

The Jefferson-Lewis Executive Workforce Development Board meeting was held on Monday, June 5, 2017 at noon at The WorkPlace in Watertown. In attendance were Pete Whitmore, Chair; Matt Cooper, Vice-Chair; and Cheryl Mayforth, Executive Director. Absent were Mike Britt, Vice Chair, and Carole McCoy, Secretary.

Executive Director Mayforth reviewed the agenda. A request was made to Peter Schmidt, Director of the Watertown Empire State Poverty Reduction Initiative, to provide an update on the program at a full WDB meeting. It was suggested to have Peter present first and then open the floor for questions before proceeding with the rest of the agenda.

Agenda items to be included at the next full WDB meeting were discussed. A resolution in regards to the Youth Services Program Year 2017 budget may be presented if the allocations are received by the meeting date. The funding amount was approved in the Continuing Resolution passed in Congress in April 2017. Indications are that leveled funding will be received however, with unemployment rates being down throughout the country and state, funding levels may be lower than anticipated.

Other resolutions discussed include the 2017-2018 WDB meeting schedule and the approval of professional memberships. Also, during a recent review by the state, it was determined that the resolution passed in March in regards to Youth with additional barriers should be revised.

The WDB will vote on officers for next year. Due to business commitments, Pete Whitmore will be resigning from the board. Matt Cooper is being nominated to step into the role of Chairman. Executive Director Mayforth noted that she has emailed correspondence to the Lewis County representation inquiring on the possibility of filling the secretary or a vice chair role, in hopes to place a Lewis County member on the Executive Board. Other emails have gone out seeking to fill the positions. Dr. Carole McCoy will be retiring from her position as Jefferson Community College President at the end of this June. Once the new president, Dr. Ty Stone, has settled into her new position then Executive Director Mayforth will call on her to discuss representation on the board.

The One-Stop Operator procurement (RFP) results will be received soon and there will be a vote on the acceptance of the scoring by NYATEP. NYATEP issued the RFP after no responses were received from the RFI, which was issued in December 2016. This occurred as to remove doubt of conflict of interest.

The requested WIOA MOU for partners has been sent to state departments for signatures, as instructed. Once the state signatures are received, then the documents can be sent out for the signatures of local representatives. With the NYSDOL making multiple changes to the requirements, it may be difficult to meet the July 1, 2017 deadline.

The next meeting of the full board will be on June 21, 2017 at 7:45am at the Tughill Vineyards, located at 4051 Yancey Road, in Lowville.