

**Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County**  
**August 4, 2016**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**WIB Members Present**

Toni Carter  
Mike Chanaka  
Michael Fondungallah  
Larry Gilbertson  
Trixie Golberg  
Clarence Hightower  
Butch Howard  
Chad Kulas  
Karin McCabe  
James McClean  
Sean Mullan  
Don Mullin  
Sheila Olson  
Joe Richburg  
Mary Russell  
Chris Tolbert  
Dee Torgerson  
Tracy Wilson  
Jim Wroblewski

**Members Absent**

Carrie Cisek-EA  
Bob de la Vega-EA  
Judy Donohue-EA  
Chris Kondo-EA  
Tim O'Brien-EA  
Kate Probert-EA  
Danielle Taylor  
Ramona Wilson  
Mike Zipko

**Staff/Guests Present**

Tom Aasheim, Finishing Trades Inst.  
Bridgett Backman, Workforce  
Solutions  
Michelle Belitz, Workforce Solutions  
Patricia Brady, Workforce Solutions  
William Coleman, Job Corps  
Rassoul Dastmozd, St. Paul College  
Jeremy Hanson Willis, DEED  
Nerita Hughes, Workforce Solutions  
Vera Johnson, Workforce Solutions  
Neng Lee, DEED  
Rebecca Milbrandt, WIB Staff  
Mary Nienaber, Century College  
Jessica Paquin, Workforce Solutions  
John O'Phelan, Workforce Solutions  
Lance Schultz, Workforce Solutions  
Ginny Arthur, Metropolitan State

---

**Call to Order**

Chair James McClean called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m.

---

**Announcements**

McClean read the following announcements:

- Welcome to the Workforce Innovation Board of Ramsey County's Inaugural Meeting. We especially welcome all of our special guests and thank you for joining us today.
- Thank you to Saint Paul College for hosting today's meeting.
- Congratulations to nine WIB members who have been reappointed for another term. Thank you Commissioner Carter, Judy Donohue, Larry Gilbertson, Trixie Golberg, Butch Howard, Chris Kondo, Sheila Olson, Mary Russell and Dee Torgerson for your continued service.
- Bob de la Vega will be retiring from Wells Fargo and the WIB at the end of the month. Bob has been on the WIB since 2005 and served as chair twice for a total of four years. Although Bob is not able to attend today's meeting, we want to take a minute to acknowledge his service.
- The WIB will be engaging in a workshop with the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners on September 27 at 1:30. This is an opportunity for the WIB to solicit feedback on its 2016-2017 strategic plan. Your attendance will enrich the discussion greatly. Please save the date on your calendars – additional details will follow.
- Workforce Solutions was awarded a grant for \$147,000 from DEED for the administration of a Pathway to Prosperity grant. The grant leverages a low income worker grant for placement in the healthcare, office and technology, hospitality and finance sectors and services public assistance and WIOA recipients. Partners include the Guadalupe Alternative Program, Adult Basic Education, Century College, and St. Paul College.
- Please plan to stay after the meeting today to enjoy some refreshments and conversation.
- The next WIB meeting is October 6, 2:30-4:30 at Goodwill/Easter. We appreciate your efforts to attend!

---

**Approve Consent Agenda****August Agenda****June Minutes**

**Motion (Chanaka/Mullan) to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried.**

---

**2015-2016 in Review**

McClellan thanked County staff for their help during his term as WIB Chair. He highlighted several items the WIB accomplished throughout the year. A copy of the 2015 Annual Report and a letter of appreciation were given to each WIB member. McClellan also personally acknowledged each WIB member for their work and encouraged them to share the letter of thanks with their employer. Electronic copies of the Annual Report will be sent tomorrow. McClellan encouraged WIB members to share the report with colleagues and community members.

---

**Remarks from the Ramsey County Board**

Carter stressed the importance of the depth and scope of the WIB's work and the impact it has on the residents and businesses in Ramsey County. She congratulated all members on a success year, mentioning such accomplishments as the refreshed strategic plan, the implementation of WIOA, and the demonstrated ability to meet the needs of a changing community. Carter noted that the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners' vision of wellbeing, opportunity, prosperity and accountability are mirrored in the WIB's work and displayed in the Annual Report. She invited all members to attend the workshop with the County Board on September 27.

---

**Remarks from DEED**

Hanson Willis thanked WIB members for their strong leadership in workforce development. He applauded their willingness to leave their jobs to volunteer and give insight into the workforce system, build a stronger economy, and break down barriers. He gave a brief update on the state of the economy in Minnesota and the impact that a tight labor force has on businesses. Hanson Willis also stated that he believes Ramsey County will lead the regional effort to address racial and disability inequities. He asked all attendees to challenge themselves and each other to be innovative in their work and do things differently to affect change.

---

**Keynote Address**

Dastmozd welcomed the WIB to Saint Paul College. He spoke about the dark cloud of racial inequity, the transformative power of education and the critical role the WIB plays in the community by shaping policy. He called for the WIB to continue its work to empower and lift up all people.

---

**Installation of 2016-2017 WIB Chair**

McClellan thanked Howard for his passion for workforce and work with Everybody In, calling him a role model business community member. Howard accepted the position of WIB Chair. He spoke about his background and reasons for being a member of the WIB.

---

**Chair's Vision for 2016-2017**

Howard shared his vision for the next year, highlighting the need for innovation, improving outcomes for racial inequity, increasing WIB member engagement, and strengthening the voice and visibility of the WIB. He encouraged WIB member to fully engage in committee work and to get involved with Everybody In.

---

**Election of 2016-2017 WIB Chair-Elect**

Howard explained the role of the Chair-Elect, noting that this person will serve a two year term. He opened nominations for WIB Chair-Elect. Chanaka nominated Karin McCabe. After asking for other nomination three times and hearing none, Howard closed nominations.

**Motion (Chanaka/Carter) to cast a unanimous ballot for Karin McCabe for WIB Chair-Elect for the 2016-2018 term. Motion carried.**

---

---

**Recognition of James McClean**

Howard thanked McClean for serving as WIB Chair with professionalism and efficiency. Carter also recognized McClean for his commitment to the WIB and presented him with a proclamation from the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners and a gift from the WIB. Brady presented McClean with a card from staff and expressed her appreciation for his service.

---

**Closing Remarks**

Tolbert thanked all in attendance, especially Saint Paul College, for hosting the meeting. He commended the WIB for being a reflection of the great tradition of corporate citizenship. He also acknowledged the WIB for bringing stability and dignity to the residents and making sure people are ready for a career.

---

**Other**

Howard extended his appreciation to Bob de la Vega and Wells Fargo. He suggested the WIB invite de la Vega to a future meeting so his service and retirement can be formally recognized.

---

**Adjourn**

Upon completion of the agenda, Howard adjourned the meeting at 4:16 pm.

The next WIB meeting is October 6, 2:30-4:30, at Goodwill/Easter Seals–553 Fairview Ave. N.