



MAWB Committee Report

Committee Name: Legislative Committee

Chair(s) of the Committee: Deb Bahr-Helgen & Jinny Rietmann

Meeting Attendees: Cate Duin, Elena Foshay, Carrie Bendix, Nicole Swanson, Kevin Cardille, Erik Aamoeth, Kirk Pederson, Nathan Ratner

Date of Last Meeting: 5/21/2024

Date of Next Meeting: 6/11/2024

Action Items in Progress/Pending:

- Collect ideas for 2025 Legislative Platform
 - o Send ideas to Jinny & Deb

Action Items Completed:

No action items at this meeting.

Presentations from Meeting:

- State Legislative Updates: DW Bill Implementation
 - o Nathan Ratner provided a DEED legislative update:
 - DEED priorities passed – added three new categories for DW (1. A Spouse of a member of the United States armed forces who has lost employment due to a service member relocation, is unemployed or underemployed; 2. Individuals with non-work-related injuries or illnesses who need support to re-enter or remain in the workforce; 3. Adults who have a low income, are a recipient of public assistance or are basic skills deficient). There is no sunset to these eligibility categories.
 - Nathan will follow up with effective date.
 - Workforce Development Fund impact was discussed to make sure the fund remains in good shape after the passage of this increased eligibility.
 - DEED encourages legislators to limit direct appropriations out of the WDF as much as possible and works with legislators to know how much is needed for DW and rapid response programs.
 - o Nathan will be assisting with developing the legislative platform for the GWDB.



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- Nathan will be facilitating the development process of the platform.
- The platform is projected to be developed over the summer.
- Federal Legislative Updates
 - Update from Chris Andresen on what is happening at federal level – be sure to be sending letters from both boards and businesses in your area.
 - Followed up with Senator Smith’s office and hasn’t heard anything back yet
 - Chris is under the impression that things have slowed, and the committee may be running a bit behind.
 - Appropriation advocacy efforts are also coming in. Jinny will work with Cate to how to move forward with this.
- 2025 MAWB State Legislative Platform
 - Need a narrowed platform for next year with specific priorities.
 - Would be helpful to have a one-pager on what the WDF is for that can be used for legislators.
 - Could we get performance outcomes from last year’s direct appropriations so that we can make a comparison with our performance outcomes.
 - Try to collaborate with WorkWell to be one voice on similar priorities.

Questions for Operations Committee:

No questions at this time.

Other Comments:

Submitted by: Bob Libal on behalf of Deb Bahr-Helgen & Jinny Rietmann, Co-Chairs

Date: 5/21/2024