



GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

500 E. Third Street, Room 200  
Carson City, Nevada 89713  
Telephone (775) 684-3911 \* Fax (775) 684-3908

MEETING MINUTES

**Governor's Workforce Investment Board (GWIB)  
Clean Energy Sector Council  
Monday, April 21, 2014  
10:00 a.m.**

*Some members of the Council may have attended the meeting and provided testimony through a simultaneous videoconference and teleconference and other persons may have observed the meeting conducted at the following locations listed below:*

**Place of Meeting:**

- Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation**  
2800 East St. Louis Avenue, Conference Rooms A, B and C  
Las Vegas, NV
- Nevada JobConnect**  
Reno Town Mall  
4001 South Virginia St  
Reno, NV
- Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation**  
500 South Third Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Auditorium  
Carson City, NV

**Council Members Present:** Eric Dominguez, Timothy Breed, Chris Brooks, Debra Gallo, Dan Gouker, Councilwoman Anita Wood, George Rowe, Councilwoman Peggy Leavitt, Bonnie Lind, Les Lezareck, Jennifer Turchin, Dr. George Rhee, Jack McGinley, Ed Domanico, Alex Kyser

**Council Members Absent:** Thomas Piechota (excused), Jordan Pinjuv, Michael Purtill, Britta Tryggvi, David Miller (excused), Susan Fisher, Senator Patricia Spearman (excused), Amelia Gulling, Dr. Jim Faulds, Dr. Ghassan Jabbour, Emilia Cargill (excused), Chris Zunis (excused)

**Ex-officio Members Present:** Jeremy Hayes

**Ex-officio Members Absent:** Jaime Cruz, John Thurman, William Boster, Randy Nance, Maribeth Stumpf, Ron Fletcher

**DETR WSU Staff Present:** Earl McDowell, Coralie Peterson, Ansara Martino, Odalys Carmona, De Salazar, Doug Van Aman

**Others Present:** Carol Polke

*\*Please note that all attendees may not be listed above.*

- I. Welcome, Introductions and New Members..... Eric Dominguez, Chair  
GWIB Clean Energy Sector Council

The Chair of this Council, Eric Dominguez, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending this meeting. He then asked Coralie Peterson, Administrative Assistant for DETR’s Workforce Solutions Unit, to call roll.

- II. Roll call and Establishment of a Quorum ..... Coralie Peterson, Administrative Assistant  
Workforce Solutions Unit, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR)

Coralie Peterson called roll and informed the Chair that a quorum was present.

- III. Verification of Posting.....Coralie Peterson

Eric Dominguez asked Coralie Peterson to verify that the agenda for this meeting was posted according to Nevada statute. Ms. Peterson verified that the agenda was posted according to NRS 241.020.

- IV. **First Public Comment Session** ..... Eric Dominguez  
Members of the public will be invited to speak before; however, no action may be taken on a matter during public comment until the matter itself has been included on an agenda as an item for possible action. Public comment may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the chairperson.

When Eric Dominguez announced the first public comment session, no comments were made. Hearing none, he proceeded to Item V.

- V. **For Possible Action** – Approval of the January 24, 2014 Minutes..... Eric Dominguez

Mr. Dominguez asked for approval of the January 24, 2014 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Jennifer Turchin and seconded Ed Domanico. All were in favor, none were opposed. The motion was carried unanimously.

- VI. **For Possible Action** – DETR Director Update ..... Dennis Perea, Deputy Director  
DETR

Deputy Director Dennis Perea greeted the council members and reminded them of the recent departure of Director Frank Woodbeck, now working with the Nevada System of Higher Education, commended his efforts and wished him well. He went on to state that the pilot programs are ready to go, and under consideration is whether funding through a contract or voucher system (individual funding) would be most prudent. He asked that the council consider how they would like performance on the pilot program reported back to them, to ensure that the work is being done as prescribed by the council.

Deputy Director Perea proceeded to encourage council members to weigh on the various regulations and legislations affecting the Clean Energy industry in Nevada, for the purpose of making recommendations for possible legislative changes.

He went on to speak about the charge of DETR, which is to serve *the whole spectrum* of the unemployed, from displaced Ph.D.’s to welfare recipients, and he stated the the use of a weighted performance scoring system may be useful. He stated in a recent NGA conference he had attended, several examples of using a weighted scoring system were discussed. In particular, he mentioned the State of Oregon, where a scoring system was devised and also the State of Indiana, where an inventory of all workforce programs throughout the State agencies was completed, indicating what portion of the unemployed population was being served, and he stated that he would like to complete a similar inventory here in Nevada in the future, as well as actually asking the council how they best fit into those populations needing assistance in

the best possible way. He concluded by asking council members for any possible questions. Mr. Dominguez asked what the status of the approved Lead Green Associate Training pilot program was. Interim Director Perea referred to his earlier comments about the ongoing discussion of the voucher versus contract (identify 30 candidates and pay for those individually *OR* find one training provider, such as CSN or another community college who can deliver all of that training by contract.) Mr. Dominguez mentioned that future updates can be addressed in the next meeting.

