

I. Call to Order

The WIB virtual meeting was called to order by Chair Beeler at 12:05 PM.

Members Present

- Joanne Beeler
- Todd Boyd
- Bill Corbin
- Diana Doran
- Brooke Fosdyck
- Monica Foster
- Curtis Harn
- Jillian Isaacson
- Mike Inman (Andy Borrowman)
- Shannon Kachinovas
- Brenda Middendorf
- Jennifer Mowen
- Cody Niebuhr
- Kathy Osment
- Anita Sells
- Cheryl Welge
- Lila Whestine
- Dawn VanZandt

Members Absent

- Dan Bentz
- Bruce Adams
- John Meixner
- Koleen Lord
- Natashia Myers
- Michelle Payne
- Seamus Reilly
- Bryan Renfro
- Armando Reyes de Zamacona
- Darla Rischar
- Darlene Scheuermann
- Dane Simpson
- Gregg Snyder
- Nick Tzenevrakis

Presenter

Nate Keener

Guests

- Mayor Mike Troup
- Mike Pearson
- Annamarie Dorr
- Deb Waldrop
- Jamie Beasley
- Lance Euchaski

Staff

- Howard Kirchner
- Blanche Shoup

Chair Beeler welcomed CEO members Quincy Mayor Mike Troup and Andy Borrowman with the Pike County Board. She recognized Annamarie Dorr and Deb Waldrop from DCEO.

II. Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes from August 29, 2024 was made by Shannon Kachinovas and seconded by Andy Borrowman. The motion carried by roll call.

III. Chairperson's Report

Chair Beeler reported that Connie Wessels has recently retired and was a long-time WIB and Executive Committee member. She thanked Wessels for her years of service on the WIB and the Executive Committee. Beeler reported that Darla Rischar from Kohl Wholesale has been appointed to fill Wessels' seat on the Executive Committee.

Beeler noted that September was Workforce Development Month and all nine counties and four cities passed Workforce Development Month Proclamation. She thanked the Elected Officers for 100% participation.

Beeler reported that DCEO representatives Julio Rodriguez and Annamarie Dorr recently visited the Quincy Workforce Center and entities in Quincy.

Shoup announced Kayla Fiss from Quincy a nurse at Blessing Hospital, was the recipient of the Individual Achievement Award. She stated that Two Rivers Regional Council staff helped Kayla with financial assistance to obtain her RN degree. Shoup stated there is more information on the WIB website regarding Kayla. She noted that the Business Leadership award was given Knapheide Manufacturing in Quincy for their contributions to the community and their business expansion. Shoup stated we also appreciated their support for Joanne Beeler in her role as WIB Chair. CEO Chair Les Post presented the award to Beeler.

Shoup announced that October was Manufacturing Month. Shoup explained every year the Illinois Manufactures Association and Illinois Manufacturing Excellent Center has a bus "Makers on the Move" that travels to various communities to visit manufacturers. She noted that this year the bus stopped at Iron Spike in Galesburg, Marshalltown's manufacturing plant in Bushnell and Craig Industries in Quincy.

IV. Illinois CEJA Initiative

Chair Beeler introduced Nathan Keener, Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) Center Regional Administrator. She reported he is with the Office of Employment and Training in the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). Beeler noted he oversees CEJA Workforce Grants in the Central Region consisting

of Peoria, Champaign, Danville, and Decatur. Prior to DCEO in 2023 he was the Director of Sustainability at Lewis and Clark Community College in Godfrey.

Keener stated that CEJA was signed into law by Governor Pritzker on September 15, 2021 which is a comprehensive energy system that centers on equity development and workforce development programs to put Illinois on track to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2050. He stated that the Illinois EPA was directed by CEJA to establish rebates and grant programs for electric vehicles and charging stations and to also oversee the phase-out of fuel-fired electrical generation units.

Keener reviewed the CEJA Workforce and Contractor Programs which included Economic Development Jobs & Environmental Justice, Contractor Support Program, Workforce Training Programs and Workforce Support programs.

Keener reviewed CEJA equitable workforce development that states we need to expand the clean energy initiative that includes electric vehicles and energy efficiency. He explained the benefits of clean energy investments and good paying jobs that are to be distributed equitably. He stated that equity programs eliminate or reduce barriers, build a community of collaboration, empower resilience and success, set goals that measure outcomes and create a culture of belonging and celebrate differences.

