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**Eastern Indiana Workforce Development Board**  
*Providing WorkOne Leadership to Eastern Indiana*  
**~~Blackford, Delaware, Fayette, Henry, Jay, Randolph, Rush, Union and Wayne Counties~~**

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**FULL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**July 23, 2024**

**9:00 am – 10:30 am**

**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Caleb Beasley, Ron Best, Bryan Brackemyre, Chris Brown, Heather Flanigan, Trevor Friedeberg, Kevin Polivick, Kirk Robbins, Joe Schumacher, Ashley Surpas, Shelley York

**Board Members Absent:** Jamen Bales, Doug Brenneke, Derek Dodd, Phil Freel, Joe Henry, Rob Keisling, Commissioner John Lancaster, Jamie Meadows

**Others Present:** Lyndsey Hellems, Gus Linde, Stephanie Clawson

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chair, Ron Best, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. A quorum was present. Clawson took a roll call of all members present. Best welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** Best called for any declaration of conflicts of interest from Board Members. None were noted.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** The Board Meeting Minutes from 5.21.24 were presented. Motion to approve by Kevin Polivick. Second by Ashley Surpas. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Hellems presented the financial report ending 6/30/24 with 100% of the year completed. Motion to approve the financial report by Kirk Robbins. Second by Caleb Beasley. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

**GUEST SPEAKERS:** Trevor Friedeberg (East Central Indiana Regional Partnership) discussed how his organization helps with the economic development efforts in our region. The 9 counties served are Blackford, Delaware, Fayette, Grant, Henry, Jay, Randolph, Rush, and Wayne. Along with ECIRP, there is the regional marketing initiative, Forge Your Path, which is geared toward attracting talent and showing that this region is a great place to live and work. With partnerships and collaboration among local communities, the READI Grant 1.0 (Regional Economic Acceleration Development Initiative) was received with a 15,000,000 award. This funding helped 19 projects across 8 counties with sectors that included broadband, childcare, infrastructure, arts & culture, recreation and talent attraction. READI 2.0 was released, and the East Central Indiana region received \$35 million in funding. For this round of funding, Friedeberg stated that 3,300 engaged in this process by participating or providing feedback. The plan for this will focus on uniting the region around a strategy that will benefit the above-mentioned counties. The vision statement focuses on quality of life, housing and infrastructure, childcare and support for families, and education and opportunity. With this process, we are creating a pipeline of collaboration within our communities. Ashley Surpas spoke about the East Central Indiana Talent Collaborative. This collaboration earned the designation as a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Talent Region by the State of Indiana. The ECI Talent Collaborative connects partners across the region to address 3 goals which include growing the population, educational attainment, and connecting talent to the workforce. The talent priorities include attraction, development, and connection. TRAC (Training, Resource, & Advocacy Connector) was created under the East Central Indiana talent Collaborative (ECITC) with operates out of the Office of Community Engagement at Ball State. The counties included in TRAC are Blackford, Delaware, Fayette, Grant, Henry, Jay, Randolph, Rush and Wayne. TRAC has utilized READI funds. There is a strong need for childcare (birth to 5 years) and the low wages given to childcare providers makes it hard to get and keep workers in this field. The strategic pillars include training and resources, advocacy, and communication and awareness.

**EIW EXECUTIVE TEAM UPDATES:** Hellems informed the board that EIW was awarded a 1.1-million-dollar YouthBuild Grant from DOL. We are waiting on the CHE contract which includes 700,000 – 750,000 for career coaching in local high schools. The OSO Contract was awarded to Equus. Linde stated we are starting up outreach for the new YouthBuild Grant. We are expanding it out to reach Blackford, Delaware, Jay, Henry, and Randolph

counties. We expect to serve 44 clients. This grant will have an active program through the summer of 2026 and then a year of follow-up. We plan to continue to grow and apply for this grant every 2 years. Clawson commented that the Regional Local Plan was a focus.

**BOARD CHAIR REMARKS:** Best enjoyed the presentations and gave thanks to Friedeberg and Surpas.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business Ron Best adjourned the meeting at approximately 10:06 am

Respectfully Submitted  
Bryan Brackemyre