

Minutes of June 17 meeting

Randall welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

Randall congratulated all DWS workers who are still employed after the restructuring with the State and DWS. Acknowledged Shelly as the Service Area Director.

Randall entertained a motion for approval of the minutes. Tom moved approval, with Irene seconding. Motion was approved unanimously.

Randall said that a lot of changes are taking place with the Workforce Services Department to realign functions and structure. It has changed how things are handled. There is the green energy grant that has been approved for Utah at \$4.6 million, with \$470,000 plus an extra \$120,000 in supplies/equipment. UBATC is working diligently to get things in order and ready to go with the training programs funded by the grant.

John Wahl provided an update of the green energy grant: For the green construction portion of the grant, there will be installations and energy analysis, and some training for contractors and employees. Some funds are coming in for weatherization, and may be able to train for that as well. CNG and Natural gas will continue to impact the Basin. We can do some things for storage facilities, and can train on diesel engines, mechanics, and conversion kits for automobiles and truck or bus fleets. We will be teaching different aspects of mechanics. Southwest ATC has a big project with wind energy. Other thing that will be big in eastern Utah is hogan construction at the Navajo reservation in San Juan County. We are receiving new equipment - \$35,000 has been received already. We will also have two DWS people, called energy career specialists, assisting with recruiting and eligibility for those who want to be trained.

Randall then asked Shelly to give the Regional Director's report. Shelly began by saying there were areas that need to be divided up. We are starting to see a push for exploration and production for gas in San Juan County. Carbon and Emery Counties are driven by coal and utilities. Oil and gas are driving us here. We want to focus on those industries in the Basin. Employers are the main DWS customers. We need to listen to our employer base and learn what they really need. Then we will prepare the workforce with the skills they need. We want to understand the industries. Kristen Cox is passionate that customers need to meet employer needs. Right now, we have a huge base of unemployed and underemployed workers. We have analyzed the data for our area, and reviewed unemployment rates and past history of employment. We have learned that job seekers traditionally don't have soft skills. But the job seekers now do have them as many are experienced workers, with years of experience. We are helping these get skills to get back into the workplace.

Our research shows that 9.7% live below the poverty level in Utah. In Uintah Co, 13.9% do, and in Duchesne County, it is 16%. We will try to move those into the workplace. Emerging industries in our area could be solar. Daggett Co has some good wind resources. Manufacturing hasn't grown

so much. We want to help our new and existing businesses be successful. A location for a data center is being sought for an enterprise zone location, which is in rural counties. Shelly thanked Tammie and Irene for their good work. Tammie said it is critical that we have the parts working together when we try to get a new business. We also want to diversify the economy. We need more jobs and diversity. We could work to bring more tourism and conventions back in the area. There continues to be a high number of unemployed people. Are there some expansion plans for some of our companies that could utilize the unemployed? Another initiative is the Back to Work initiative that will be implemented on July 1st. Right now, we are paying out \$13 million weekly in UI benefits. We want to give incentives to employers to hire these unemployed workers. Mailings are going out to eligible workers and employers in the next week or two. We can serve 125-150 in the Basin. Randall said there is a lot of costs when you hire an employee. This program may encourage a smaller employer to move forward with a plan to hire. Shelly said this program will allow an employer to rehire a worker who was laid off.

Irene said she and Tammie want to get back the good state relationships of the past. Some businesses seem to think that government are against them and not for them. Enterprise zone credits are being looked at by auditors, and in some cases, may be reviewed or even lost. Businesses could have gone to Colorado, but chose Utah based on the tax credits. Shelly said we will be cognizant of these things as she represents the Basin. We can be the convenor or gatherer of sectors in our region to discuss these issues. Shelly says we have to partner and collaborate.

Tom N. asked: Is there anything that will help the job seeker? Shelly said we can assist with training some job seekers and helping them search and interview for jobs. Our training funds are getting cut. We are gathering data to support our occupations in demand, which are occupations for which we can train job seekers.

Shelly said DWS has a new management model: a workforce connection team in each office to connect job seekers with their needs. And a manager to manage all the intensive services in the three Economic Service Areas (Uintah Basin, Castle Country, and Southeast). Intensive services include support services, training funds, case management, etc.

We want to move towards an industry advisory council for each ESA. We need help in identifying the correct industries, developing plans that are meeting needs, promote/support our employment centers, help make the connection with education and training programs. We will also have some task forces around construction, healthcare, energy, and others as needed. We could try to do something with drugs in the workplace.

Randall said the cycle is that we have so many dollars when economy is good, then everyone, including the employers, cuts back funding when the economy is weak. Randall says he likes the concept of getting away from the one size fits all, and tailor the services to each area.

Randall asked Bob to review the letter that the Southwest Council had sent to Kristen Cox about representation from the rural areas. Bob said that as the State Council and Regional Councils are restructured, there is no guarantee that rural representation will be given seats on the State Council. That was what had promoted Southwest to send a letter to Kristin. Tom moved we send a letter to

Kristen Cox that recommends keeping the service area representation on the State Council. Paul seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Randall then introduced Melissa Freigang, who is the Clearfield Job Corps Business and Community Director. Melissa said she has been involved with other councils, and she is impressed with our Council and how it works. She felt that as we work together, the effect is more like a scattered bunch of pellets rather than one rifle shot as the economy rebounds.

Melissa said she would like to tailor the economic development part of Job Corps. Have 200 trained students in various trades that are now ready to work. Our training is to take away all the barriers that students may have. They are expected to demonstrate good behavioral skills all the time. We are the third largest Job Corps in the nation. We are strict with our students and use a positive normalcy culture. We teach them conflict skills, getting along, looking professional, and the job-specific and technical skills. Five of our trades are taught by the Davis ATC. Our program is voluntary, not court-ordered. You have to be 16-24, and in poverty. We do drug test on campus. Culinary students will provide lunch if you come to our campus, and the lunches are very good. We have 17 different trades; and a weatherization program. Job Corps is really big on green. We have 3 big green diesel programs. We are teaching our students the biodiesel programs. When a student is ready for the workplace, we can provide a stipend and apartment and food until they settle in. We turn out 40 CNAs a month ready to work. A partnership for us would be where the employer provides funds for the Job Corps graduate to live and get food. We train automotive, health occupations, electrical, plumbing, culinary, others. We have federal monies coming in, and so please use us and help place our students. We can provide call center-trained students.

Tom asked: Do you have job developers? Melissa answered yes, we have 13 staff that assist students with placement and transitional services. At present, we have 189 students ready to work, and not able to find a job. We could partner also with an energy training program, for instance, to add on to the student's training. Matt asked if they do foster youth referrals? Melissa said yes, we would like to do that, and can take foster kids that are still in custody. We do have some issues when they turn 18 and can leave the program. We don't keep track of the foster kids, but I know we have some. Melissa indicated that some of our best kids are working at Kennecott and do technical stuff. Recruiting is done by contract, but you can meet refer students to Job Corps. At present, we have the best economy in the west.

Randall expressed appreciation for participation. Next meeting is set for August 17th at the Marriott Springhill Suites in Vernal.

