



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)
Agriculture Sector Council
Wednesday, July 16, 2014
2:00 p.m.**

Some members of the Council may be attending the meeting and other persons may observe the meeting and provide testimony through a simultaneous videoconference and teleconference conducted at the following locations listed below:

Place of Meeting: **Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation**
2800 East St. Louis Avenue, Conference Rooms A-C
Las Vegas, NV

Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation
500 E. Third Street, SAO Auditorium
Carson City

Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation
Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation
1325 Corporate Boulevard
Reno

Council Members Present: Heather Steel, Jeff Brigger, Mike Catalano, Dr. Frederick Steinmann, Jeff Bryant, Mike Pointer, Peter Wallish

Council Members Absent: Amber Smyer (excused), Dave Coon (excused), Senator James Settlemyer, Assemblyman Irene Bustamante Adams (excused), Jeff Sutich, Dr. Ron Pardini (excused), Jim Snyder, Rob Hooper (excused), Dr. Boyd Spratling (excused), Rod Adams (excused), Heston Johns,

Ex-officio Members Present: Jeremy Hays, Jim Kostecki, Melinda Lyons, John Collins

Ex-officio Members Absent: Ben Daseler, Kyle Casci (excused)

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

Others Present: None noted

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

I. Welcome, Introduction and New Members.....Amber Smyer, Chair
Governor’s Workforce Investment Board, Agriculture Sector Council

Earl McDowell, Deputy Administrator for DETR’s Workforce Solutions Unit, stated that in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Agriculture Sector Council, he would be acting as the Chair for this meeting on their behalf. Mr. McDowell called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., and welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending this meeting. He welcomed two new members, Heather Steel and Peter Wallish, and asked them each to provide a brief work history. After they concluded their comments, Mr. McDowell asked Coralie Peterson to call roll.

II. Roll call and Establishment of a Quorum..... Coralie Peterson, Administrative Assistant
Workforce Solutions Unit, DETR

Coralie Peterson called roll and informed Mr. McDowell that a quorum was not present. Mr. McDowell then proceeded to Agenda Item III.

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

Mr. McDowell asked for Coralie Peterson to verify that the agenda was posted according to Nevada statute. Ms. Peterson verified that the agenda was posted according to NRS 241.020.

IV. **First Public Comment Session**Earl McDowell
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 Mr. McDowell announced the First Public Comment Session and invited members of the public to speak, no comments were made. Hearing none, he moved to Agenda Item V.

V. **For Possible Action** - Approval of May 21, 2014 Meeting Minutes.....Earl McDowell

Mr. McDowell stated that as a quorum was not present for this meeting, this item would be tabled until the next meeting and went on to address Agenda Item VI.

VI. **Presentation** - Company Profile: U.S. Foods.....Mike Catalano
Produce Specialist Manager and Buyer
U.S. Foods

Mr. McDowell introduced Mike Catalano, who greeted the sector council members and thanked them for giving him an opportunity to provide an overview of U.S. Foods. He explained that he is the Produce/Specialist/Manager for U.S. Foods Reno. He said that they are a broad-line distributor with trailers that are temped out in three different ways: 1) frozen, 2) chilled, or 3) dry.

He went on to explain that U.S. Foods has 62 locations nationwide, and that the Reno facility is currently the smallest within the company. He said that they have developed a partnership program with local growers and suppliers, mentioning the following:

- Latin Farms –

He stated the progress of local movement in this company, in the first year 1,000 cases of produce were picked up and distributed for them, the second year over 3,500 cases were picked up. Now in the fourth year of this partnership, Mr. Catalano, stated that distribution is “going strong.”

- Reno Egg -

Mr. Catalano said that as his customers told him that they wanted a farm-fresh local egg, which resulted in U.S. Foods forming a partnership with Reno Egg. As this business has been sold, he is in the process of finding another local supplier.

- Earth Alchemy Farmers -

Mr. Catalano explained that the third partnership built is with an urban grower, Earth Alchemy Farmers, who will be changing their name in the near future, grows beautiful pea shoots and sunflower shoots. He said that U.S. Foods picks up and distributes for this company from an urban farm in the downtown Reno area.

- HDFI/UNR Agricultural Project

Mr. Catalano noted the most recent local partnership consisted of picking up and distributing produce from the University of Nevada, Reno. He said that there many big supporters for both the University and their Agricultural Program and that U.S. Foods is very excited to have a part in this project.

- Blind Dog Coffee

Mr. Catalano further mentioned that U.S. Foods picks up and distributes for Blind Dog Coffee.

In conclusion, Mr. Catalano stated that U.S. Food is a major broad line distributor, but also gives support to local farms and farmers. Mr. McDowell thanked Mr. Catalano for his overview and moved on to Agenda Item VII.

