

**VERMILION COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
CHALLENGE A COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 22, 2005 MEETING
VERMILION COUNTY COURT HOUSE ANNEX
3RD FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**

PRESENT: Jim Anderson Guy Banicki Brock Blinn Diane Hall
Lawrence B Jahn Diana Wyatt Lori Brewster

CALL TO ORDER – Champion Jim Anderson called the meeting to order at 11:40 AM. Introductions were done.

CONTINUE REVIEW OF OBJECTIVES AND ACTION PLANS –

Brewster reviewed the changes on the priorities and corrected the wording to reflect the loss of VOTEC. There was previously discussion on moving priority #4 to Challenge B. That has been discussed with the Co-Chairs, but has not gone through the Challenge B Committee yet.

Priority #5— It was discussed that dislocation can come at anytime and the importance of educating the community of the careers available and the workforce issues. After discussion it was decided to reword Priority #5 Goals and Objectives to read, “All Vermilion County residents need to be offered appropriate career information/resources”. After discussion it was decided to reword Priority #5 Action Plan to read “Actively marketing career awareness activities including the new Career Cruising program that is now at the One-Stop and adding personal career guidance services to all levels. Seek Grant funding to market. Write a letter for the Vermilion Advantage newsletter and IDES newsletter for appropriate career information and also partner with DACC to market through DACC’s mass mailings”. Diane Wyatt added that job awareness is included in the articulation meetings with high school counselors. Wyatt suggested, as a possible benchmark would be to that the “Career Cruising” has a database for administration to see how many use it, plus the IETC tracks those individual coming in and using the center what they are there for. The Committee agreed that the WIB needs to find funds to market career awareness activities, define what the marketing is and what career awareness activities information is. Brock Blinn suggested linking with employer websites since company websites normally post career opportunities within their organizations.

Priority #6— Anderson suggested for a rewording of Priority #6 Goals and Objectives to read “Charge the School Improvement Committees at each school to identify areas/programs that need to business participation to report to the WIB Partnership Committee”

Brewster stated that Challenge E had discussed in their goals, objective and action plans of forming a Speakers Bureau and having a list of those interested to speak to the schools available on the WIB and Vermilion Advantage and the school would contact this person.

Guy Banicki stated that most schools have school improvement plans in place due to the No Child Left Behind Act, but are purely academic and do not have to report unless students fail the State tests. Anderson questioned if there is an existing vehicle that could be accessed annually to identify where the educators think that the most value might be added with the business partnership and if there is not one could one be created. Blinn informed out of the goals with Workforce Challenge 2000 was that Vermilion Advantage be the centralized point of one of the resource to put employers and schools together. Blinn also clarified that the

business had asked that Vermilion Advantage be the clearinghouse. Blinn wants to support education but may not be able to handle all the calls that may come in and this way the schools could contact Vermilion Advantage and the businesses work together to volunteer to visit different schools at different times. Discussion on Priority #6 Action Plan #2 was that Vermilion Advantage could be the clearinghouse for high school guidance counselors to make requests for guest speakers for high school classes. Action Plan #2 of Priority #6 was also discussed in Challenge E. Brewster would forward the information from Challenge E to Challenge A committee. After discussion it was decided to put Priority #6 on hold until more information was received from Challenge E information. Hall questioned about those that are not involved with Vermilion Advantage. Brewster informed that IDES has a much broader list of employers in Vermilion County and maybe could partner with this. Banacki suggested that DACC be involved as well due to the high school students attending DACC.

Priority #7— Anderson questioned what Challenge addressed the “brain drain”. Brewster responded that Challenge E. Anderson questioned whether Priority #7 could be included as a business/education partnership and is ill-housed as a Priority under Challenge A. Question was raised on how leadership training would reduce turnover. Also questioned was how the Priority #7 Action Plan related to the Priority #7 Goals and Objectives. Brewster would check to see if there had been an error in preparing the Priority Sheet.

COMMENTS – In Conclusion, Anderson summarized that hopefully Priority #4 would be absorbed by Challenge B.

Brewster invited all present to attend the IETC Open House on August 25, 2005 from 7:30 AM to 3:30 PM.

NEXT MEETING – Monday September 19, 2005 at 10:30 AM.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was informally adjourned.