Keener reviewed the programs assets that target people living in equity investment eligible communities, former members of foster care and displaced energy workers, people with barriers to employment such as formerly incarcerated individuals.

Keener elaborated on CEJA Workforce Programs – Climate Works Pre-Apprenticeship Programs. He noted that the Pre-Apprenticeship Centers will serve the three regions in Northern, Central and Southern Illinois. He reviewed the CEJA Workforce Programs that provide training to prepare people for entry level clean energy jobs as the recruiting arm for the Works Pre-apprenticeship Program and the Clean Jobs Workforce Network Program. He noted the grantees are located at 13 regional hubs. Keener reviewed the status of the funding for

the CEJA Workforce program that will provide training within four sites in the Illinois Department of Correction (DOC) facilities to prepare those in custody for entry-level energy jobs. He mentioned that the Clean Energy Contractor Incubator Program connects to low-cost capital and financial support for small clean energy business.

Keener stated the Clean Energy Primes Contractor Accelerator Program offers one-on-one coaching to develop a 5 -year business plan, provide operation support grants up to \$1 million annually for upfront project cost and pre-development funding, plus mentorship program of 2 years of ongoing services.

Keener reviewed how workforce entities can get involved.

- Spread the Word!
Recruit eligible participants
Recruit employer
- Explore partnership with existing CEJA Grantees
Satellite location for Hub
Training locations for Hub/Climate Works
- Work with Returning Residents participants upon release
Additional training
Transition – job placement

He reviewed CEJA Adjacent Trainings located in LWA 14 and the surrounding area: Spoon River College, John Wood Workforce Development Center, Carl Sandburg College, North American Line Worker Program, Missouri Welding Institute, and Southeastern Community College.

Keener addressed how can employers grantees get involved.

- All Hubs and potentially Climate Works grantees use additional employer partners
- Commit to interviewing/hiring CEJA graduates
- OJT, Site Tours, Class Representations
- Send eligible workers to receive additional training
- Take advantage of Contractor programs

- Partner with communities to apply for Community Development Grants

Keener reviewed clean energy funding sources opportunities. He stated “spread the word”, recruit eligible participants and recruit employer partners.

Keener reviewed the contact list that included the following:

- General CEJA Inquiries – email CEO.CEJA@Illinois.gov
- General Inquiries – Office of Energy and Bushnell Utilizes – email [CEO.OEBU@Illinois](mailto:CEO.OEBU@Illinois.gov) .gov
- Energy Transition Community Grant – email CEOCEFACOMMTRANSITION@illinois.gov
- Equitable Energy Futures Grant – email Aaron McEvoy, Grant Manager Email McEvoy@illinois.gov
- Community Solar Energy Sovereignty Grant – Matthew Swaine, Grant Manager – email Matthew.Swaine@illinois.gov
- Regional Administrator – email Larry.dawson@illinois.gov
Nate.keener@illinois.gov
Michelle.Cerutti@illinois.gov

Shoup asked how we could offer services in Western Illinois. Keener said now that hubs have been established, we might be open to being a satellite in your location.

Shoup inquired what trainings programs are being offered the Correction facilities and at what location. Keener stated the training is primarily for apprenticeship programs in H-Vac and Solar installation.

V. Strategic Plan Adoption

Beeler noted that the Executive Committee has proposed that there be a discussion item at each WIB meeting. She stated Shoup sent members some discussion points for their review. Beeler asked for ideas for the up-coming year. Beeler asked what members thought about the ideas and discussion points that were on the screen for them to view. She reviewed the *Alignment with Federal and State Goals* points which included serving underserved populations. She

stated we are need of volunteers to serve on work groups to undertake the challenge of identified populations that are underserved.

Shoup stated we have identified populations that we know are underserved that are included in our regional plan. She stated one of the things that has been discussed in general is how do we recruit and serve job seekers that need to be targeted within each of the populations. She noted it was discussed to work with our Partner groups in Quincy , Macomb and Galesburg. Shoup explained there are board members who are already partners in our membership . She stated if anyone was interesting in being in the work groups to let either Beeler or her know.

Shoup was asked what a work group would look like and what their responsibilities would involve. She reported on the discussion at the Executive Committee meeting. Shoup stated that the work group would not be permanent. She noted the work group would act as a sounding board for ideas and would develop a plan to outreach and recruit individuals. She said we would plan to convene after the first of the year and be ready to make recommendations after we have a couple of meetings.

