



MAWB Operations Committee

August 14, 2024

Voting members present: Erik Aamoth, Curt Anderson, Deb Bahr-Helgen, Rick Roy, Ling Becker, Carrie Bendix, Tammy Biery, Kevin Cardille, Elena Foshay, Heather Gleason, Mark Jacobs, Tina Jaster, Jennifer Kielas, John Preuss, Jinny Rietmann, Rick Roy, Nicole Swanson, Dina Wuornos

Chair, Elena Foshay convened the meeting at 12:28 PM. The committee members and guests did a round of introductions and shared their favorite thing about Duluth.

Approval of the June minutes & today's agenda moved by Jinny, seconded by Rick. 18 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Executive Director Updates – Cate Duin

- Cate has been with MAWB for 90 days now and reviewed her work so far including spending time listening & learning from members and over 50 external partners. She has completed 12 of 16 LWDA visits so far. She has worked her way through the Onboarding document.
- A large portion of Cate's time has been dedicated to working with the MAWB Legislative Committee on comments and advocacy work regarding the WIOA Reauthorization language in the House and Senate.
- The other primary focus has been putting together the 2024 MAWB Summer Conference.
- Cate is very grateful to everyone as she continues to transition into this role.
- Cate attended the DOL Region V meeting in collaboration with GLETA. Many discussions around consistency with concerns, questions, and emerging guidance changes.
- Regarding WIOA Advocacy, Senator Smith's staff expected that markup would begin in September.
- The MAWB Legislative Committee is positioning itself well for the start of the 2025 State Legislative Session.
- Cate has been meeting with Ama Akapo monthly and is excited to be working together.
 - Ama expressed that she supports MAWB communicating with whoever we need at DEED. She also supports a MAWB/DEED working groups on an issue-by-issue basis.
 - Cate has developed a tracking tool to keep track of the issues that are brought up during meetings and communicated to DEED.
 - The Service Delivery Working Group will begin work in September.
 - Continued advocacy for putting together workshops on RSEA, Rapid Response, and Fiscal Management. Also, advocacy for MAWB input on out of date DEED policies – consider a Policy Subcommittee and/or time during Operations meetings for this work.
 - Cate also discussed how MAWB and DEED can modernize together with updating policies, tracking issues, and communicating.
 - The committee discussed a possible MAWB Retreat for later in the fall to discuss these topics, reevaluate MAWB's structure, and plan for 2025.

- Cate reminded the committee about the upcoming DEED Workforce Summit.
 - Directors discussed that they have shared this information with leaders on local boards and possibility of MAWB partnering on this event in the future given short notice and conflict for many county commissioners.

MAWB Budget – Cate Duin

- The 2025 Budget includes regular inflationary increases, an increase for admin support services, misc. travel so that members could utilize these funds for advocacy efforts throughout the year, and marketing to the association can better “tell our story.”
- A Marketing Committee will be stood up to create plan for Marketing budget item.
- YIPA resources will be shared with directors to ensure we are using our membership to the fullest.

Regional Planning Funds – Cate Duin

- Thank you for getting details in for our monitoring. The full report is coming together and will be sent to the monitor soon.
- More discussions to come on how best to spend the funds and make the processed clearer and easier.

MAWB State Legislative Platform – Cate Duin, Deb Bahr-Helgen, Jinny Rietmann

- The committee discussed the possibility of having the platform approved at summer meeting going forward.
- The committee heard the proposed preliminary platform ideas, discussed additional ideas, and clarified portions of existing platform items.
- The proposed preliminary/rough priority ideas for seeking stakeholder/partner feedback (intentionally not included in the minutes) was moved by Dina, seconded by Tammy. 18 ayes, 0 nays.
- MAWB leaders met with DEED to discuss possible formula changes. Major takeaway is needed education to understand what responsibilities are with DEED vs DOL. There was discussion of working with GLETA on this and to conduct an analysis of the last 5 years to tell the story. May need to have a training for MAWB & DEED on this.

Performance Negotiations – Elena Foshay

- Last Friday was the deadline for negotiations. The committee discussed that work plans are due before negotiations which impacts fairness of negotiations. The committee further discussed strategies for addressing this in the future. The committee will hear from DEED on this at the September Operations meeting.

Operations Executive Committee Elections – Elena Foshay

- The Operations Committee approved Elena, Ling, and Jinny to serve as nominating committee to nominate a new secretary.

- Ling has a new role at Ramsey County is no longer able to take on the Chair position. Jinny is prepared to move into the Vice Chair role and discussions were had with Heather for the secretary position.
- The committee discussed the need to balance rural/metro voices for service delivery and regional planning discussions and the ongoing transitions of new staff at both MAWB and DEED. The committee also discussed that consistency may be helpful during these transitions.
- The committee agrees that the nominating committee should insure rural/urban balance in its work, bylaws may need to be changed to clarify what to do in situations like this in the future, as well as updates to the nominations policy to included language on make up and procedures of the nominating committee which could consist of the past chair and 1 or 2 volunteers, and that it may be helpful to have an organization chart style to the nominations policy.
- An Executive Committee Slate of Elena Foshay as Chair, Jinny Rietmann as Vice Chair, and Heather Gleason as Secretary was moved by Kevin, seconded by Tammy. 18 ayes, 0 nays.

The committee concluded at 2:54 PM.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 26th from 9am-2pm at AMC & zoom