



Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, October 6, 2011

3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Bakersfield Marriott, Convention Center - Salon A

801 Truxtun Avenue

Bakersfield, CA 93301

1-800-267-3983

Meeting Minutes

I. Convene Meeting and Introductory Remarks

The meeting of the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) was called to order at 3:12pm by Chair Swearingin who welcomed Partnership Board members and guests and initiated introductions of Board members and their representatives.

Board members present included James Aleru, Lynne Ashbeck, DeeDee D'Adamo, Secretary Diana Dooley, Mike Dozier, Benjamin Duran, Josh Eddy representing Secretary Karen Ross, Robin Fleming representing Jim Tague, Carole Goldsmith, Pat Gordon, Corwin Harper, Barry Hibbard, Doug Hoffner, Blake Konczal, Sunne McPeak, Luisa Medina, David Nelson, Joe Oliveira, Pete Parra, John Pedrozo, Paul Saldana, Ted Smalley, Ashley Swearingin, Ray Watson and Pete Weber.

II. Public and Board Comment

Members of the audience introduced themselves after which the Chair thanked the sponsors of the Board meeting and the Annual Summit. Chair Swearingin invited public comment; Mr. Ferral and Mr. Wilhoit thanked the Partnership for support of the recycling bin program in Stockton.

Mr. Dozier announced the appointment of Secretary Diana Dooley (H&HS) as Co-Deputy Chair of the Partnership, and noted there are still a number of appointments to the Board pending at the Governor's Appointments Office.

Mr. Weber advised the Board that there have been several recent reports recommending an Economic Summit to bring together all key stakeholders to build broad based support for a specific policy agenda to promote a stronger economy. California needs action on jobs and competitiveness. The California Economic Summit process will feature regional dialogues that provide feedback on these statewide strategy documents as well as other unique input from the regions. The outcome will be a common policy framework for identifying specific actions that will be finalized at a first annual statewide Summit in May 2012. Mr. Weber proposed the Partnership to organize a regional forum for input from the San Joaquin Valley

(Valley) and the private sector. The Executive Committee has recommended the Secretariat staff move forward to coordinate the regional event.

Mr. Parra commented that National level funding for job training has not been reauthorized and requested the Partnership to take steps to advocate for reauthorization of the funds. Mr. Dozier noted this topic needs to be declared an emergency issue because it is not on the agenda and suggested a direction to staff is appropriate. Staff and the executive Committee will provide a letter on EDA reauthorization and include Valley successes that have resulted from prior funding.

Mr. Hoffner affirmed this to be a good suggestion, noting that there is a great deal of change going on between the two houses in Congress, commenting that States are being asked to weigh in on programs and projects with demonstrations of successes from previous local workforce development. Mr. Hoffner concluded by observing that the House wants to eliminate WIA while the Senate does not, so reauthorization should not be expected to happen any time soon.

Mr. Konczal noted that WIA reauthorization may include formula changes; Mr. Weber suggested the potential for applicants to co-apply for Federal funds partnering with the State and the Partnership.

Mr. Weber, Mr. Parra and Mr. Konczal agreed to discuss with Secretariat staff the issues pertinent to seasonal workers and the appropriate action to be taken.

Chair Swearingin asked Mr. Parra to link up with each Valley Workforce Investment Board (WIB) to create a list of project successes as their recommendations of smart, practical reforms that could make dollars go a lot farther.

III. Review and Approval of Minutes

Chair Swearingin asked for comments on the minutes from the October 6 Board meeting. In the absence of any comments or corrections, Mr. Duran moved to accept the minutes as presented; the motion was seconded by Mr. Harper.

IV. Overview of July 11, 2011 Board Strategic Planning Session

Chair Swearingin introduced the session with the need for a minor correction to the notes from the strategic planning session; on page 8, the reference to support of SB 375 to establish a Short Haul Rail Authority should read **SB 325**.

Continuing with a brief overview of the planning session results, Chair Swearingin noted that the economic development session talked about several key issues including the need for an infrastructure to support the export of value-added industries.

Mr. Weber noted the importance of determining what regulatory impediments there are in the Valley for value-added processing and products.

Ms. D'Adamo noted the need to realize that there are regulatory barriers in environmental law that will not change; some state standards are more worthwhile to spend time on. A point of consideration is monetary incentives to meet regulations, e.g. air district incentives.

Mr. Parra asked how the Valley can benefit from an expedited projects list; Ms. Medina interjected the importance of aligning workforce development priorities with economic development activities.

Mr. Weber stated the importance of linking this conversation to the economic summit discussed earlier. The biggest issue in the Valley is jobs; what are the regulatory barriers to growth and what will encourage innovation and entrepreneurship?