VII. **Presentation** – Solar City.....Jo Ferriter, Vice President  
Solar City

Mr. Dominguez welcomed Jo Ferriter, Vice President of Solar City, who, in turn, introduced Ashley Ward, Director of Utility Relations and further mentioned Wendy Rosswald, Supervisor for Nevada recruiting efforts. By use of a PowerPoint Presentation Ms. Ferriter explained that Solar City relocated a portion of its headquarters from San Mateo, California to Town Square in June, 2013 to build their command center, which currently has 400 employees, and which she anticipates will become the largest employer in the Las Vegas area outside the gaming industry. She turned the presentation over to Ashley Ward, who explained that the vision for Solar City is to provide cleaner and more affordable energy to homeowners and businesses, and she went on to describe Solar City as a full service energy company, managing every aspect of the product from sales, install, final inspection, ongoing monitoring and customer care. She further explained that they are the largest residential solar installer in the United States employing approximately 5,000, with service to over 2,000 communities, 100,000 nationwide customers and over 1,000 commercial projects, currently providing service in 14 states, and they are working with the PUC (Public Utilities Commission) to add Nevada in the near future, with 250 new home projects under consideration, and have been awarded commercial projects in both Mineral and Nye County School Districts.

Ms. Ward went on to describe their military project, Solar Strong, designed to install solar in up to 120,000 military homes nationwide, at which Ms. Ferriter interjected that military veterans are specifically targeted as installers in that project.

Ms. Ward explained that Solar City original headquarters office is in San Mateo, California and now has 43 operational centers throughout the U.S., including California, Arizona, Hawaii, Oregon, Colorado, Texas, and the Las Vegas, Nevada Command Center. She went on to describe the Las Vegas operational location, opened in June, 2013, includes inside sales, customer care, scheduling and all administrative operations, originally staffed with 50-60 relocated California employees, and has grown to 400 employees currently, and due to the rapid growth of the company have found the need to expand much greater office space.

Ms. Ferriter continued to describe the workforce component, hiring approximately 370 people locally, and projecting the continued job growth in “back office” employment, namely positions in many areas, such as customer care, credit, scheduling, accounting, warehouse functions, and design (utilizing auto cad). She anticipates having 1,000 employees in the Command Center, as well as the various warehouse facilities and an auto cad design team, allowing for extensive job growth in many areas. Ms. Ferriter mentioned that although college degrees are not mandatory, work experience, motivation (“A” players only) and soft skills are considered of great importance, and previous solar experience is desirable.

Several factors make Solar City an excellent place to work, such as:

- Good Benefits Package
- Job Advancement
- Flexible shift schedule (7 days a week/multiple shifts)
- Extensive Training Program (classroom and on-the-job training)
- Referral Incentive (\$500.00)

To view Solar City’s full presentation, click on the following link: <http://vimeo.com/83521572>

Ms. Ferriter concluded by stressing pride in this is fast growing industry (solar accounts for 29% of energy providers) that will provide local jobs, and cannot be outsourced, and more importantly, will provide a clean energy source. Upon her conclusion, questions were asked and answered by the sector council members about the details of solar energy work, including salaries, how quality control of installations are supervised, as well as suggestions on going forward with the public utilities permitting, and discussion continued amongst sector council members.

Mr. Dominguez asked if SolarCity faced any particular workforce training challenges or deficiencies in the workforce when they came to Nevada and she mentioned a basic deficiency in knowledge of the solar and renewable energy industry, but this was encountered in a couple of other states, as well. She stated that in California, SolarCity had worked with the local community colleges to create a learning track, especially for those displaced or trying to re-enter the workplace, to familiarize those students on how solar/renewable energy systems work. Mr. Dominguez further asked if they expect to see the same deficiencies for next group hired or would they anticipate a different skill set being needed, and she responded that they may face the same deficiencies in future, but as SolarCity has a robust training program, she felt that these deficiencies can be overcome. Mr. Dominguez thanked her for her presentation and moved to address Item VIII.

**VIII. For Possible Action – Nevada Workforce Development Center – WorkKeys Presentation.....Judith Turgiss and Jennifer McMahon, Business Service Coordinators  
Nevada Workforce Development Center (DETR/CSN)**

Mr. Dominguez introduced and welcomed Judy Turgiss and Jennifer McMahon, and then invited them to provide an overview of the WorkKeys Program offered at the Nevada Workforce Development Center (DETR/CSN). Utilizing a PowerPoint presentation, they explained:

- The goal of the Center is to support current business to ensure their future health and to assist businesses that are considering relocating to Nevada.
- The Center staff can assist businesses with unique skill sets to develop training programs designed to help prepare a needed workforce.
- The Center is part of Governor Sandoval’s vision to bring education and workforce development together to help advance economic development for the state.
- Business owners have a one-stop shop with the Center, on a college campus, to get customized training for current employees, regional economic data, or to get help identifying potential new hires with specific skillsets.

