

Rescheduled from March 2,  
2007 due to the snowstorm

**Dakota County Youth Council**  
**12 March 2007**  
**8:30 – 9:30 a.m.**  
**MN WorkForce Center**  
**2900 County Road 42**  
**Burnsville MN 55337**

**Mission:** *To provide leadership and support to community partners in fostering the educational and employment success of youth.*

**Vision:** *Developing successful youth with progressive career opportunities.*

**Members Present:** Kari Davis, Ann Glaves, Norm Champ, , Nicole Crews, Regan Warren, Beth Olson, Joyce Eissinger, Ruth Lawrence, Will Branning, Mel Henderson, Ruth Fonstad, Virginia Becker, Suzanne Sheridan

**Members Absent:** Mike Cook, Tanesha Ford, , LaDonna Boyd, Michelle Rydeen, Rick Gubash , Shannan Boodoo, Shannan Boodoo

**Staff:** Marguerite Kirchhoff

**Call to Order:**

Marguerite called the meeting to order at 8:31 in the interests of time. Minutes from February meeting were reviewed and approved as follows:

**Motion-** Ruth Lawrence; **second** - Beth

**Plan of Work - RFP**

MK outlined the review committee's decision-making process. Kari and Suzanne detailed the decision and offered the reasons for the decision to award the contract to Tree Trust for WIA Youth services for PY 2007 and answered members' questions. Tree Trust will recruit younger youth and older youth from schools and alternative learning centers and will also recruit older youth from the MFIP population. Work Experience will be a strong component for both populations. TT will utilize a partnership approach with school personnel whenever possible and will work with young people minimally for one year with a year of follow up. They will target HS seniors and assist these individuals in their transition from school to post secondary ed or work. There will be a sub-contract wit ETC for, chiefly, older youth. Tree Trust will leverage considerable funds (roughly 30% of the estimated contracted amount) and propose to serve 60 youth.

The recommendation was approved as follows: **Motion** - Ruth Fonstad; **2<sup>nd</sup>** - Mel

This recommendation will move on to the Executive Committee of the WIB tomorrow afternoon and to the full WIB on Friday. After that, it goes to the County Board.

**Scott County Report**

Beth had a great many things to tell us. The Zone has come to Shakopee. Pictures of the space were included in Beth's written report ([attached](#)). The Ambassador, Laura Mootz, did a lot of the work in setting up the Zone, organizing the library and other materials etc. Beth and Laura and Chelsbug (The Zone's popular blogger) attended a youth Job fair on Wednesday, March 7 and met with more than 50 young people offering them career advice and a chance to "win" a carabineer and tagged with Zone information.

**Plan of Work**

MK reported a number of recent activities and planned events.

Rick Gubash and MK hosted the Zone booth at the BHS career Fair on February 12. More than 80 young people visited the booth, took the RIASEC interest assessment and received some on-the-spot career counseling.

Planned activities include a Zone Youth Booth at the Get Jobs Job Fair on March 22 where youth people can get advice on careers and job hunting from staff at the booth. More than 20 employers have signed up to be Youth Champions, businesses who will be identified for youth as willing to meet with young people and discuss prospects, offer advice, answer questions etc. Additionally, a tip sheet ([attached](#)) for getting the most out of a job fair is now available on the Zone web site.

Beth Olson will be presenting a workshop in April and May at the Dakota County Libraries called "How to Land a Summer Job. Flyer is [attached](#). Library staff have been wonderful to work with and are eager for additional opportunities to work with us to leverage each other's resources for more opportunities for their customers and ours. .

In addition to the popular blog on the Zone web site, we will be launching an advice column. The column will be called "The Jobinator" and will be written by our Ambassador in Dakota County, MeeGen Carra. Look for this feature after April, 2007 1.

### **Commissioner's Report**

Commissioner Branning spent some time in Washington D.C. at the National Association of Workforce Boards conference meeting with representatives from the US Department of Labor and members of Congress. The DOL is making some fairly sweeping recommendations regarding the Workforce Investment Act , such as drastically reducing the number of WSA's and altering the percentage of funds to be earmarked for training for customers. Members of Congress, however, will have a different approach.

Transportation was another key topic. Funding for 5 projects directly affecting Dakota County may be held up.

### **Contractor Report**

There were no contractor reports as proposing contractors were not in attendance due to the action on the RFP and because this was an abbreviated meeting. Reports will resume next month.

### **Other Announcements**

Marguerite noted a handout, featuring winners of the Beat The Odds scholarship that the Children's Defense Fund awards each year. **Attached.**

Commissioner Branning reminded members of the work that the Minnesota Workforce Council Association is doing to keep us all informed about the progress of MYP funding discussion at the State. The Commissioner met with Commissioner Dan McElroy recently and McElroy has the mistaken notion that MYP is a recreational program. Kari was part of a contingent that met with McElroy and she encountered the same thing. There are continuing efforts to convince Commissioner McElroy that the PYP is a WORK program for youth with no recreational feature to it. The Senate has proposed \$10 million in funding for MYP for each year of the biennium. It was agreed that this would be a good amount.

Next Youth Council meeting is Friday, April 6, 2007, 8:30-10:00 a.m. at the Burnsville WorkForce Center, 2900 Co Road 42, Burnsville MN 55337.