

*workforce*CONNECTIONS

**Local Elected Officials Consortium
MINUTES**

**June 6, 2012
3:00 p.m.**

*workforce*CONNECTIONS
**7251 W. Lake Mead Blvd.
Suite 200 Conference Room
Las Vegas, NV 89128**

Members Present

Councilwoman Gerri Schroder	Commissioner Lawrence Weekly
Commissioner Bill Kirby	Commissioner Butch Borasky
Councilwoman Anita Wood	Commissioner Tommy Rowe (Phone)
Councilwoman Peggy Leavitt (Phone)	

Members Absent

Councilman Bob Coffin

Staff Present

Ardell Galbreth	Suzanne Potter	Jim Kostecki
Heather DeSart	Carol Turner	Sylvia Spencer
Janice Greer	Madelin Arazoza	Emilio Pias
Melodye Stok	Jaime Cruz	Rick Villalobos
Kenadie Cobbin-Richardson		

Others Present

Sandra Douglas Morgan, Legal Counsel	Charles Perry, Workforce Connections Board
Tiffany Tyler, Nevada Partners, Inc.	Earl McDowell, DETR
Michael Oh, City of Henderson	Frank Woodbeck, DETR
Dennis Perea, DETR	

(It should be noted that not all attendees may be listed above)

1. CALL TO ORDER, confirmation of posting, roll call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Commissioner Lawrence Weekly at 3:11 p.m. Staff confirmed the meeting had been properly noticed and posted in accordance with the Nevada Open Meeting Law. Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

2. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve the Agenda with inclusions of any emergency items and deletion of any items

A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented by Councilwoman Anita Wood and seconded by Commissioner Butch Borasky. Motion carried.

3. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

None

4. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve the Minutes from the Local Elected Officials Consortium meeting on May 8, 2012

A motion was made to approve the Minutes from the Local Elected Officials Consortium meeting on May 8, 2012 by Councilwoman Anita Wood and seconded by Commissioner Butch Borasky. Motion carried.

5. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: LEO Consortiums' position regarding the State of Nevada Proposed Unified Single Statewide Workforce Investment Board

Commissioner Butch Borasky commented that he has not been convinced that a statewide board is the best thing for his district.

Councilwoman Gerri Schroder inquired about keeping two workforce areas the Governor is proposing.

Frank Woodbeck, Director - Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR) replied that the two workforce investment areas and funding allocations will remain the same per the state's plan, which complies with the Workforce Investment Act. Mr. Woodbeck stated the Governor will not be restructuring the boundaries of the workforce investment areas, and stated that to do so would require a waiver from the Department of Labor (DOL).

Councilwoman Schroder asked what kind of assurance is there that 70% representation will remain in the south on the Governor's board.

Mr. Woodbeck stated that the Governor's board structure is required to maintain at least 50% representation from the business community, and that an executive order will be issued to have two elected officials added to the Governor's board; an additional one from the south and one from the rural for a total of four elected officials. Mr. Woodbeck stated that the current Governor's board is not in good shape because it needs to be reconstituted and there are a lot of business seats that must be filled. Mr. Woodbeck says he is recommending that at least one business representative from the industry sectors sit on the Board in addition to the Governor appointed business representatives, a labor representative, community-based organization representative, a youth organization representative, two representatives from the senate, two representatives from the assembly, and four local elected officials. The representatives from the senate and assembly are appointed by the leaders of that particular house. Mr. Woodbeck stated that he will provide the LEOs with an organization chart of the Governor's Workforce Board.

Commissioner Bill Kirby inquired about the target date that the state plans to move forward with their proposal.

Mr. Woodbeck replied that the draft will be submitted to DOL for approval July 1, 2012; if approved, the planned target date is the end of the year.

Commissioner Kirby stated that he has reviewed the board's audit findings as well as the current progress the board has made, including hiring the new Finance Manager, Jim Kostecki, who along with other staff have worked diligently on the audit findings trying to correct them. Commissioner Kirby noted that there are 11 audit findings of which six have been corrected and five are being worked on and appear as though they will be resolved by the end of this fiscal year or within three to five months of the next year. Commissioner Kirby noted that the board has done well at streamlining operations.

Commissioner Kirby commented that the proposed job cuts in the state's plan is contradictory of workforce investment board's purpose to create jobs. Commissioner Kirby stated that eliminating these jobs will negatively impact the long standing relationships with the community that the board has developed. Commissioner Kirby stated that he would like to see the board receive more time to meet the Governor's expectations.

Commissioner Kirby will report back to his commission.

Councilwoman Anita Wood agreed with Commissioner Kirby's comments and added that board staff is working hard to make sure the organization is moving in the right direction and the agency should be given more time to show what it can do.

Councilwoman Wood stated that she understands the Governor wants the state plan to work in concert with the sector councils and economic development plan, but the Governor does not necessarily need to run things in order to achieve his goals. Councilwoman Wood noted that the Board has met some of the goals set by the Governor.

Councilwoman Wood commented that she does not see the financial efficiency that is to be brought about based on the state's plan. Councilwoman Wood noted that she has heard concerns from the rural areas and the minorities about how well they will be represented under the proposed plan.

Councilwoman Wood stated that the state plan does not take into consideration the role the LEOs play in moving things forward in their jurisdictions and is concerned that the elected officials will not have sufficient representation on the various sector councils, will not be privy to important information that will affect their jurisdiction, and will not be able to make an impact on the various sectors. Councilwoman Wood stated that there at least four of the sectors that North Las Vegas is very interested in.