Foster stated she would be willing to be part of the work group.

Shoup asked if anyone had suggestions for the March or April WIB Information sessions. She reported that the February information session will focus on the Health Care sector and the May information session will focus on Distribution and Logistics. Additional suggestions followed.

Beeler commented when we have had regular in WIB information series there has been decent attendance. She stated she felt this was a good way to get information out to members and would like to see it continue.

Brief discussion was held on returning to in-person meetings. Welge said she agreed with Beeler on the importance of discussion at the meetings.

Shoup explained that meetings are regularly scheduled on the 5th week of the month. She said she will send out the schedule to members after this meeting.

Beeler reported on the goal *Promote the Role of WIB as a Connector and the Role of the WIB as a Convener* in our communities. She asked for ideas.

Welge asked if a WIB email newsletter is sent on a regular basis to employers, potential customers, etc. She said if there is a way to send it out regularly, we will be a communicator which in turn would serve as a convener.

Shoup agreed that Welge's suggestion was a good idea and we can begin working on that the first of the year. She stated this would provide an opportunity to share information about the various available services and programs.

Beeler reviewed *Areas of Continuous Improvement*.

Discussion followed.

A motion to adopt the Strategic Plan, as presented, was made by Shannon Kachinovas and seconded by Kathy Osment. The motion carried by roll call.

VI. Committee Reports

Beeler asked if members had any questions regarding the Executive Committee reports dated October 1, 2024 and October 24, 2024. Hearing none, Beeler requested a motion to accept the reports.

A motion to adopt the October 1, 2024 and October 24, 2024 Committee Reports was made by Lila Whetstine and seconded by Cheryl Welge. The motion carried by roll call.

VII. By Laws Revision

Beeler reported that the By-Laws revision included in the meeting packet requires a motion to accept the change. She remarked that a second reading of the By-Laws was not required since the change is a technical revision.

A motion to accept the By-Laws revision was made by Kathy Osment and seconded by Dawn (Wild) VanZandt. Motion carried by roll call.

VIII. Election of Officers

Beeler reported that the Executive Committee, acting as the Nominating Committee, presents the following slate of officers:

Cheryl Welge – Chair

William Corbin – Vice Chair

The change of officers will be effective January 1, 2025.

Beeler asked if there were any nominations from the floor. She stated hearing none, a motion to close nominations and to cast a unanimous ballot for Cheryl Welge as Chair and William Corbin as Vice Chair effective January 1, 2025 is in order.

A motion that the nominations cease and to cast a unanimous ballot for Cheryl Welge as Chair and Bill Corbin as Vice Chair effective January 1, 2025, was made by Jennifer Mowen and seconded by Shannon Kachinovas. The motion carried by roll call.

IX. Member Update

Cheryl Welge stated Ameren is expanding our team by adding two new Executive members to our Economic Development team. She stated if members knew of anyone who would like to join our team to please let her know.

Dawn (Wild) VanZant reported that Blessing Health has signed with Epic which is an electronic health records system and are excited to have this new addition.

Brooke Fosdyck remarked that Dot Foods is still in hiring.

Monica Foster reported that John Wood Community College, Adult Education is continuing with enrolling new students in our classes once a month.

Jennifer Mowen also reported on Epic and commented that it will be great system for Illini Community Hospital.

Joanne Beeler stated that Knapheide is still hiring and our expansion continues. She stated it will house new fabrication machinery.

Shoup introduced Jamie Beasley, the new Pike County Economic Development Director.

X. Old Business

Shoup explained interviews are in process to hire a qualified Fiscal officer. She reported she will keep members advised.

Beeler reported that she, Cheryl Welge and Les Post CEO Chair met with Julio Rodriquez, Annamarie Dorr and Deb Waldrop regarding our corrective action plan.

Beeler said the next WIB meeting is scheduled January 30, 2025.

XI. New Business

Shoup reported that today's meeting is Joanne Beeler's last meeting as Chair. She thanked her for her years of service and thanked her company, Knapkeide, for supporting her to serve as Chair.

XII. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

XIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 1:03 PM was made by Cheryl Welge and seconded by Lila Whestine. The motion carried by roll call.