</u>	<u>Seconded</u>	<u>Status</u>
Executive Board Meeting Minutes 12/17/15 (George Poling abstained from voting as he was not in attendance at the 12/17/15 meeting.)	Paul Wynkoop	Stan Pickett	Unanimous Approval
Fertilab Sponsorship Request	Sheri Moore	George Poling	Unanimous Approval

I. CALL TO ORDER

Todd Edman called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

- II. PUBLIC COMMENT – *In accordance with Lane Workforce Partnership's Public Comment Policy: Speakers will be taken in the order in which they sign up and will be limited to three minutes per public comment.*

There was no public comment.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR

Paul Wynkoop made a motion to approve the December 17, 2015 Executive Board meeting minutes. Stan Pickett seconded and the motion was unanimously approved, with one abstention by George Poling who was not in attendance at the December meeting.

IV. ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT PRESENTATION

Nadia Oliveira and Sara Hummel of Jones & Roth accounting firm gave a presentation to the Executive Board members. ***Per LWP Board by-laws, the Executive Director and all LWP staff left the meeting during their presentation.*** Upon the Executive Director and staff returning to the meeting, members of the Executive Board shared that the report was extremely positive with no irregularities and that Jones & Roth commented on how wonderful the staff at Lane Workforce Partnership was to work with. Question came up if the Chief Elected Officials need a copy of the report. George Poling responded that as long as the report comes back clean, just need to have a copy available to the Lane Workforce Council. If there were ever a problem with the audit report, the Lane Workforce Council would need to convene. LWP staff reported that Jones & Roth is great to work with, very professional, easy to have in the office, etc. At some point in the future we will want to look at other firms.

V. FERTILAB SPONSORSHIP REQUEST

Kristina Payne briefly reviewed the discussion on this topic from last month's Executive Board meeting. Ms. Payne stated the importance of the Board's involvement in these kinds of initiatives that generate more recognition for the types of work we do which is good for funding opportunities.

Todd Edman stated that of the nine companies in the RAIN program, six were trained through Fertilab's ID8 program. There is a need for an even earlier stage than ID8. In a recent test program in Florence, 30 people came out to pitch their ideas. Of those 30 ideas, 18 were viewed as scalable for the public market. Although the ID8 program is too far along for them, this funding could fill that gap for training and preparing people in the basics of how to qualify a product to see if the idea is viable enough to pursue.

LWP has invested close to \$100,000 in the ID8 program thus far. The current sponsorship request will be used to increase Fertilab's presence in Florence and Cottage Grove. The Workforce Board has been one of the largest supporters of Fertilab. Mr. Edman expects that Fertilab will eventually get to a point where they have broader, more diverse funding sources. Sheri Moore asked if lottery funds are available to them. Ms. Payne responded that they have received some funds from lottery sources for infrastructure.

Sheri Moore made a motion to award Fertilab \$40,000 to use over a two year period. George Poling seconded and the motion passed unanimously. The funds will come from state general funds and sector and board initiative funds.

VI. SECTOR STRATEGY UPDATE

The next Sector Strategy meeting will be January 28, 2016. Updates from the tech sector will be reported at the meeting.

The Food & Beverage collaborative work has recently launched. Several topics have been identified including: streamlining regulations and permitting, reducing business costs, increasing marketing and promotion, creating a strong workforce, and growing the food and beverage sector. At the sector strategy meeting there will be additional sub-categories along with information provided. There are significant issues around wastewater fees that affect the food and beverage industry. EWEB will be involved in the collaborative work groups being formed to help address these issues.

Work groups with committee chairs identified will be formed to address the needs and issues of the Food & Beverage industry. Work and progress in these areas will then be taken back to the Food & Beverage industry so they are kept informed.

Tech sector work is continuing. There are ongoing conversations around "fiber" for the downtown Eugene area. Funding will be a challenge. George Poling stated that the quickest and most logical way to fund the fiber project is through the downtown and riverfront renewal districts. The downtown urban renewal district is due to expire in December 2016. George has asked that there be discussion of an extension or renewal of the downtown urban renewal district. Without the two urban renewal districts, Mr. Poling feels the fiber project won't happen or at least not in a timely manner. There is support among city councilors for the project but the difficulty will be the funding.

A question about cost for this project was brought forward. Todd Edman stated the cost of the fiber project for the whole city is \$3.8 million. A second plan for \$2 million would bring fiber into 80 buildings. The project will also lower internet costs for schools.

On the topic of branding, Paul Wynkoop suggests we build off Eugene's "Track Town" brand. There may be an opportunity to co-brand and incorporate that brand into other areas.

The recent Hackathon at the U of O was a great success. Hack for a Cause will be happening on February 12, 2016. The intention was to have these two events happen in close time proximity to each other. The idea around Hack for a Cause is that participants will be presented with issues and challenges dealing with downtown as well as other social problems. Participants will have the weekend to generate some solutions using technology. The event is open to all including high school students.

Stephen Fickas and Joe Sventek, U of O professors, are redesigning their curriculum to be more business-driven. There is a \$2-4 million grant application coming out of the UO around developing business-driven curriculum around technology for training high school and college students. Todd Edman states that the grant appears to be well positioned and all the partnerships are already in place because of our Sector Strategy work. Paul Wynkoop affirmed that this would not have happened without the Sector Strategy work.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Payne reported that we are going for three different grants that have been put out from the Department of Labor. These grants are available to Workforce Boards. Two are due mid-February 2016 and the other is due in March 2016. One would support working families with childcare while they are attending school. Another supports ex-offenders in retraining. The third is a tech grant around technology and manufacturing. Jessica Cahill from our office is leading the tech and manufacturing grant, Sue Thompson is leading the ex-offender grant, and a grant writer has been hired to work on the working families grant.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

**Next Executive Board Meeting, February 18, 2016, 3:00pm – 3:30pm (prior to full board meeting)
WorkSource Lane (2510 Oakmont Way, Eugene) – Willamette Room**

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