

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR



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## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

317 W Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

### Grant Review Committee Meeting Minutes – March 20, 2018

**Attendees:** Bobbi Jo Meuleman, Melinda Smyser, Deni Hoehne, Jay Larsen

**Staff:** Wendi Secrist, Paige Nielebeck, Matt Thomsen

**Called to Order at 10:01**

**Welcome**

**Review Agenda**

**Roll Call – Quorum Met**

**Approve January 2, 2018 and January 26, 2018 meeting minutes** – Motion made by Jay Larsen to approve minutes from January 2, 2018 and January 26, 2018. Second from Melinda Smyser. Motion approved.

#### **Micro Grant: Idaho State University**

ISU's Workforce Training Center, in collaboration with the high school CTE program and industry members want to increase awareness of construction jobs. They are planning to hold a two-day event at end of March where 90 individuals will come in to learn about construction trades and build sheds to donate to veterans. The participating employers will have the opportunity to interview participants. The project has over \$33,000 of in-kind and cash donations.

Letters of support were provided from Zip Kits, Star Construction, Smiley-D. They are providing instructors for this event as well as monetary donations.

While this project is a one-time event, it aligns with efforts underway by Idaho AGC. They are planning to replicate a program based off a construction industry model in Colorado. They have a 3-week training introduction to the construction trades. At the end of the program they have a job fair and contractors are there making job offers on the spot. These participants then become eligible for apprenticeship opportunities with their new employer. AGC wants to launch this program statewide. While this effort is specific to Southeastern Idaho, the goal is to connect it to the AGC program for sustainability. The resources and tools purchased with grant funds will be housed at the ISU Workforce Training Center to be used in future trainings.

Pocatello is going to go through a large amount of growth and this is a very important project – the construction industry as a whole is experiencing challenges with rebuilding efforts in California, Texas and Florida drawing highly skilled workers to those states for higher wages. Committee members expressed that these are important local initiatives to support and the industry commitment is significant.

Jay Larsen made a motion to recommend approval of the ISU Micro Grant. Second from Melinda Smyser. Motion approved.

**Employer Grant: McCain Foods**

McCain Foods has been working to secure an expansion to their Burley facility for the past two years. The previous Director of the Idaho Department of Labor provided a commitment letter for \$2.5 million to provide training resources for new and existing employees, subject to McCain submitting a formal application.

This project includes capital investment of approximately \$247 million, the addition of 198 employees and the retention of 555 employees. Their entire training investments total over \$4.8 million and they are asking for \$2.5 million from the Workforce Development Training Fund. McCain pays good wages and provides benefits to their employees – with this project, the total payroll and benefits in the Mini-Cassia community are over \$43 million.

Committee members expressed support for this expansion but were interested in ensuring that the workforce development training funds were applied to training that provided transferrable skills and/or promotion potential. In addition, per McCain’s request, committee members support having this application acted on by the full Workforce Development Council.

Melinda Smyser made a motion to recommend approval of the McCain Employer Grant with the provision that the grant funds cover training that provides transferrable skills and/or promotion potential. Jay Larsen seconded the motion. Motion approved. Staff are directed to work with McCain to finalize this prior to the April 5, 2018 Council meeting.

**Adjourned at 10:33.**