

## COUNCIL ON WORKFORCE INVESTMENT

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TELECONFERENCE

201 East Washington Ave. -- Madison, WI

Thursday, February 2, 2005

#### MEETING MINUTES

**Members Present:** Paul Linzmeyer (Chair), Joel Rogers (Vice Chair), Roberta Gassman, Tina Koehn, Douglas Moquin, Aaron Olver (for Mary Burke), Lee Rasch, Christopher Ruud, Dean Welch

**CWI Staff Present:** Sue Gleason, Sheryl Billups

**Others Present:** Connie Colussy, Dianne Reynolds, Dick Jones (DWD); Pat Schramm (South Central WDB)

#### Key Issues/Discussion

##### I. Call to Order/Minutes

Paul Linzmeyer, chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 2:30 p.m.

**Action:** Joel Rogers moved, Roberta Gassman seconded, to approve the minutes of November 4, 2005 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Linzmeyer reordered the agenda to address possible CWI projects for funding prior to addressing the funding process to ensure all members could participate in discussion.

##### II. Project Concepts for Possible CWI Funding

Sue Gleason reviewed funding ideas outlined in meeting materials (pages 9-10), noting that the CWI will have close to \$1 million to plan for considering current year and next year (Program Year 2006) funding. She also suggested the potential for announcing CWI project funding decisions at the May Governor's Employment and Training Conference. To do so will require a quick turn around from approved concept to approved project.

Among issues discussed were the following:

- Opportunity to learn from Wisconsin's experience with the US DOL WIRED grants.
- Interest in projects that support high-value added strategies in key industries.
- Availability of additional/other fund sources, including larger Governor's WIA discretionary fund (10%) and funds available to the larger system through other agencies.

Secretary Gassman explained that WIA "discretionary" funds are used to support a variety of state activities and related staff required to administer the WIA programs (e.g., Job Center IT systems, training provider lists, performance reporting systems, etc.). In addition, funds needed to be available for Governor's priorities and/or unexpected needs. She also noted that if some of the CWI's ideas require more than the \$1 million available, she would be willing to discuss additional funds with the Governor.

Among other comments/discussion addressed were the following:

- The need to look beyond WIA funds, to funds that may be available from the larger system, for example Technical College System funds (\$20 million in categorical funds, most of which is distributed through request for proposals and targeted.
- The effectiveness of regional collaboration in driving funding and the need for the CWI to continue to push for faster growth and high expectations of the GROW grants; consider match requirements for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of grants.
- The GROW Leadership session in April as an opportunity to assess where various regions are as well as to discuss regional metrics proposal.

In discussion of specific funding proposal ideas, Gleason indicated that new project solicitations would need to be done quickly and could link to things the CWI is currently doing. Ruud noted that the Systems Development Committee has created about 15 action steps and identified its top five strategies, which could serve as potential funding areas. This would ensure dollars are spent on things the Committee has done. Welch supported the idea, suggesting linking to clusters and industry sectors, which has been a focus of the Strategies Committee. Other discussion focused on the need for clear focus and attainable objectives, the need for metrics that recognize the varying degrees of maturity among regional collaborations, and the complexity of industry initiatives (e.g., manufacturing), which may benefit from "best practice" sharing.

The committee agreed that another meeting should be organized for further discussion on this issue prior to the full CWI meeting on March 16. Gassman suggested general direction: big chunk to regional efforts, focus on manufacturing, and new project solicitation. The Committee could review parameters/more specifics for funding the new projects.

### III. CWI Project Funding Process, Revised

Billups provided a brief overview of the revised CWI project funding process.

Christopher Ruud commented that changes were not easy to follow and suggested revising the draft paper to incorporate a funding flow chart and highlight differences from the current policy. Ruud also suggested that something be included to require acknowledgment of CWI funding (referring to Milwaukee Landscape Study issue).

**Action:** Doug Moquin moved to accept the revised criteria with the addition of highlighted changes, graphic flow chart, and acknowledgement of the CWI role in external communications. Lee Rasch seconded the motion and it passed without objection.

### IV. Adjournment

As time for the meeting expired, other agenda items were deferred and the meeting was adjourned.