

**MINUTES**

**Workforce Development Board**

Thursday, May 19, 2016 – 7:30 a.m.

Held at: Central Louisiana Business Incubator, 1501 Wimbledon Blvd., Alexandria LA

**ATTENDANCE**

<b>Members present</b>	<b>Members absent</b>	<b>Other Attendees / Guest</b>	<b>Staff</b>
Connie Baker	Valerie Aymond	Larry George, LU 247 Plumber& Steamfitters	Carol Stanford
Yoel Borges	Cynthia Baker	Mike Bukowski, Cool Planet	Elaine Morace
David Broussard	Catherine Cassels	Charles Cameron, Bossier Community College	Anna Sweat
Susan Broussard	Tim Dousay		
Chad Bynog	Kenneth Gorum		
Sonia Chevallier	Kris Hickman		
Rich Dupree	Linda James		
Kelli Hall	Michael Johnson		
Matthew Hennings	Haywood Joiner		
Bill Higgins	Lafe Jones		
Ginger Humbles	Tammye Jones		
Jeff Johnson	Richard Kyle		
Paula Johnson	Debbie Norman		
Robert Leavines	Gary Nugent		
Joan Lee	Kenneth Paul		
Christine McGraw	Deborah Randolph		
Carla Peters	Joe Sharp		
Lloyd Price	Todd Urbina		
Jimmy Sawtelle			
Quorum Present	Yes	19 of 37	

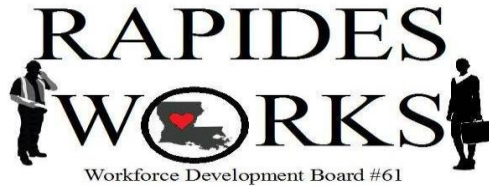
**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson, Sonia Chevallier called the meeting of the Rapides Parish Workforce Development Board to order.

**GUEST SPEAKER**



Mr. Michael Bukowski, Business Unit Leader for Cool Planet, shared with the board that due to the oil price drop the building at the port in Alexandria has been put on hold. When plant is complete they will produce a bio carbon called Cool Terra. This product is a type of soil amendment which will hold more water making the roots of plants grow more roots thus producing higher yields. Farmers will see a 17 to 1 rate on return. Other areas are producing 26% more tomatoes using Cool Terra. The first Alexandria plant will be a stand-a-lone bio-carbon plant



which will employ 10 -12 people. Future plans are to build an extension fuel and bio-carbon plant that will employ a total of 26.

## **AGENDA ITEMS**

### **1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was requested that the Workforce Development Board review and approve the minutes from the February 18, 2016 meeting.

**On motion by Rich Dupree, seconded by Joan Lee with -0- nays, -0- abstained and 19 yes votes, the minutes from February 18, 2016 were approved.**

### **1. Revised Policies for WIOA**

Policy Number 400-01 and 400-02 - LWC recommended the Workforce Development Board have a policy for funding out-of-parish jobseekers. After research on best practices, we settled on no more than 25% of the participants enrolled in OJT or scholarship training could reside outside Rapides Parish.

Policy Number 400-03 – This is a clarification that resulted from LWC Monitoring Training. LWC identified that supportive services must be accompanied by a justification.

Policy Number 400-05 – Priority of Service – Modified policy to add that 51% of the participants must meet the criteria from the Priority of Service policy.

Policy Number 500-02 – Youth Eligibility – Modified policy to add that funding is to be for youth who are residents of Rapides Parish. However, Manager(s) may grant a funding request if youth's resident parish has no youth funds.

Policy Number 800-01 – Fiscal – Modified policy to determine if a cost is allowable prior to charging WIOA for that cost.

**On motion by Chad Bynog, seconded by Christine McGraw, with -0- nays, -0- abstained and 19 yes votes, the Workforce Development Board approved the policy revisions.**

## **REPORTS/UPDATES**

### **1. Financial Update**

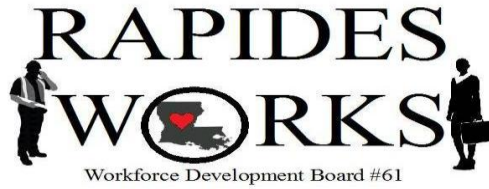
### **2. Rapides Business & Career Solutions Center Report**

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **1. Summer Youth Program 2016**

The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) will begin in May. The Youth Empowerment Services (YES) year round program is a structured program that offers employment and job skills. Youth are selected who meet age, residency, and income requirements and are placed with private or public employers for six weeks during the summer.

**No action required for information only.**



**2. Louisiana Rehabilitation Services Cooperative Endeavor Agreement**

Youth work-based learning experiences will be provided this summer to LRS youth on a fee-for-service basis. Our responsibility will be to find suitable work-based learning experiences for underserved, special needs youth participants provided by LRS.

**No action required for information only.**

**COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS FROM CHAIR**

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Kelli Hall with Union Tank Car shared with the board that they are optimistic that the economy will turn around and Union Tank will recover.

Jimmy Sawtelle with the Central Louisiana Community College made the board aware that the college in the past five years had a downward trend in enrollment but now the enrollment is up 20%. They graduated 17 students from the ROM C4M project.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no additional business for discussion, motion to adjourn by Connie Baker and seconded by Joan Lee the meeting was adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Workforce Development Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date