Mr. Watson provided an update on the progress of the water work group including steps toward Phase II of the IRWMP plan. Following through on the 2009 Framework endorsed by the Partnership, the Water Work Group is now ready with a joint resolution that has already been approved by the work group and the Partnership Executive Committee. Mr. Watson asked the Board to consider endorsement of the resolution; as the item is not on the agenda for this meeting, the formal endorsement will be requested at the December 2011 Board meeting.

Mr. Watson further noted that the water work group has sent letters to each of the eight county Boards of Supervisors inviting them to designate a participant in the work group. Supervisor Pedrozo asked questions about the amount of time and representation required.

Ms. Ashbrook noted a joint water project across Tulare, Fresno, Kings and Madera counties to assist disadvantaged communities with water issues and encouraged the Partnership to support this group in all ways possible.

Ms. D'Adamo encouraged all counties to participate in the Water Work Group to ensure all Valley regions have input. Ms. D'Adamo further noted that grant applications that reflect a wide inclusion of constituents are looked on more favorably than those with limited participation.

Ms. McPeak commented that the Partnership has the ability to break log jams and encourage the focus on disadvantaged communities.

Mr. Eddy encouraged Mr. Watson and the Water Work Group to look for project funding opportunities through the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Food and Agriculture and the US Department of Agriculture.

In the area of transportation Mr. Saldana asked the Partnership to include in its action plan strong advocacy for protection of short-haul rail infrastructure and service in the Valley.

V. Perspectives on Moving Forward with High Speed Rail

Daniel Krause introduced himself as Co-Founder, Executive Director, and Vice-Chairman of Californians For High Speed Rail (CA4HSR), an organization whose sole mission is to make sure High Speed Rail (HSR) happens in California. Mr. Krause explained his passionate

belief that HSR can be a foundation for building a sustainable society; with a core system of high speed rail in place, new transit systems will quickly develop to connect to the system, and transit-oriented development will become the standard development pattern.

Mr. Villines noted that the period for public comment has been extended by six months in the Hanford area.

Ms. D'Adamo suggested that one of the reasons the Valley is important is because this is where the funding is. The Federal Rail Authority has been very clear; they do not intend to redirect the funds to other projects.

Ms. Forhan noted that some funds for HSR are already under obligation; some are still unallocated. In response to the question, Ms. Forhan noted the RFQs will be released for the large sections sometime in October.

Ms. Ashbeck observed that Congressional opposition seems to be getting louder; Mr. Villines responded that this is an election year.

Mr. Konczal stated that current jobs predictions are in the hundreds of thousands, which is a difficult concept for the general public to grasp. However, as the individual contracts are awarded the job count will be more quantifiable; that type of specificity about the kinds of jobs and their locations will help generate greater public support.

Mr. Weber asked Mr. Krause and Mr. Villines what kind of support is being asked of the Partnership. Mr. Krause asked the Partnership to be prepared to endorse the project; the business plan is due out in early November which should provide a positive response to the naysayers and the negatives.

VI. Exemplary Practices Conference

On January 31, 2012, the [Central Valley Educational Leadership Institute \(CVLI\)](#) is presenting its Exemplary Practices in Education conference at the [Clovis Veterans Memorial Building](#). The conference engages educational leaders working with students from preschool through college; this year's focus will be on recent evidence that indicates that students from diverse language, cultural and immigration backgrounds can be successful if "schooling" is adapted to their circumstances. The presentation will address these successful adaptations.

Two sets of breakout sessions will feature successful educational leaders whose exemplary PreK-12 and collegiate programs are enhancing student outcomes. Presenters in the breakout sessions include leaders from many schools, districts and colleges from the valley and state.

Mr. Weber spoke highly of previous such conferences and offered to pay for any business person to attend the event.

VII. Secretariat Report

In the interest of time Mr. Dozier pointed to the full report in the Board packets and asked that any questions be directed to him.

VII. Public Infrastructure – Workforce Development Planning

Kristy Fairfax, Tulare County Workforce Investment Board provided an update on WIB activities and asked the Partnership to continue its efforts to consider and influence how regulations and laws get in the way of small business and workforce development. There is learning to be gained by working together as to how to test regulation and law to overcome it.

VII. Public and Board Comment

Mr. Harper commended the Secretariat Staff and volunteers for their tremendous effort in pulling together the Partnership Annual Summit being held tomorrow. Mr. Dozier, in turn, thanked Mr. Harper for the generous sponsorship provided by Kaiser Permanente and acknowledged all the sponsors and advertisers whose contributions are making the Summit a great success.

In the absence of additional public or Board comments, Chair Swearengin adjourned the meeting at 5:23pm.