MASS WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION
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Massachusetts Workforce Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Stan Usovicz, Chair
Tuesday, September 20, 2022, 11:30 a.m.

Attendees (all via Zoom):
Michael Weekes, *Providers Council*
Maddrey Goode, *MassHire Boston Career Center*
Karen Pelletier, *Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce*
Dave Gadaire, *MassHire Holyoke Career Center*
Robert Bower, *MA AFL-CIO/CLU*
Stan Usovicz, *Verizon/MassHire North Shore Workforce Board*
Charles Gagnon, *Volunteers of America, Massachusetts*
Jim Oliveira, *MassHire Greater New Bedford Workforce Board*
Lauren Jones, *Massachusetts Business Roundtable*
Vera Sostre, *Sheraton Springfield*
Mary Sarris, *MassHire North Shore Workforce Board*
Rob Corley, *NeighborWorks Housing Solutions*

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

Guests:
Lisa Hemmerle, *Director*, *Department of Economic Research, EOLWD*
Lauren Godding, *Manager of Customer Engagement & Experience*, *Department of Economic Research, EOLWD*

Minutes:

Chair's Welcome and Introductions, *Stan Usovicz*

- Stan called the meeting to order.

Guest Speaker: *Lisa Hemmerle, Director of the Economic Research Department, Exec. Office of Labor and Workforce Development*

- Tonja introduced guest speaker Lisa Hemmerle, from the Department of Economic Research within the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. Lisa also had Lauren Godding, also from the Department of Economic Research introduce herself.
- See attached PDF for Lisa's presentation.
- Discussion:
    - Board members thanked Lisa for the work that the department is undertaking.
    - Michael and Charles discussed the data showing pay parity in the human services sector but also noting that the overall pay is still under market value.
    - Bob and Rob asked about what types of data the department has on minority owned businesses. Lisa shared that there is some limited data in the equity dashboards, but there is definitely more to look at for the future.
    - Karen shared a report that the Chamber recently completed on minority owned enterprises in the region.
    - Raija also shared in the chat a new education data hub that has been launched by the Departments of Elementary and Secondary Education, Early Education & Care and Higher Education.

Treasurer's Report, *Tonja Mettlach and Jim Oliveira*

- Tonja and Jim presented the Teasurer's report.
- For FY23, Tonja shared that MWA has mailed out all invoices for FY23 dues. MWA has also received approval for the grants from Eastern Bank and Verizon. Tonja thanked Stan for his assistance in receiving the Verizon grant. In addition, while only 2 months into FY23, expenses and income are tracking at budget, as you can see on the attached financials.
- For FY22, Tonja shared that MWA ended the fiscal year with 100% of MWA dues collected for the fourth year in a row. Income and expenses were just about at budget and MWA ended the fiscal year with $4,088.97 in net revenue.
- Tonja also discussed the two votes for the board to take. First is on the close out of FY22 finances and to approve a financial review for FY22.
    - VOTE: Motion to approve the FY22 financial close out (Jim Oliveira move, Dave Gadaire second).
        - Unanimous
    - VOTE: Motion to approve a financial review for FY22 (Jim Oliveira move, Charles Gagnon second).
        - Unanimous

Approval of June Meeting Minutes, *Stan Usovicz*

- VOTE: Motion to approve the June 2022 board meeting minutes (Dave Gadaire move, Maddrey Goode second).
    - Unanimous

2022 MWA Member Survey Review, *Raija Vaisanen and Tonja Mettlach*

- Raija shared a PowerPoint summarizing the 2022 MWA Member Survey results and Tonja discussed priorities looking forward to FY23.

- Bob mentioned that it is helpful to have Chris Andresen present to the board and committees periodically to help us get the national context for our work. Tonja shared that Chris presented last week at the Public Policy meeting and one major takeaway was that a lot of the workforce development dollars that will be coming from the federal government won't be flowing through USDOL - much of the funding is coming through infrastructure and Dept. of Commerce. This is a good time for MWA to start building stronger relationships with the state level representatives of those agencies.
- See attached PowerPoint for the presentation.

Adjournment

- Before ending the meeting Stan asked board members if they had any questions or items to share.
- Tonja shared that Bob Bower was recently recognized for his many years of commitment and work on behalf of the workforce development field at the MassForward statewide convening. He received the MassHire Champion award. We all congratulate Bob on this award.
- Jim shared that he had let his Executive Committee know that as of March 31, 2023 he would be retiring. The current deputy director, Joe Lopes, will be taking over as Executive Director and Jim will stay on as CEO.
- VOTE: Motion to adjourn the board meeting (Maddrey Goode move, Dave Gadaire second).
    - Unanimous