Councilwoman Wood noted that Workforce Connections has stepped up and provided direction for the Ready for Life program, which has floundered a little bit because it has not had direction, and stated that Ready for Life is a wonderful program that that she is very committed to and would like to see continue. Councilwoman Wood expressed concerned that the opportunity to impact programs such as Ready for Life would be lost under the Governor's plan.

Councilwoman Peggy Leavitt echoed Commissioner Kirby's comments and concurred with Councilwoman Wood's comments regarding the new organizational structure and how the rural areas and minorities will be represented and how the elected officials will stay informed about the other sectors, since they can only serve on one sector council.

Councilwoman Leavitt pointed out that the board does not meet the criteria for "getting rid of a local workforce area" per TEG 37-10 mentioned in John Chamberlains presentation.

Mr. Galbreth agreed stating that Workforce Connections has met and exceeded all of the established performance measures, and the last three years has received Governor's Reserve discretionary funds as an award for meeting or exceeding the established performance measured.

Councilwoman Leavitt asked if DETR has the organizational structure (program staff) to continue the level of service being provided to the service providers and community and if the state plans on recruiting any of the existing board staff.

Mr. Woodbeck replied that the DETR's Workforce Investment Support Services (WISS) department oversees the implementation of those performance standards and that DETR will add to its existing program and admin staff – a total of 18 positions between the south and the north. WISS also provides monitoring and technical assistance.

Commissioner Tommy Rowe agreed with Commissioner Kirby's comments and added that the citizens from all the counties do not want more state government. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Woodbeck stated that the sector councils are not contingent upon the state plan. The sector councils are based on legislation from 2009 (NRS 32.395), and were established for each of the industry sectors that the Economic Development Office is pursuing. Mr. Woodbeck restated that the sector councils will go forward with or without the proposal.

Commissioner Lawrence Weekly commented that the role of the elected officials on the board is not about power, rather more about being in tune to the service providers, being able to affect positive results, such as who is benefiting from resources that are being allocated, and being responsible and liable when things go wrong.

Commissioner Borasky noted that if the state is going to eliminate 31 positions at the board for a projected savings of \$5,000,000, all 31 positions would have to be making an average annual salary of \$161,290, based on his calculations. This being unlikely, Commissioner Borasky asked Mr. Woodbeck how he came up with the \$5,000,000.

Mr. Woodbeck replied that it includes staff salaries and infrastructure costs.

Hannah Brown, Workforce Connections Board – Chair, commented that she agrees with all of the LEO's comments and appreciates the clarification on the sector councils. Ms. Brown stated that she is against and does not approve of combining the boards.

Commissioner Kirby made a motion that the LEOs take these findings back to their respected boards and councils for their consideration and direction with regards to 1) continuing to operate by resolution, or 2) request that the Governor reschedule his application with the WIA until July 1, 2013 so that Workforce Connections can demonstrate an improved operating level within the framework of WIA standards for a discussion and decision on this issue at our next meeting.

Sandra Douglas Morgan, Legal Counsel, asked Commissioner Kirby what resolution he is referring to in the first part of his motion and noted that his motion was not seconded therefore he may amend it.

Commissioner Kirby made a new motion that the LEOs take these findings back to their respective boards and councils for their consideration and direction with regards to 1) Workforce Connections continuing to operate without being taken over by the state, or 2) request that the Governor reschedule his application with the WIA until July 1, 2013, so that Workforce Connections can demonstrate an improved operating level within the framework of WIA standards.

Mr. Galbreth noted that DETR has the State Workforce Investment Plan up for public comment and there is a public hearing scheduled June 11th. Mr. Galbreth stated that it is very important that the LEO Consortium have some type of comment or direct staff to prepare a comment because this particular type of plan will be signed by the Governor and will be submitted to the Department of Labor, and after the June 11th, there won't be any direct avenue to address this.

Commissioner Kirby withdrew his motion.

Commissioner Tommy Rowe made a motion that we continue on with the administration we have in there presently; being no second the motion died on the floor.

Commissioner Borasky commented that his board has already taken action in this matter. The board has looked hard and close at this matter and invited DETR to their meeting, but DETR did not show up. Commissioner Borasky stated that he was going to reschedule another meeting but we are running out of time.

A motion, to let the Governor and the Department of Labor know, that the LEO Consortium does not agree with the proposal that is coming from the Governor's office, and opposes whatever the Governor is trying to do, was made by Commissioner Butch Borasky and seconded by Commissioner Tommy Rowe. Commissioner Bill Kirby opposed. Motion carried.

Commissioner Borasky directed staff to put together a response to the Governor's office and Department of Labor that the LEO Consortium rejected the Governor's plan.

Commissioner Kirby noted that his board was expecting him to bring back the findings from today and agendaize it, so that they may direct him with a decision on what vote to make.

Councilwoman Schroder directed staff to continue to work with DETR and the Governor if there is another proposal that the Governor may want to bring that we may agree to.

Councilwoman Wood directed staff to provide information regarding the June 11th meeting.

Mr. Galbreth replied that public comment will be held on June 11th at 9:00 a.m. in Carson City and via video conference in Las Vegas at the Grant Sawyer Building.

Councilwoman Schroder commented that there are some benefits to the Governor's proposal, but the reason she voted against it is because there is some discomfort around the board. Councilwoman Schroder said that she thinks there is an opportunity for some sort of resolution that everyone can agree to and restated that she is not 100% opposed to the Governor's plan, because there are some benefits, but the problem is that we don't have the consensus from the board and people are not comfortable with the Governor's plan.

6. LEO CONSORTIUM CLOSED SESSION

7. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

None

8. LEO Consortium Member Comments

None

9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.