VII. **Presentation** - Data on How Agriculture Compares to the Other Industry Sectors.....Jeremey Hayes, Economist
 Research and Analysis Bureau, DETR

Jeremey Hays thanked Mr. McDowell and mentioned to the attendees there had been some confusion over the comparison between the sector councils and where the agriculture sector stands and he wanted to take an opportunity to clarify that information. He referred to the Agriculture Report used as a handout for this meeting, which includes jobs information from Bill Anderson, Chief Economist, Research and Analysis and Bob Potts, Research Director, GOED. Mr. Hays noted that agriculture jobs make up the smallest share of employment when compared to the other sectors, approximately 5,900 jobs, well below the other sectors. He did mention that this report has been updated but went on to comment on the following items which are shown on page 2 of the report he had previously provided, noting the following items:

- Mr. Hays clarified the definition of the term “Jobs Multiplier” referred to in the report, explaining that this represents the total job yield in a region resulting from a single job being added, which includes the original job, as well. He mentioned that agriculture has a healthy “job multiplier” of 2.8, which is saying that almost two additional jobs are created by adding one agriculture job in Nevada.
- The agriculture sector has the second lowest number of “Establishments.” (434)

- “Location Quotient” compares per cent employment in the region to a per cent employment in the nation. Mr. Hays explained that this figure looks at how much of the Nevada economy is ceded in agriculture versus how much is ceded in agriculture throughout the United States, and further mentioned that Nevada has a very small percentage involvement in agricultural (.027 per cent). For better understanding, he compared the location quotient in Nevada’s prominent vocation, Tourism, Gaming and Entertainment, which shows a much higher involvement of 2.00 per cent.

Mr. McDowell thanked Mr. Hays for his presentation, and confirmed that he would forward the updated report to the sector council members for their review as well, and then proceeded to Agenda Item VIII.

VIII. **Discussion/Possible Action** - Update on the Pilot Program.....Earl McDowell

Mr. McDowell explained the pilot programs (UNR Internship Program and Rapid Response) requested by the Agriculture Sector have been approved and DETR is in the process of completing contracts, and he will keep the sector council members abreast of their progress as they move ahead. Mr. McDowell asked for any questions, and hearing none, he moved to Agenda Item IX.

IX. **Discussion/Possible Action** - Review of the 2014 Agriculture Sector Council Strategic Plan.....Amber Smyer

Mr. McDowell commented that as the Strategic Plan represents a significant part of the Agriculture Sector’s activities, he tabled this item until the next sector council meeting discussion. He stressed that the Strategic Plan is what will drive the sector councils for this upcoming year, mentioning the importance of adhering to the plan, while understanding that the Strategic Plan itself is fluid and can be changed if the sector council feels this is necessary. He asked them to let the Chair or DETR know of any questions that they may have on the Strategic Plan, for further discussion if needed.

Mr. McDowell then brought attention to an upcoming GWIB meeting, explaining that the Chair of each of the sector council’s prepare a report of the in-demand occupations mentioned in the Strategic Plan which will be presented in this meeting, and is what will recommend direction for WIA funding of NevadaWorks and Work Force Connections. Mr. McDowell said that he will send information out to the Sector Council members about the date and time for this meeting, and encouraged them to attend.

X. **For Possible Action** - New Business and Future Agenda Items.....Earl McDowell

Mr. McDowell asked for sector council members to suggest new business and future agenda items, and when no comments were made, he mentioned the following items as being good topics for discussion:

- Encourage New Members
- Review of the Strategic Plan
- Company Profile

When Mr. McDowell asked for any further suggestions for upcoming agenda items, De Salazar commented that Darragh Huggins should be asked to provide information on NCIS to the Agriculture Sector, and Mr. McDowell said that she may have already given a presentation to this sector. Ms. Salazar stated she would research this further. Fred Steinmann then commented that earlier discussions had brought up a suggestion to have other sector council member’s visit, in order to make each of the sector council’s aware of each other’s activities. Mr. McDowell thanked him for the suggestion, and mentioned an upcoming teleconference between the Chairs and Vice Chairs of all of the nine sector councils and also the upcoming GWIB meeting, and he stated he would share information with the Agriculture Sector Council, which can give them greater insight on the activities of the other sector councils.

XI. **For Possible Action - Future Meeting Schedule/Next Meeting**Earl McDowell

- Wednesday, September 10, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 19, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

XII. **Second Public Comment Session**Earl McDowell

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. McDowell then announced the Second Public Comment Session and invited members of the public to speak. Hearing no comments, Mr. McDowell proceeded to Agenda Item XIII.

XIII. **Adjournment**Amber Smyer

Mr. McDowell adjourned the meeting at 2:22 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
AGRICULTURE SECTOR COUNCIL

Amber Smyer (Chair), Dave Coon (Vice Chair), Senator James Settelmeyer,
Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams, Jeff Sutich, Heather Steel, Dr. Ron Pardini, Jeff Brigger,
Mike Catalano, Jim Snyder, Rob Hooper, Dr. Boyd Spratling, Dr. Frederick Steinmann, Rod Adams, Jeff Bryant,
Mike Pointer, Heston Johns and Peter Wallish

***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 Tuesday, July 15, 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. In addition, the agenda was mailed or e-mailed to groups and individuals as requested.