Workforce Investment Council
Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, June 21, 2011
9:30 a.m.
Associated Builders & Contractors
19251 Highland Road Baton Rouge, LA

Members of the Executive Committee Present:
Kathy Bobbs
Curt Eysink
Art Favre
Joe May
Mike Palamone
Eddie Rispone
Jorge Tarajano
Buck Vandersteen

Members of the Executive Committee Absent:
Jacqueline Beauchamp
Mike Miternight
Charles Moniotte
Louis Reine

I. Call to Order
Chairman Eddie Rispone called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of Minutes
A draft of the minutes from the May Executive Committee meeting was given to each member for their review and approval. A motion was made to approve the minutes. That motion passed. Chairman Rispone requested that the minutes from the council be available for review at the subsequent Executive committee meetings.

III. Update on Workforce Investment Funding for Program Year 2011
Curt Eysink, Executive Director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission, addressed the committee with regard to the Workforce Investment Funding Program. He informed the committee that there had been a 49% cut in federal funding and the funds received from Wagner-Peynsner have also decreased. The traffic at our 1 Stop Centers has doubled from 2009-2010. The Louisiana Workforce Commission is trying to avoid layoffs by offering a retirement incentive to free up some positions and reduce payroll. They are also piloting a program where unemployment claimants will be linked in the system to receive career coaching and job announcements. After 10 weeks of receiving benefits they will be asked to go back to the Business and Career Solutions Center for another coaching session. If they fail to use these services their benefits will be terminated. LWC is also identifying the top occupational groups that draw unemployment and the cumulative total of unemployment insurance claims by industry. 86% of all UI claims are filed online so they are working to improve the online self service tool and identifying the UI claimants that are also enrolled in school. Everyone was also provided a La Workflow Chart that explained the process in identifying the workforce needs of employers.

IV. Status of Functional Alignment of Workforce Investment Boards
Johnny Riley, Director of the Office of Workforce Development for the Louisiana Workforce Commission, addressed the committee on the efforts that are being made to align the Workforce Investment Boards. He informed the committee of the efforts that are being made to aid in the alignment. Contact has been made to the WIB board members and CEO’s and some areas are working together. None of the Workforce Investment
Boards have agreed to the alignment. He also reiterated the fact that staffing and administrative cost have to be cut in order for the boards to be functional. A smaller more efficient process is needed. The Chairman invited Mr. Riley to speak at the Workforce Investment Council meeting and make everyone aware of the involvement that’s needed from the business industry. The WIC will also assist in making sure the Workforce Investment Board members are present at the meeting.

V. Overview of Proposed Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization Bill
Rob Roux, legal counsel for the Louisiana Workforce Commission, addressed the committee with regard to the proposed WIA reauthorization bill. On June 9, 2011, the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) released “discussion drafts” of various sections of the proposed Workforce Investment Act (WIA) reauthorization legislation. Discussion drafts have been released on Titles I-IV of WIA. The Louisiana Workforce Commission was given a short amount of time to read and comment on this bill but a few points of interest were highlighted such as:

a. The Workforce Investment Council will no longer be mostly comprised of individuals from the business industry. The make up will be 1/3 Business Industry; 1/3 Labor Industry; and 1/3 State appointed.

b. The Director of the State Workforce Investment Board /Council will be determined by members.

A summary will be posted on the Workforce Investment Council’s website by Title. The Louisiana Workforce Commission will send out a 1-pager highlighting the areas of concern to be sent to Representatives and Senators. This letter will be available on the website as well. The Workforce Investment Board of Directors are also asked to review the titles and give their input.

VI. Discussion of Suggested Agenda Items For WIC June 28, 2011 Meeting
The following items were suggested to be included on the agenda for the May 17th, WIC meeting:

a. Consideration and Approval of Occupational Forecasting Conference report by Dr. Barnes
b. Discussion of Workforce Investment Funding – Curt Eysink
c. Status of functional alignment of Workforce Investment Boards – Johnny Riley
d. Overview of proposed Workforce Investment Act Reauthorization Bill – Rob Roux
e. Discussion of Accountability and Performance Measures – Kelly Ebey
f. WIC Survey Report
g. Discussion on member terms ending on June 30th.

Meeting was adjourned