

Regional Council Chairs' Committee Meeting
January 12, 2006
9:30 a.m.

Attendees: Stephanie Smith, Lynn Purdin, Robert Knudson, Diane Lovell, Bill Starks, Rick Little, Mark Knold, Paul Neilson, Debra Dull, Bob Gilbert, Dave Ostrom, Julie Lay, Ann Barnson, Kathleen Johnson, Jan Thompson, Randy Hopkins, Gary Knapp, Dawn Skorka, Kevin Crandall, Mike Richardson, Mary Gehman-Smith, Susan Hill, Jon Pierpont, Greg Diven, Judy Chambley (videoconference)

Welcome and Opening Business - Mike Richardson

Mike welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. He introduced Kevin Crandall, State Council Chair and Bill Starks, DWS Unemployment Insurance Director.

Mike referred to the 13 October 2005 meeting Minutes and addressed Paul Neilson's question about Roundtable formats. He stated that in future meetings, DWS will provide information such as outcomes for the Regions. This allows the regions to see what their counterparts are doing strategically throughout the State.

Mike called for approval of the 13 October 2005 meeting Minutes. Deb Dull moved to approve the Minutes as written, Paul Nielson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Outcome Data - Rick Little

Rick stated DWS has developed a mechanism for measuring outcomes. He presented these measures at both the State and Regional levels. He asked the group if this information and the pathway with which it is presented is helpful to the Councils. Randy Hopkins, DWS Northern Region Director, likes the format and feels that it is helpful. Greg Diven asked if there was economic information available to the Regional Councils. Mark Knold, DWS Economist, stated the University of Utah has a Bureau of Economic Research which can be contacted to assist with economic information. Mike added Steve Maas can provide a contact at the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED). Mike stated he wants to ensure these meetings are valuable, therefore he would like feedback on how the Councils are using the outcome data. Rick Little will participate in future meetings.

Regional Employer Roundtable Report - Mike Richardson

Mike stated the Regional Councils were asked to host forums around the State focusing on the partnership with Economic Development and Education.

Deb Dull reported the following for Southeastern Region:

- Southeastern Region was awarded a grant to build an energy training center. They have assembled a Board. Members include Judy Chambley, Eastern Region Director, Susan Etzel, Price Employment Center Manager, Commissioner Steven Burge and a representative from the College of Eastern Utah;

Paul Neilson reported the following for the Uintah Basin:

- The petroleum industry has an association but other industries are small and don't meet on a regular basis. Because of the lack of business groups, it is hard to get roundtables together;

Greg Diven reported the following for Central Region (CR):

- CR has had major success with roundtables beginning with Manufacturing. As of May, 2005, they are focusing on Automotive Services. Greg explained when the roundtables began, the biggest roadblock was Education. Employers felt they were not getting the right people with the right skills. Education has since stepped up to the plate and now both secondary and higher education has come up with new ideas to improve education and are developing a seamless process for instruction from high school through college. Turf battles have been resolved. A new curriculum will be implemented in the Fall. Greg encouraged other Regional Councils to promote roundtables. This will help the industry and the community. The next industry CR wants to target is Construction;

Gary Knapp reported the following for Wasatch North:

- Wasatch North has had difficulty filling machinist positions. They reached out to the Applied Technology Centers (ATCs) to assist with recruitment. As a result, both Clearfield Job Corps and the Ogden/Weber ATC has a program and training in place;
- Bear River North Council hosted a roundtable. Dawn Skorka added her roundtables have focused on adding soft skills into these

- trainings. The Davis Applied Technology College (DATC) has a program dedicated to soft skills;
- Employers have also requested focus on dealing with diversity. There are job fairs being held specifically for diversity;
 - Another piece covered was those who are already working but want to train for a better job;
 - There is a joint advertising project going on with DWS and the ATCs. They want to focus on attracting individuals to the Machinist industries;
 - Wasatch North business services staff has partnered with Job Corps to meet the needs of the aerospace industries;

Dave Ostrom reported the following for Mountainland Region (MR):

- Although MR has not hosted a roundtable, they have explored and want to pursue it;
- MR is experiencing a labor shortage especially in the services industry;

Jan Thompson reported the following for Western Region (WR):

- WR finds it difficult to host roundtables as the 11 counties are so spread out. They did have a meeting with all 11 counties;
- Construction Career Days will take place in March. This is focused for high school students. They can talk to company representatives. Many employers participate;
- WR has met with the Manufacturer's Association in Iron County;
- Sevier County has a Transportation Committee to solve issues. DWS is involved with this.

Labor Market Information - Mark Knold

Mark Knold reported Utah's economic growth rate is tied to the unemployment insurance system. Currently, Utah's economy is booming with an employment growth at about 4%. The only State that has higher employment growth is Nevada. The strongest industry gains are Construction, Professional and Business Services. Child Care has increased indicating more people are back to work. Both Southwestern Utah and Eastern Region are booming. DWS relies on surveys to evaluate the economy. Within the job vacancy survey was a section on education. The

survey indicates there is a gap between two-year degrees. There needs to be more technical degrees and not so many four-year degrees.

Strategic Planning Information & Idea Gathering - Mike Richardson

Mike reported the DWS Strategic Planning is a direct result of the March 2005 State Council meeting. Any ideas the regional councils have should be adjusted into the next revision of the plan. In the April meeting, these revisions will be presented.

Roundtable

Mike added subcommittees are currently being reviewed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.