

NWWIB, INC. YOUTH COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, July 11, 2007
Crex Meadows Youth Camp - 10: 30 a.m. – Grantsburg, WI

Meeting Minutes

Present

Brad Gingras, CEP, Inc.
Candace Salmon, Ashland Cty. Human Services
LeRoy Forslund, WIB Chairman
Bruce Lindgren, WIB Member
Patrice Waldron, Parent Representative
Mitch Bormann- WIB Member
Barb Landstrom, WITC Shell Lake
Sheila Young, Sawyer County Housing Authority
Otto Rusch, WIB Member

Not Present

Jerome Drahos
Jim Lee
Mark Richter
Alyson Spore
Dustin Meyers
Joan Wimme

Others Present

Mari Kay Nabozny
Jennifer Baron
Steve Terry
Matt Rudig
Dan Racette
Betty Racette
Bryce Luchterhand
Marge Bunce

The meeting was called to order by Mitch Bormann, Youth Council Chairman. Everyone introduced themselves. It was noted that the public meeting notice was published in 2 class A newspapers and aired on the area radio stations in WDA #7.

Approval of the April 17, 2007, Meeting Minutes

<p>A motion was made by LeRoy Forslund to approve the April 17, 2007, meeting minutes. Seconded by Bruce Lindgren. Vote taken, carried unanimously.</p>

Crex Curriculum/Tour

Brad Gingras, Crex Meadows Director, discussed the outdoor work activities and projects with the DNR that the youth do and get paid for 40 hours a week earning \$6.50 per hour at the Crex Meadows Youth Camp in Grantsburg. Brad discussed the science and nature curriculum that can be used as science credits in high school that can be used for graduation. Brad noted that if a youth is in more than one session, they can max out on their science credit with schools.

Brad explained that there are three, three week sessions with 20 youth in each session, typically ten female and ten males, ages 14-18. The students that came to the first session were return campers. Brad indicated that many are return youth, which is a good indication that they enjoy the camp. Two campers are in leadership roles, which are junior counselors. Most of the youth

are from the ten northwest counties in Wisconsin. Brad noted that the camp is open nation wide for youth. There are youth from at this session of camp that are from all ten counties. There is a fee for those youth that are not WIA eligible. A question was raised how many youth apply and what is the criteria for selecting youth should there be more then the slots provided. Brad explained that he does a personal interview with all new applicants to explain the Camp. The first session for returning campers only, the second session is a mix of new and previous campers and the third session is all new campers. Brad indicated that many youth have learning and emotional disorders that are considered disabled or at risk for those students have and IEP (individual education plan). The graduation rate for the students that go to the camp is 87.7%, with 95% of the campers being considered at risk.

Brad noted that every staff person is trained in first aid and wilderness responder certifications. The camp staff monitor and administer any medications that the youth have to take. The certifications have guidelines on the level of medications administered. There is a staff of eight, including the two junior counselors and the camp cook. All youth must have their own medical insurance. Workers compensation is provided for the youth while they are working. There is also an umbrella insurance liability policy provided for the entire camp.

A question was raised on what types of activities the youth do during inclement weather. The students have rain gear that is provided for them or if the weather is too severe, the students stay in door and do activities.

Brad discussed funding for the Crex Meadows Camp. Brad indicated that much of the funding is through WIA funds, but some funding has been raised through private donations. The annual budget is around \$100,000 to operate the camp, which includes the youth wages, staff wages, facility costs, rental vans, food and all other necessary items needed to operate the camp. Brad said that the state of Wisconsin has been trying to help in assisting with funds for the camp. Brad indicated that there is not enough funding and resources to expand the camp.

Patrice Waldron indicated that her daughter attended camp and is trying to get her younger brother to attend. Patrice felt that the youth gain better work ethic at the camp than they would starting a job in a factory.

Discuss Selection of New Youth Rep for the Youth Council

Mari Kay-Nabozny indicated that the Youth Council is mandated under the Workforce Investment Act as a Council of the Workforce Investment Board with specific sector criteria that requires representation. Mari indicated that some have not had adequate attendance at the meetings and there is a need for some new members. She explained the sector requirements such as law enforcements, parent representation, youth, housing authority, education and WIB member representation. Brad indicated that there is a Crex youth camper that would be a very good candidate to sit on the WIB Youth Council. One current youth representatives on the Youth Council has a full time job and would like to continue serving on the Council, but has schedule barriers. It was noted that distance can be a barrier for youth who would serve on the Council.

Crex Meadows Youth Camp Fundraising Report

Brad discussed the Crex Meadows Youth Camp fundraising efforts. CEP addressed the need for further funding for the Crex Meadows Youth Camp with the state of Wisconsin for \$80,000 through a budget amendment on a biennial time frame. It was approved in the Senate budget and but was dropped in the Assembly budget, but still have hope to be included in the state's budget when the Joint Conference Committee works on the final version of the budget. Steve indicated that through decreased federal WIA funds, \$400,000 has been cut from our area's budget allocation.

Brad stated that many people have donated money to help support the camp's operation. Corporate sponsorship is sought. Brad indicated that a foundation has recently donated \$10,000 to the camp. Steve explained that the state indicated that fundraising cannot be done with WIA funds. Non-WIA funds can be used and volunteers. A suggestion was made to use staff from the Boys and Girls Club. Otto encouraged all Youth Council members to market this program to any civic group they belong to for the Camp's continuation.

<p>A motion was made by LeRoy Forslund that the WIB Youth Council support fundraising efforts for the Crex Meadows camp, under the legal guidelines provided. Seconded by Otto Rusch. Vote taken, carried unanimously.</p>
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Report on WIA Youth RFP

The youth programs funded under the Workforce Investment Act requires request for proposals be put out for bid annually. The WIB received three youth proposals. The RFP sub-committee will review the proposals and make a recommendation to the Youth Council on which proposal should be chosen. The sub-committee met on May 14, 2007. The committee scored the proposals received. CEP was chosen as the recipient to provide youth services under WIA, Those organizations whose proposals did not get accepted were informed by mail.

Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting of the Youth Council will be on September 18, 2007, in Ashland. A suggestion was made that a tour could be considered for a business that provides a youth apprenticeship, job shadowing or other youth work opportunities.

Adjournment

<p>A motion was made by LeRoy Forslund to adjourn. Seconded by Bruce Lindgren. Vote taken, carried.</p>

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.