Occupational Forecast Conference Committee  
Tuesday, April 10, 2012  
1:00 p.m.  
Associated Builders & Contractors  
19251 Highland Road Baton Rouge, LA

Members of the Council Present:  
Chairman, Charles Moniotte  
Exec. Director Curt Eysink  
Dr. Yu Hsing  
Susana Schowen, designee for Sec. Stephen Moret  
Dr. Dave Norris  
Karen Zoeller  
Louis Reine

Members of the Council Absent:  
Dr. Joe May  
Phala Mire  
Russell Armstrong

Guests in Attendance:  
Patricia Granier – Louisiana Workforce Commission  
Raj Jindal – Louisiana Workforce Commission  
Dr. Stephen R. Barnes – LSU, Division of Economic Development  
Sachin Chintawar, Louisiana Workforce Commission  
Scott Burns, LSU  
Eddie Rispone, WIC Member

I. Call to Order  
The meeting was called to order by Charles Moniotte

II. Comments from the Chair  
Charles Moniotte greeted the members in attendance and discussed the items on the agenda.

III. Approval of the Minutes  
A copy of the minutes for both the June 28, 2011 meeting and the March 20, 2012 was sent to the members for their review. Mr. Rispone made a motion to accept the minutes for both meetings. Ms. Schowen seconded that motion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

IV. Discussion of Alternatives for Ranking Demand Occupations- Dr. Stephen Barnes  
Dr. Barnes discussed this second version of rating the occupations. The long term data has historically been the focus in determining demand occupations but Mr. Eysink stated that the definition of a high demand occupation is being changed from being driven only by numbers of jobs to being driven also by these other factors and rating them on a scale of 1-10.

1. Long-term forecast  
2. Short-term forecast  
3. Current openings  
4. Wages
Mr. Rispone discussed categorizing the forecast by education level and Dr. Barnes, Mr. Eysink, Ms. Jindal and Ms. Granier explained that this is already being done by BLS, on the LWC website and in the new projections.

Mr. Reine discussed the concern over federal funds and training. Members discussed the possibility of an emphasis on regional data and the local determination option to avoid this problem.

Mr. Rispone suggested that the WIC bring the forecast to the Board of Regents, BESE, teachers, counselors and principals and to encourage them to implement it. He also suggested that the WIC bring the forecast to the media, newspapers and television, so that the general public can understand and use it. This means that the display of the forecast would need to be in layman terms and user friendly which is why a common 5 star system for the final product is being considered. The WIC should advocate for the use of the occupational forecast. The WIC and Executive Committee is making sure that the product is accurate and should also ensure that it is utilized and present throughout the state. Mr. Eysink stated that it will be important to get communications professionals involved for help with the best way to display the forecast.

Dr. Barnes reviewed that the long term and short term categories will be ranked partly on total growth and partly on percentage growth and that the number of openings is based on a percentile basis making sure we get 0 for occupations with none.

V. Consideration and Approval of Industry Projections
Dr. Barnes stated that they have put tremendous effort over the last month into pulling together a much more expansive and detailed review of long term forecast than the past two years. They have built on developing contacts with business and industry associations and the results have been significant.

Louisiana is projected to grow 14.4% between 2010 and 2020. The national projected growth is 14.3%. Louisiana’s employment growth between 2008-2018 is projected to be at 8% and at 10.1% for the nation. We weathered the recession better than most states but we still lost a considerable amount of jobs in the last two years. We have catching up to do and will end up with a faster growth. He remarked that this has been a difficult time to do a long-term forecast.

Methodology:

• Baseline statistical model using the Micro Matrix software and historical data (reviewed all 846 regional industry forecasts estimating alternate models for “every” industry forecast by going through full list)
• Review statistical industry forecasts
  ✓ Economic causes of trends-developed alternate models for all 846 regional industry forecasts
  ✓ Contact Louisiana driver firms and incorporate their comments –help from Louisiana Health Works Commission, LCA, LMOGA, BRIA/SLUC/GNO Business Roundtable, ABC, Inc.
  ✓ Incorporate economic development projects and major announcements
• Move from industries to occupation using staffing patterns and replacement rates
• Review occupation forecasts (3,710 regional occupation forecasts)

The baseline employment data has been affected by a long period of unusual events such as historic declines due to the 2005 hurricanes and also the recession which decreased employment by 2.5% from 2008-2010. There hasn't been a good year of data since 2005 and there needs to be two good years of data to start a trend. There has been a long period of flat employment. Other states were growing fine when Louisiana was suffering the effects of Katrina and Rita. The United States Census Bureau listed St. Bernard Parish and Orleans Parish in its Top 10 fastest growing counties list. This shows the recovery is still ongoing. For Orleans Parish to be on this list is significant because of its size.

Other major economic and policy factors looked at when going through the forecasts were the rebound from the recession, population growth, low price and abundance of natural gas, oil and gas activity increasing in the Gulf of Mexico, demographic influences and Health Reform impacting the demand for health care services and the aging population. There are a few specific things that can have very strong effects such as the closure of Avondale shipyard and we are now third in the nation in movie making.

Southern Louisiana has a higher growth than the northern part of state due to the increase level of activity driven by the petroleum and coal parts manufacturing, refinery activity, and chemical manufacturing activities. Every region is currently projected to grow at a faster pace than last revision of 2018 forecast. We have had declines over the last few
years across the board. There has been a small permanent effect of the recession. Self-employment numbers have not yet been added.

Dr. Barnes stated that this is the review of where they are now with the 2020 forecast and their review over the last several months. Later in the week, he will circulate a report on every single industry and can also provide underlying data if desired.

Mr. Eysink pointed out a few decision points:
- Focus on a stronger short term forecast and not cloud the long term forecast
- 10 point system but also stars or half-stars
- Already posting overall demand and by educational level and will continue to do that

The members voted on the industry growth projections. Mr. Eysink moved to accept the projections. Mr. Hsing seconded. All were in favor and none were opposed. It will go to the WIC in May for approval so that the occupational forecast can be produced.

VI. Suggested Items for 2012 Meetings
Ms. Jindal stated that they would be presenting the final forecast and the star system at the next meeting. The final adoption by WIC will be at the June meeting. Ms. Minor reminded everyone of the May and June WIC, Executive Committee and OFC meeting dates. Ms. Minor discussed moving the meetings downtown during session.

VII. Other Business
None

VIII. Public Comments
None

Adjournment