Ms. Turgiss and Ms. McMahon also reviewed the Governor Sandoval’s vision, explained the unique qualifications of the Center’s staff, additional services offered by the Center, and that the same type of development centers will be implemented at Nevada’s other community college campuses. They then turned to the ACT Work Readiness testing services provided to assess, certify and develop workforce. Ms. McMahon explained in detail the WorkKeys testing to assess workforce readiness, the National Career Readiness Certificate the examinees could earn, and the KeyTraining & Career Ready 101 to develop the individual’s skills.

The WorkKeys assessments measure “real world” skills that employers believe are critical to job success. These skills are valuable in any occupation whether its skilled or professional, and at any level of education. Next, Ms. McMahon explained that there are three (3) WorkKeys assessment that an individual must complete in order to earn the ACT’s National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC): applied mathematics, reading for information, and location information. The NCRC is an industry-recognized, portable, evidence-based credential that certifies essential workplace skills and is a reliable predictor of workplace success. The credential is used across all sectors of the economy and verifies the

foundational skills in math, reading and location information directly related to work. The certificate scoring method was reviewed, as well as what the NCRC empowers the examinee to do, such as matching their skills to the skills employers need, show concrete evidence of skills to prospective employers, stand out from other applicants, demonstrate commitment to succeed, and identify skills that the examinees could improve upon.

KeyTrain is the complete interactive learning tool for career readiness skills. At its foundation is a curriculum designed to help people master the applied workplace skills measured by the WorkKeys assessments. Individuals are assigned an account when they do not score high enough for a certificate, or not to the standards set by the employer or institution and/or would like to improve their skills to obtain a higher certificate. Career Ready 101 is a compressive career training course that can be customized to fit any workforce needs. It is an integrated approach to exploring careers and their skill requirements, creating life-literacy covering the following topics, plus more: financial awareness, career preparation, real work experience, work habits, communication skills, business etiquette, and the job search.

Ms. McMahon concluded by inviting members to contact herself or Ms. Turgiss to take the test themselves, or to ask any additional questions they may have on the program. Mr. Dominguez commended the presentation and the NCRC program as being focused on career building and then he moved on to agenda item IX.

IX. **For Possible Action** – Introduction to Sector Career Pathways...Odalys Carmona, Youth Liaison  
Workforce Solutions Unit, DETR

Odalys Carmona greeted the council members addressing their attention to the “Map Your Career” brochure which was developed working closely with Alex Kyser, Nevada Department of Education. She explained that the brochure aligns the most in-demand jobs in the industry with the current technical and educational programs available in the Nevada Department of Education, and can be used as a ‘selling tool’ by school advisors and counselors to help 8<sup>th</sup> grade students create a career pathway by choosing necessary CTA/CTE courses offered in various schools throughout the state. For students enrolled in a CTA program, the curriculum for a career path is imbedded and includes an assessment to evaluate work readiness, and if successful, will result in an endorsement on the high school diploma, which is not a recognized certification. Discussion continued amongst council members about the value of developing a career path early with a goal of getting a good job in future. Ms. Carmona concluded by thanking Alex Kyser for being their mention in the Nevada Department of Education website. To view this information, click on the link below:

[http://cteae.nv.gov/Career\\_and\\_Technical\\_Education/Programs/Agriculture\\_and\\_Natural\\_Resources/Environmental\\_Management/](http://cteae.nv.gov/Career_and_Technical_Education/Programs/Agriculture_and_Natural_Resources/Environmental_Management/)

Once in the site, go to Environmental Management Program of Study, scroll down for mention of NCIS and the Governor’s Youth Website which is: ([www.nevadayouth.org](http://www.nevadayouth.org))

X. **Presentation** -- Energy Technologies – A New High School Program.....Alex Kyser, M.S.  
Skilled & Technical Sciences Education Programs Professional & SkillsUSA State Advisor,  
Nevada Department of Education

Mr. Kyser began his presentation by sharing handouts showing the curriculum for the Energy Technologies High School. He explained that he brought together representatives from community colleges as well as business and industry to find out what needed to be included in an energy technology high school program, with multiple exit points, mentioning that one goal was to accommodate an easy transition from a high school program into the community college energy programs (Truckee Meadows Community College currently has an energy program; working on possible energy programs in S. Nevada)

- First year: focus on basic electricity and safety and the various energy sources  
*Exposing the student to all the energy sources to allow career choices after program completion*
- Second year: Includes review of energy forms, principles, concepts, building systems codes affecting the energy
- Third year: Areas of emphasis include solar, wind, and geothermal energy resources  
*Upon completion of this course, students will have entry-level skills for employment/post-secondary education*

Mr. Kyser went on to mention the draft handout disbursed at this meeting entitled “Energy Technologies Standards” meant to provide great foundational information, including safety skills, sources of energy, different principles and understanding the different forms of energy, thermodynamics, conservative efforts, policies, codes, and certifications, and in-depth study of solar, wind, and geothermal energy.

