

**State Workforce Development Executive Committee Meeting  
Oak Ridge, TN  
Thursday, September 24, 2009  
12:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**Executive Committee Members Present:**

Jerry Anderton  
John Greeter  
Wallace Grills

**Member Present by Proxy:**

James Neeley (Bob Henningsen)

**Vice-Chairs Absent:**

Mattie Moran  
Yolanda Shields

**Staff Present:**

Susan Cowden  
Susie Bourque  
Linda Sampson  
Randy Hankins  
Wil Hammond

**Executive Committee  
Members Absent:**

J. M. Barnes  
Iloff McMahan

**Vice-Chairs Present:**

Guy Derryberry  
Brad Parish

**Members Present:**

Richard Montgomery  
Matt Kisber (Rick Meredith)  
Tim Webb (Ralph Barnett)

**Welcome:**

Chairman Wallace Grills welcomed everyone to the Executive Committee meeting and explained the reason for the meeting taking place in Oak Ridge. It is cost effective since most of the executive committee members reside in East Tennessee and the board is continuing to focus on “clean energy” initiative.

Chairman Grills introduced Billy Stair, representative from Oak Ridge National Laboratories (ORNL), who welcomed the group to the facility owned by one of the largest employers in Tennessee. He emphasized that ORNL is very instrumental in recruiting industry to the state of Tennessee working closely with Economic and Community Development (ECD) and other agencies and he advised that numerous companies focusing on solar energy have contacted them for assistance.

## **Opening Remarks:**

Deputy Commissioner Bob Henningsen thanked Brad Parish for hosting the executive committee meeting and advised that the focus will be on a review of the Career Readiness Certificate and establishing an energy partnership.

Deputy Commissioner Henningsen introduced Linda Lundy, USDOL, Federal Project Officer, who provided information on available grants. One is \$200 Million under American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to provide training and placement services to help workers seeking careers in high growth and other emerging industries. (Closes October 5, 2009) Second grant opportunity is \$100 Million for energy efficiency and renewable energy industries impacted by environmental policy and individuals in need of updated training related to the energy industry. (Closes October 20, 2009)

## **Overview of Oak Ridge Associated Universities:**

Brad Parish talked about Oak Ridge, Oak Ridge National Laboratories, and Oak Ridge Associated Universities and explained the economic impact to not only Tennessee, but to the nation as well. Over 12,000 individuals are employed at an average of \$65,000 annual income.

## **Workforce Development Updates:**

Administrator Susan Cowden introduced Shelia Webster, Director of UT Institute for a Secure and Sustainable Environment, and Cynthia Hill with USDOL.

Administrator Cowden announced the following grants:

- State Energy Sector Partnership and Training Grants “The Big Grant”
  - Due October 20, 2009
  - Grant term for 36 months
  - Total funding available per project: \$2-6 million
  - Applicant: State Workforce Board
  - Tennessee has 39 Auto Effected Counties
- State Labor Market Information Improvement Grants
  - Tennessee applied for \$700,000
- Pathways Out of Poverty
  - Geared toward non-profit organizations/Community Colleges, for the hard to serve population, those needing to come out of poverty and achieve jobs in the energy sector.
  - Six (6) applications from Tennessee

- Energy Training Partnership Grants
  - Two (2) from Tennessee
- Green Capacity Building Grants
  - Not any from Tennessee

There was another grant in July directed to emerging industries and the health care sector. LWIAs 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 are working in conjunction with East Tennessee State University. LWIA 7 is working in conjunction with Tennessee Tech. LWIA 9 is working in conjunction with Middle Tennessee State University and Nashville State Community College. In LWIA 13 there is an application from the University of Tennessee Medical in Memphis.

**Results of Summer Youth 2009:**

- Goal - 12,000
- Total Served – 12,287
- Number of Work Sites – 3,131
- Percentage of Private Industries – 30%
- Foster Care Participants – 401
- Veterans and/or spouses – 32
- Number of Participants Hired – 452

Administrator Cowden presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Betsy Houston from Commissioner Neeley for her outstanding work with JTG. Tennessee’s Jobs for Tennessee Graduates, a partnership with the Department of Education and Labor and Workforce Development, has garnered national success for the fourth consecutive year, again being awarded the highest accolade – the Five of Five Award – signifying JTG students exceeded the goals of the program and earned top marks for graduation and success rates.

Administrator Cowden presented a video produced by Director Jan McKeel about Perry County.

**Career Readiness & Economic Forecasting:**

Tennessee is now in the fourth year of issuing Career Readiness Certificates and is moving to the National Career Readiness Certificate.

The following three (3) presentations were made on products available for economic forecasting:

- Mike Church, Economic Modeling Systems, Inc.
- David Sweaney, ACT
- Teresa Chasteen, Worldwide Interactive Network

**Clean Energy:**

Ryan Gooch, Energy Policy Director with Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development, presented a power point presentation on Powering New Growth and Clean Energy stating the following strategy:

- Jobs Cabinet Approach
- Leverage our strong business climate and strategic partnerships
- Create smart, flexible and innovative incentives
- Invest in our workforce
- Clearly define the sector

- Create and build on early wins

Four reasons for clean energy:

- Energy Assurance
- Economic Development and jobs
- Climate Change
- National Security

Administrator Cowden presented information pertaining to the formation of the State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP). The SESP will serve as a steering committee throughout the life of the grant to inform the planning and implementation of the State's energy sector strategy and ensure the overall success of the grant. The proposed slate of candidates for the SESP was provided to the committee members.

John Greeter made the motion to form the State Energy Sector Partnership and make application for the grant. The motion was seconded by Deputy Commissioner Henningsen. **Motion Passed.**

#### **Open Discussion:**

Chairman Grills asked for suggestions for continuous improvement in the future and strongly recommended that each LWIA pursue the Baldrige initiative.

Future State Workforce Board dates:

December 3 & 4, 2009  
March 18 & 19, 2010  
May 20 & 21, 2010  
September 16 & 17, 2010 (Location TBA)  
December 16 & 17, 2010

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned with several members taking a tour of Oak Ridge National Laboratories.

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Linda Sampson  
WIA Board Coordinator

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Susie Bourque  
Assistant Administrator