

MINUTES
WINKLER & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, September 15, 2009, 12:10 p.m.
Smitty's Family Restaurant

PRESENT: Chris Sumner, George Penner, Sylvia Thiessen, Greg Archibald, Ken Thomas, Betty Hiebert, Carol Gavard, Marcus Hiebert, Brenda Storey, Mark Bennett, Linda Doerksen, Justin Schinkel, Eugen Klassen, Herb Franz, Lloyd Thiessen, Michelle Sawatzky, Vern Reimer, Dianne Friesen

A. MINUTES OF April 21, 2009 Meeting (as circulated)

M/S...Mark Bennett/Justin Schinkel...that the minutes from the April 21, 2009 meeting be accepted as circulated.

CARRIED

B. NEW BUSINESS:

i) BR+E Report

- Customer Service sessions are being offered via video conferencing.
- Chamber is working together with the City of Winkler and Gateway Resources on E-Waste
- Continue to work on providing skilled labour and training opportunities.
- Have partnered with Resolution Skills on offering various courses.
- Through the DAWN project a course for welding supervisors is being offered.

ii) Small Business Week Luncheon

- Luncheon will be on October 22 at noon at Heartland Inn.
- Presenters are Convey All Industries and Garden Valley School Division, Advanced Cooperative Education. Still waiting to confirm third presenter.

C. CHAMBER REPORTS:

i) English at Work Report – Sylvia Thiessen

- Funding is provided by Labour & Immigration.
- Program is run as a regional program.
- Started in 1983.
- English at Work provides workplace specific language training.
- In 2008-2009 there were 39 classes, 404 learners and 17 qualified staff.
- Funding is shared between the participating businesses and Province of Manitoba.
- Sectors participating are manufacturing, restaurant, health care and family farm.

- 2/3 of learners are workplace learners.
- Province of Manitoba is offering 100% coverage of instructor costs for any new business participating in project until March, 2010.

ii) DAWN Report – Carol Gavard

- DAWN is a 2-year pilot project, funded in part from the Government of Canada's Workplace Skills Initiative.
- DAWN was developed due to a chronic shortage of skilled workers in the manufacturing industry in the Pembina Valley region.
- Some challenges addressed by DAWN were difficulty in the proper assessment of credential/skills of newcomers; difficulty in identifying appropriate skills training; differences between employer/employee expectations.
- Objectives of DAWN is to help employers to determine what their training needs are for their immigrant employees and to address these needs through appropriate training interventions.
- Six key elements to DAWN are:
 - i. Consistent job analysis for skills required
 - ii. Consistent Employee Essential skills assessment
 - iii. Employee specific training plans
 - iv. Training Portfolios
 - v. Financial Support for Employers
 - vi. Verifiable Outcomes
- The bulk of costs have gone towards the employee wages.
- Final analysis hopes to see training results in more capable and efficient employees, more capable and efficient employees result in increased productivity and increased productivity results in increased profits.

D. OTHER:

i) November Reports

- Chamber Group Insurance Benefit – Perry Vagianos

E. NEXT MEETING: November 17, 2009

F. ADJOURNMENT: 1:05 pm