



MASS WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION
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Massachusetts Workforce Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Stan Usovicz, Chair
Tuesday, June 23, 2020, 11:30 a.m - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81704036853>

Meeting ID: 817 0403 6853 (see calendar invite)

Attendees (all via Zoom):

Robert Bower, *MA AFL-CIO/CLU*
David Gadaire, *MassHire Holyoke Career Center*
Maddrey Goode, *MassHire Boston Career Center*
Jim Oliveira, *MassHire Greater New Bedford Workforce Board*
Valerie Sutton, *Harvard University/MassHire Metro North Workforce Board*
Karen Pelletier, *Worcester Chamber of Commerce*
Joseph Peters, *Universal Plastics/MassHire Holyoke Career Center*
Stan Usovicz, *Verizon/MassHire North Shore Workforce Board*
Mary Sarris, *MassHire North Shore Workforce Board*
Robert Corley, *NeighborWorks Housing Solutions*

Absent -

Chris Kealey, *Massachusetts Business Roundtable*
Suzanne Fernandes, *Mutual Bank/MassHire Greater Brockton Workforce Board*
Erin Travassos, *Eversource*
Raymond Wrobel, *Align Credit Union/MassHire Greater Lowell Workforce Board*
Michael Weekes, *Providers Council*

Staff -

Tonja Mettlach, *MWA Executive Director*
Raija Vaisanen, *MWA Associate Director*

Guests -

Steve Koczela, *MassINC Polling Group*

Detailed agenda for Chair:

Chair's Welcome and Introductions, Stan Usovicz

- Stan called the meeting to order.

Approval of March Meeting Minutes, *Stan Usovicz*

- VOTE: Motion to approve the March 2020 board meeting minutes (Dave Gadaire move, Mary Sarris second).
 - Unanimous

Welcome and Introduction of New Board Member, *Valerie Sutton*

- Tonja introduced Rob Corley to the Board who the Governance Committee has nominated to replace Harneen Chernow on the MWA Board.
- Rob joined NeighborWorks Housing Solutions as the Director of Real Estate in 1997. In 2009, he stepped into the role of Executive Director and continued to expand the geography of the organization and the diversity of its services with new offices in Brockton and New Bedford. Robert recently spearheaded and successfully completed the merger of NeighborWorks Southern Mass and Housing Solutions of South Eastern Mass to form NeighborWorks Housing Solutions. As CEO, overseeing the combined real estate portfolio and housing services, Robert has positioned the organization on a strong footing to better serve the growing needs of households in the Southern Mass region.
- Rob then introduced himself to himself to the Board and talked about his background and organization. Board members asked questions and welcomed Rob to the Board.
- VOTE: Motion to accept Robert Corley on the MWA Board for a 3-year term (Valerie Sutton move, Jim Oliveira second).
 - Unanimous

Treasurer's Report, *Tonja Mettlach*

- Tonja proceeded to provide the treasurer's report to the Board.
- FY20 Updates:
 - FY20 membership fees: MWA has collected \$185,693 (93%). MWA had 100% participation by regions. The last remaining payment has been sent and we will ensure it is deposited before 6/30.
 - MWA will end FY20 under budget. Updated numbers will be provided to the Board before the September board meeting once everything is reconciled after June 30th. Much of our savings was due to the cancellation of in person events during the last quarter of the fiscal year, a time we typically spend the most on member meetings.
 - We are in the process of submitting paperwork to EOLWD for our FY21 contract.
- FY21 Updates:
 - FY21 Membership Dues: MWA is lowering the total dues we are seeking from members in FY21 down to \$190,000 from \$200,000 (5% reduction). As you can see on the draft dues sheet, due to the allocation formula 12 regions will see their dues decrease while 4 regions will see their dues increase. Note, we used FY21 allocation

numbers for everything except the One Stop line item given the way the budget is playing out this year and the uncertainty in total funding for that line item.

- FY21 MWA Budget: For the proposed FY21 MWA budget, we budgeted for a proposed income of \$367,000 and expenses of \$360,800 with \$6,200 in net income. This includes a 2.5% COL increase for the Executive Director and a salary increase for Raija. The huge unknown is when we will be able to return to in person convenings but we believe we have budgeted enough in our meetings and travel expenses line items should we be able to return to some of our typical convenings, likely next year at the earliest.
- Discussion then ensued about the FY20 budget and the FY21 proposed dues and budget.
- VOTE: Motion to accept the proposed FY21 member dues and FY21 MWA Budget (Maddrey Goode move, Valerie Sutton second)
 - Unanimous

Membership Update, *Raija Vaisanen*

- Raija updated the Board about the work of the membership committee over the past six months. She then discussed the proposed membership structure document, outlining the two new memberships MWA proposes to offer in FY21.
- VOTE: Motion to accept the new proposed membership structure (Valerie Sutton move, Robert Bower second)
 - Unanimous

Guest Speaker, *Steve Koczela, MassINC Polling Group*

- Steve Koczela, of the MassINC Polling Group presented on recent Massachusetts polls relating to COVID-19, housing, transportation, work and some national polls on the presidential election, followed by Q/A.
- For a more detailed overview of Steve's presentation see his PowerPoint attached hereto.

Year End Review, *Tonja Mettlach and Raija Vaisanen*

- Tonja provided a year end review and urged Board members to review the MWA PowerPoint that would be sent out following the Board meeting. Included within the PowerPoint is an overview of the first annual MWA Member Survey. More information from the survey will be shared at the September meeting.
- At the end of the presentation, a discussion occurred about the need for MWA to take a leadership role in looking at the racial inequities in our state and workforce system. In addition, the board discussed the need for good jobs for job seekers (do you connect to already existing good jobs or do you work with businesses to build more good jobs), diverse leadership at companies, and a look at racial and structural barriers within our society. Board members present indicated their interest in participating in a Board-led initiative to think about the role that MWA should play, and making this a standing item on MWA Board agendas. Stan and Tonja to follow up and update the Board on some next steps in the weeks ahead.

Adjournment

- Stan thanked everyone for their participation.
- VOTE: Motion to adjourn (Robert Bower motion, David Gadaire second).
 - Unanimous