



Employer Connections Committee

Minutes

March 15th, 2023, at 9:00 AM

Fischer Paper Products

1301 Gregory Drive, Antioch, Illinois

Present: Michael Darling, Josh Fischer, Antonio Garcia, Sylvia Johnson-Jones, Eric Kurtz, Troy McIntosh, Carla Schroeder, and Jennifer Serino

Absent: Kevin Considine, Carrie Espinosa, Pete Govorchin, Dennis Kessler, Noelle Kischer-Lepper, Mary Ross-Cunningham, and Julie Savitt

I. Meeting Opening

1. Call to Order.....Michael Darling, Committee Chairperson

Call to order: 9:01 A.M.

Quorum: Yes

2. *No Public Comment.*

3. Chairperson’s Report

Chairman Darling thanked Josh Fischer for hosting the meeting today and stated there would be a tour of Fischer Paper Products following the meeting.

Members were asked to review the list of Committee Members and provide any changes to Jennifer Serino. Board members, business leaders and community leaders were invited to join the committee and discussion.

The Executive Committee approved adding a Vice-Chair to each committee to further build the board member leadership and create a more robust succession plan. Interested members are asked to contact Jennifer Serino.

II. Consent Agenda

1. Approve the January 2023 Employer Connections Meeting Minutes

[Attachment A](#)

Motion to Approve: Member Johnson-Jones

Second: Member Schroeder

No corrections. No discussion.

All in favor: Motion carried.

III. Welcome

1. Fischer Paper Products

Joshua Fischer, Owner and President of Fischer Paper Products

Josh introduced himself and shared company history, products, and engagement in the community. There is a new partnership with College of Lake County and Fischer Paper Products to fill the skill gap using apprenticeship.

IV. Updates and Information

1. Business Engagement data discussion

Antonio Garcia, Business Services Manager, Lake County Workforce Development

Member Serino discussed the engagement efforts of the business services group in the Third Quarter 3 of Program Year 2022. The Committee provided feedback on the current business services data. The Committee requested additional outcome data from job and career fairs including how many positions are filled and DEI data. The committee noted that employers look for consistency when it comes to attending job fairs for recruiting purposes and suggested utilizing larger venues to create job fairs working with the workforce ecosystem for further reach.

2. Business Engagement Survey to be Developed

Member Serino lead a discussion regarding a business engagement survey. The survey is in the beginning stages of being developed and feedback is being requested to streamline the development.

3. Workforce Development's Strategic Communication Plan

Member Serino shared that Workforce Development has selected the communication firm to develop and execute Workforce Development's Strategic Communication Plan including strategies for the use of social media, update to the websites, communication materials and message for the individual and business customers and overall alignment across all medias and printed materials. This is a 12 month agreement funded through ARPA.

V. Upcoming Board & Committee Meetings

1. Employer Connections Committee Meeting – May 17, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.
2. Workforce Development Board Meeting – April 27, 2023, at 8:00 a.m.

The Next Employer Connections Committee Meeting will take place May 17, 2023, at Consumer Credit Union.

The next Workforce Development Board Meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2023 and will be held at the University Center of Lake County.

VI. Adjournment

Motion to adjourned: Member Schroeder

Second: Member Johnson-Jones

Meeting adjourned: 10:02 A.M.

VII. Fischer Paper Products Tour