

Bear River North Regional Council
Tuesday, September 28, 2010 @ 9:00
Bridgerland Applied Technology College

In Attendance:

Bill Cox	Rich County Commissioner
Daren Orme	Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
David Bryan	Pepperidge Farm
Evan Maxfield	Morrell Consulting c/o Morrell Financial Stewardship
John Davidson	Bridgerland Applied Technology College
Kathy Robison	Cache County Council Member
Kristen Floyd	DWS Bear River Service Area Director
Roger Jones	Bear River Association of Governments
Wayne Kirk	Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Excused:

Kevin Hamilton	Box Elder County Community Development
Rich VanDyke	Box Elder County Commission
Peggy Madsen	Box Elder County Employees

Guests:

John Mathews	Department of Workforce Services Labor Economist
--------------	--------------------------------------------------

Department of Workforce Services Staff:

Kristen Floyd	Bear River Service Area Director
Marie Higgins	Bear River Service Area Assistant to Director
Craig Stewart	Bear River Service Area Workforce Development Specialist
Juan Lucero	Bear River Service Area Workforce Development Specialist

Welcome / Introduction:

- Kristen Floyd started meeting at 9:05am and welcomed group.
- Minutes approved.
- John Mathews was introduced – Department of Workforce Services Labor Economist

John Mathew's Presentation :

Economic update for Bear River area – three counties; Box Elder, Cache, Rich.

John presented a slideshow and passed out handouts. (attached to email) The recession appears to be over as of June 2009. Housing had been in recession for three years, but housing now seems to be stabilizing. Fiscal stimulus and financial is stabilizing. Private nonresidential construction is plunging. The recession has been the longest and deepest since the 1930's. economy will recover slowly. Recovery is likely to be slow because of financial markets and switch to higher savings. Financial markets are locked up. Home prices continue to fall. Oil prices continue to rise. Recession could be longer and deeper.

- Utah has seen some growth from 2002- 2004 before recession hit. Non-farm industry profile between 2008 & 2009. Construction took the biggest hit. Manufacturing as well as

trade transportation and utilities. Professional business were all hit low. Only two industries that showed positive growth – education and health care. “Recession resistant”. Also government jobs have been a positive growth.

- Unemployment has always been around 4.2%. It's 7.5% now. We will always have people unemployed.
- Here in Bear River area. Population has grown in Cache 2.7%, BE 1.7%, Rich 2.1%. State is 1.4 (nine year growth rate) Components of population change. In BE there was net out migration. National increase is normal. Cache county is going down. Their population isn't as steady – probably because of the students at USU.
- Non-farm new jobs growth rate: -Box Elder 10.1%, Cache 3.3%, Rich 7.5% (years 2008 - 09). Employment growth rate turned in 2007. Manufacturing in Box Elder had positive growth through about 2007 then we took a huge turn. 40% of all jobs in Box Elder County are in manufacturing. Cache count employment hasn't been hit as bad as Box Elder. Growth rate dropped in 2009. We are slowly coming out. 21% of all jobs in Cache County are in manufacturing. Rich is a seasonal county – growing slowly except in this last year. Population isn't as strong and has slipped this past year. Non-farm jobs by industry is still struggling in Box Elder & Cache.
- Unemployment Insurance rates 2010 – Box Elder 8.4%, Cache 5.1%, Rich 5.3%, Utah 7.2%. More people are staying on UI longer – they can get it for a full 99 weeks.
- Average wages: Box Elder #4 in the state. Rich is lowest. Cache is below half.
- Commuting in 2008 - Of the 21,700 jobs in Box Elder 15% commute from SLC and Weber. Only 7% of Box Elder residents work in Cache. Cache County; 64% stay in the county. 13% commute to SL and 5% commute to Weber. 4.9% commute to BE.
- Construction – dwelling permits have dropped in Bear River.

Remember, even after the start of economic recovery, employment recovery may lag for months or even years.

To see this slideshow online – go to <http://jobs.utah.gov/pencms/wi/pubs/publicat.html> You also can email to get the slideshow – johnmathews@utah.gov

Kristen Floyd presented results from her ADHOC meeting.

Passed out handout, which has survey ideas for the three-county Employers. Kristen wanted everyone to review the questions and she wanted to know the committee's opinion. We will create some questions and use the Survey-Monkey free online program to help us. Because the Back To Work program isn't as popular with employers as we'd hoped, the ADHOC team wants to get this survey out to as many companies as we can. We want to know what's keeping them moving and how they're expanding. We need to know what they need to have addressed to get an initial picture of what we need to help them. She asked for suggestions around the room to see what everyone thought of the example of survey questions. Some of the responses we received were:

- For small manufacturing companies, the first thing they cut is training. Is there anything to offset the cost of training? Over 70 manufacturers that have gone out of business. ISO certifications cost too much.
- How many businesses will take the time to respond?
- John Mathews would like to work with the ADHOC group. He does surveys all the time.

(The survey has to have the right look and feel in order for employers to participate.)

- Will there be a different set of questions per industry? Are these questions enough to send out to everyone?
- Give choices for the questions on the survey instead of general questions.

Is this a good route to go with the Monkey Survey? It's free to set up, and so we'll be able to send the survey to a larger group of employers. Kristen hopes to have the survey set up and everything ready to roll by Oct. 1st. When we get the questions ready and in Survey Monkey, we'll email it to the council members for approval.

Kristen talked a little about the Youth Council

We're in the mist of putting together this group. They have managed the point system for the youth group to see how to spend our training dollars. We would still like a good committee with youth focused people. We're looking for more training, internship opportunities who know about career paths. If you're interested, email Kristen Floyd at klfloyd@utah.gov or if you know someone who might be interested and would benefit with being part of this council, contact Kristen. Also – Kristen made the announcement that reason her last name has changed from Donoviel to Floyd... is because she's a married woman now! (yeah!)

Kristen talked about the Back To Work Grant

This grant allows employers to have a \$2000 incentive to give people on Unemployment some work experience. (see handout attached) Kristen discussed this program briefly. If you have an employee that might be eligible for this program, contact the Dept. Workforce Services.

Plan for future meetings

What is a better day and time that is suitable to meet for our Regional Council Meetings? We decided to move away from the lunch hour because of budget issues we were not able to bring treats to the meetings. Suggestions were:

- Kathy Robison said the committee members might be busier in the mornings with their jobs, so afternoons might work better.
- Bill Cox suggested earlier in the morning – like 8:00 – might be better because then we don't have to worry about running into other appointments in our busy schedule.

Around the room

Does anyone have anything they'd like to say?

- Bill Cox will check with the Rich County Chamber about the Monkey Survey.
- Roger Jones talked about the construction going on in the area / apartment complexes.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:40am.

*The Mission of the Bear River Regional Council
is to facilitate the development of a prepared workforce
that matches needs of employers and needs of the community.*