He then asked Dr. Jim New, Dean, Technical Sciences, Truckee Meadows Community College in Reno, to comment on the process, who commended Dr. Kyser and his staff for the work done in developing the standards for the Energy Technologies Program, which he states is a good foundation and aligns well with the program TMCC has had in place for 5 years. Since this is an area which is evolving, he mentioned he was happy to have a part in the development of the program. Council members were encouraged by Mr. Kyser to review the draft of the “Energy Technologies Standards” for comments or recommendations Mr. Dominguez thanked Mr. Kyser for his presentations and then moved to Item X.

**X. For Possible Action – New Business and Future Agenda Items.....Eric Dominguez**

Listed below are the suggestions, recommendations, requests and comments made for future meeting agenda:

- Employability Skills and Certifications.....Alex Kyser
- Endorsement on the “Energy Technologies Standards”.....Alex Kyser
- GWIB Pipeline Opportunities.....Bob Potts

**XI. Next scheduled meeting will be held May 23, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.....Eric Dominguez**

**XII. Second Public Comment Session..... Eric Dominguez**  
Members of the public may now comment on any matter or topic, which is relevant to or within the authority or jurisdiction of the Board. You may comment now even if you commented earlier; however, please do not simply repeat the same comment you previously made. Please clearly state and spell your name. Public comment may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the chairperson.

Mr. Dominguez announced the Second Public Comment Session and invited members of the public to speak. Deputy Administrator of DETR’s Workforce Solutions Unit, Earl McDowell, commented that any information pertaining to the sector council will be posted to the website: <http://nvdestr.org>, including the Clean Energy Sector Council’s Strategic Plan.

**XIII. Adjournment .....Eric Dominguez**

Mr. Dominguez adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

*Agenda items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration by the public body, and/or pulled or removed from the agenda at any time. The Chair may continue this meeting from day-to-day. Pursuant to NRS 241.020, no action may be taken upon a matter raised during a period devoted to comments by the general public until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.*

**GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD**  
**CLEAN ENERGY SECTOR COUNCIL**

Eric Dominguez (Chair), Dr. Thomas Piechota (Vice-Chair), Timothy Breed, Chris Brooks, Debra Gallo, Jordan Pinjuv, Michael Purtil, Dan Gouker, Brita Tryggvi, Councilwoman Anita Wood, George Rowe, Councilwoman Peggy Leavitt, Bonnie Lind, Les Lazareck, David Miller, Susan Fisher, Jennifer Turchin, Senator Patricia Spearman, Amelia Gulling, Dr. George Rhee, Dr. Jim Faulds, Dr. Ghassan Jabbour, Jack McGinley, Emilia Cargill, Alex Kyser, Ed Domanico, Chris Zunis

***Notice:** Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting should notify Coralie Peterson, DETR, Workforce Solutions Unit, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m., in writing at 2800 E. St. Louis., Las Vegas, Nevada 89104; or call (702) 486-0523; or fax (702) 486-6426 on or before the close of business Friday, April 18, 2014.*

**Notice of this meeting was posted at the following locations on or before 9:00 a.m. on the third working day before the meeting:** DETR, 2800 E. St. Louis, Las Vegas, NV; DETR, 500 East Third St., Carson City, NV; DETR, 1325 Corporate Blvd., Reno NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 3405 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 119 Water St., Henderson, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 2827 N. Las Vegas Blvd., North Las Vegas, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 1929 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 172 Sixth St., Elko, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 480 Campton St., Ely, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 121 Industrial Way, Fallon, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 475 W. Haskell, #1, Winnemucca, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 4001 S. Virginia St., Suite G, Reno, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 1675 E. Prater Way, Suite 103, Sparks, NV; GRANT SAWYER OFFICE BUILDING, 555 E. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, NV; LEGISLATIVE BUILDING, 401 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV; NEVADAWORKS 6490 S. McCarran Blvd., Building A, Unit 1., Reno, NV; WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS, 7251 W. Lake Mead Blvd., Las Vegas, NV. This agenda was also posted on DETR's Web site at [www.nvdetr.org](http://www.nvdetr.org). In addition, the agenda was mailed or e-mailed to groups and individuals as requested.