

Mississippi State Workforce Investment Board
Full Board Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2010

The public meeting of the State Workforce Investment Board convened at 10:00 a.m., November 15, 2010, at the Governor's Workforce Development Conference, Harrah's Conference Center, Tunica, Mississippi.

Board members in attendance:

Ron Aldridge	Clarke Holmes	Shawn Mackey (representing Eric Clark)
George "Bunky" Butler	Perry Lee	Curnis Upkins, Jr., (representing Jennifer Dumas)
Robert Clark	H.S. "Butch" McMillan	Robbie Brown (representing George Lewis)
Jason Dean	Jackie Mullins	John Baas (representing Jay Moon)
Chris Epps	Larry Otis	Mike Blankenship (representing Robert Mullins)
Charles Furman	Les Range	Wanda Land (representing Gray Swoope)
Linda Gates	David Stephens	John Shows (representing Willis Lott)
Mike Hall	Michael Thomas	
Charles Holder	Sherrye Thompson	

Call to Order

- Chairman Larry Otis called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m., CDT.

I. Approval of the minutes – Full Board meeting of July 14, 2010

- The chairman called for a motion to approve the minutes of the SWIB full board meeting of July 14, 2010.
- David Stephens made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mike Hall seconded the motion. There were no opposing votes; the minutes were approved as printed.

II. Approval of the revised SWIB Bylaws

- Les Range presented a review of the proposed changes to the SWIB Bylaws. The changes were previously approved by the SWIB Bylaws Committee on August 26 and by the SWIB Executive Committee on September 15.
- The chairman called for a motion to approve the revised SWIB Bylaws. Les Range made the motion to accept the revisions; David Stephens gave the second to the motion.
- There were no opposing votes. The motion to accept the revisions to the SWIB Bylaws was carried.
- Les Range introduced U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor, Jane Oates, and U.S. Department of Labor Regional Administrator for Region 3, Dr. Helen Parker; both joined the SWIB members at the board table.

III. Acknowledgement of the retirement of SWIB Member Larry Crane

- Larry Crane has resigned from the SWIB effective immediately. Mr. Crane has retired from Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Mississippi.
- A letter of appreciation from the SWIB will be sent to Mr. Crane.

IV. Committee Reports:

The Workforce Enhancement Training (WET) Fund Report

- Dale Smith, MDES Deputy Executive Director/CFO presented the WET Fund report.
- The report included a brief history of the WET Fund, how it was established, its purpose, the method by which it functions and its benefits.
- A spreadsheet showing the dates and the amounts of collections into the fund was presented.
- A map showing the number of individuals in each county of the state who actually received training as a result of the WET Fund was presented. The number of people trained in fiscal year 2009 was 102,046.
- SWB member David Stephens asked Dale Smith what percentage of the 102,000 individuals trained actually received employment.
- Dale Smith stated that 79% of the 102,000 individuals trained were subsequently employed.

The Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) Report

- SWIB chairman Larry Otis presented the SLDS report.
- Mr. Otis stated that a \$7.6 million grant has been secured through the state Department of Education for the SLDS project. All the state agency stakeholders are represented in the project.
- The SWIB Executive Committee voted to approve the SLDS budget on September 15.

V. SWIB Strategic Planning Sessions Report

- Larry Otis presented the SWIB Priority Goals which were established as a result to the two SWIB Strategic Planning Sessions of June 30 and October 15.
 - Goal 1** - Align and fully utilize the K-12, Community College, IHL and private sector workforce training system to drive economic development
 - Goal 2** - Promote Regional Sector Strategies; engage business in defining training needs
 - Goal 3** - Institutionalize the Longitudinal Data System
 - Goal 4** - Market the importance of education and training
 - Goal 5** - Improve public, business, and legislative awareness of ongoing workforce issues and activities

VI. Media Promotion for Workforce

- A \$1.5 million media campaign was accomplished by Itawamba Community College and the Northeast Mississippi Consortium to present information to the public about workforce training.
- A video presentation illustrating workforce training opportunities was shown at the SWIB Strategic Planning Meeting on October 15. The video will be available at the next SWIB full board meeting.

VII. Other Business:

Legislative Report

- SWIB member Les Range presented the legislative report.
- Mr. Range stated the Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) and the SWIB will be up for reauthorization in 2011.
- One of the changes that will be suggested for the SWIB is legislation that will provide for the inclusion of a representative on the SWIB from the Institutions of Higher Learning (IHL).
- The anticipated legislative agenda for MDES for next year is to focus on the solvency of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust fund; the integrity of the UI Trust fund; and reemployment.

Special Presentation – Recipient of the 2010 Workforce Excellence Award from MDES

- Les Range and Yolonda Boone presented the 2010 Workforce Excellence Award from the Mississippi Department of Employment Security to SWIB member Charles Holder.
- The crystal award was presented to Mr. Holder for his commitment to workforce training, to his keeping Mississippians employed and to his commitment and leadership in establishing excellence in manufacturing for Mississippi.

VIII. Announcements

- All SWIB members and their representatives introduced themselves to the Department of Labor officials and the members of the public present.
- “MDES Day at the Capitol” will be held at the state capitol building on January 26, 2011. The SWIB will have a table at the event.
- The Chairman appointed a SWIB Credentials Committee to work with the community colleges on credentialing and national standards.
- The following individuals were appointed by the SWIB Chairman to the SWIB Credentials Committee:
 - Mike Blankenship, Holmes Community College
 - Greg Butler, Jones County Community College
 - Roger Whitlock, East Central Community College
 - James Williams, Itawamba Community College
 - Charles Furman, Severstal Corporation
 - Dexter Holloway or Dr. Eric Clark, State Board of Community & Junior Colleges

IX. Additional Agenda Item – Community College federal grant opportunity

- Jane Oates, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor, stated that this meeting is the most substantive SWIB meeting she has ever attended. Ms. Oates stated that this meeting was open, relevant and challenging.
- Ms. Oates reported on \$2 billion of federal funds awarded by Congress for capacity building at community colleges.
- This award will be competed every year for four years, at \$500 million per year, to implement a section of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act called “community college capacity building”, which has never been funded before.
- Tuition will not be an allowable use of these funds. Capacity building includes information technology, new curricula, improvements to building facilities, and addressing the manufacturing needs of the community.
- The funds will be available in December. Each state has to receive at least one grant. The minimum grant size is \$2.5 million for one college. The maximum grant size for one college is \$5 million.
- Ms. Oates opened the floor for questions. Yolonda Boone asked whether this grant is restricted to trade-impacted individuals only.
- Ms. Oates replied that anyone can enter and take advantage of this training once a program has been established.

Adjournment

- There were no other questions or comments. The chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:08 CDT.
- These minutes of the State Workforce Investment were approved as presented to the members

on the 24th day of March, 2011.



Larry Otis, Chairman