

**Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Development**  
**Alaska Workforce Investment Board**  
**Policy & Planning Committee**  
**March 26, 2004 Meeting**

Present: David Stone, Tony Lombardo, Ginger Stock, Neal Foster, Rachael Petro, Susan Denison

Staff: Patrice Parker, Kitty Farnham, Patti Swenson, Dan Hayes, Mike Shiffer, Brad Gillespie

The committee meeting was called to order at 10 a.m.

The Southeast Conference Proposal was added to the Agenda under New Business. The amended agenda was accepted.

The March 19, 2004 meeting minutes were amended. On the second page, second paragraph, it should read: "They should specify 'small business and industries.' They discussed membership - Ms. Farnham pointed out open membership could be an issue if AWIB Regional Advisory Councils and the Denali Commission's Economic Development regional committees hope to collaborate because the federal legislation directs the Lt. Governor to appoint the members." The minutes were approved with the changes.

**Regional Council Proposal Template**

The committee reviewed the new template and suggested changes to streamline and make the instructions more clear. Ms. Farnham said that in the spirit of being as helpful as possible, we should include the reviewer's checklist so the groups developing proposals will know what we're looking for. Ms. Petro and others agreed with that change. Minor modifications were made to that page.

**Interior Region Proposal**

Mr. Stone pointed out it says in the start-up process they can apply for a grant. Ms. Farnham said that one of the categories of work in the Workforce Investment Strategies that would allow capacity building and strengthening relationships towards economic development, and these regional council proposals would fit. Mr. Foster said it would be nice to see a majority of tribal and local organizations involved. Ms. Farnham didn't see a cross-member to the AWIB on the proposal. The committee agreed they should include that but it shouldn't be a "show stopper." Mr. Stone said it's interesting they're considering growth in membership, but there isn't a timeline telling us when. There is a start-up process on page 2. Linda Hulbert gave Ms. Farnham her perspective, and said they felt they would get momentum going and once they're approved they could bring others in. It's an interesting approach and could set a precedent for other regions. There is a gap – it only touches on the road communities. Patti Swenson asked – what happens if they don't get the rest of the organizations that they need, or that we would like to see them have. What if they don't do what they said they'd do? The committee decided that

although proposals might not be perfect, we'll work with them to bring them along. We should recognize that they're headed in the right direction. A regional committee would offer a report to the AWIB once a year, so at that point we can do a feedback loop, in an advisory capacity. We will be offering statewide coordination and technical assistance. Patti Swenson and Tara Jollie are the co-state coordinators, and they'll be checking in with the regions' key people regularly. It'll differ completely region by region but we're providing regular contact and assistance.

The Policy & Planning Committee decided to give the Interior Region a conditional endorsement, conditional on receiving the stated letters of support, a majority of villages, identify the cross-member, and an explanation on TCC's involvement. Mr. Foster recommended the letter be as positive as possible.

Staff was directed to draft the response, e-mail it to the committee, and if approved it will go out under Chairman Stone's signature. If they come back to us with the requested information, we can take it up at the April 30 meeting. We'll take the action to the board.

Ms. Farnham told the committee that Sammy Crawford sent a letter of inquiry from Kenai, and a response letter was sent. Staff will share it with the committee.

Southeast Conference submitted a proposal but it was received too late for committee review. The committee agreed to review it and respond by e-mail. The North Slope Borough has also submitted a proposal. There is some missing information and we're working with them to complete the template.

The committee decided to take up marketing at the April 30 meeting and Voc Ed Status Recommendations and an Ethics Policy in May.

The meeting ended at 11:10 a.m.