

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 – December 18, 2018

Council Members: Bobbi-Jo Meuleman, ~~Deni Hochne~~, ~~Ken Wiesmore~~, Melinda Smyser, Michelle Stennett, Steve Widmyer

Committee Members: Jay Larsen, Justin Touchstone

Staff: Matthew Thomsen, Paige Nielebeck, William Burt, Wendi Secrist

Called to order at 2:03 PM

Welcome

Review Agenda – no additions to the agenda

Roll Call – quorum met

Approve November 27, 2018 Meeting Minutes

Motion by Mr. Touchstone to approve the minutes as written. Second by Senator Stennett.

In the minutes there was discussion on the types of trainings that the Committee has agreed to fund in the past (safety training, etc.). Has any progress been made on this item?

- We have been working to pull together information from previous grants about trainings. At the January 10 Committee meeting this information will be shared with the committee.

Motion carried.

Review Workforce Development Training Fund Balance

Mr. Burt went over the WDTF balance.

WDTF Financial Summary	
WDTF Cash Balance 12/17/18	\$17,756,783.93
Obligated Balance Employer Grants	\$6,160,307.28
Obligated Balance Industry Sector Grants	\$1,514,341.02
Obligated Balance Innovation Grants	\$44,935.46
FY 19 WDTF Admin Costs	\$454,224.30
WDTF Obligated Balance	\$8,173,808.06
Unobligated Balance	\$9,582,975.87
Proposals before Grant Review Committee and/or Full Council	\$1,936,930.00
Proposals in pipeline	\$61,538.00
Unobligated Balance if all funded	\$7,584,507.87

Employer Grant – Unitech

At the last meeting the Committee requested the application be returned to Unitech and a new budget created that fits within \$2,000 per job, focused on high wage jobs and transferrable skill sets. Their original request was \$1,654,680.

Unitech revised their budget and the new amount requested is \$822,337. This comes out to about \$1,953.29 per position.

Is this the first training fund grant Unitech has received?

- They received a \$400,000 employer grant in 2011

Motion by Ms. Meuleman to approve the Unitech Employer Grant in the amount of \$822,337. Second by Mr. Touchstone. Motion carried.

Employer Grant – Idaho Milk

At the last meeting the Committee requested that the application be returned to Idaho Milk to resubmit a budget that fits within \$2,000 per job and expand on the wage increases. Their original request was \$819,455.

Idaho Milk has revised their budget and the new amount requested is \$110,987.75. This comes out to about \$1,011.89 per position. To address the committee’s concern of no wage increases for some positions, Idaho Milk wrote a letter indicating that they do pay above the average county wage to recruit the best employees and offer them PTO and other benefits. Since almost all of the training is being provided to new hires, there won’t be immediate wage increases. They are investing \$7 million in facilities and \$20 million in equipment. They are making a big investment in this expansion.

Is a janitor position normally something we fund?

- We have funded training for janitors in the past.
- How does funding this training fit into the goals of the WDTF?
 - We do not have any specific requirements that says occupations that are being funded have to be on the In-Demand Occupations list. The Policy Committee is exploring the option of adding this as a qualitative measure in the grant review process. This is part of a broader conversation that needs to happen between the two committees.

- It is still up to the Committee to decide what to fund and what not to fund until the current policy changes.

Motion by Ms. Meuleman to approve the Idaho Milk Employer Grant in the amount of \$110,987.75. Second by Ms. Smyser. Motion carried.

Industry Sector Grant – College of Eastern Idaho

The proposed project is to train 1,000 individuals in cybersecurity expanding the educational opportunities in cyber careers including degree programs, technical certifications, and public/private partnerships for customized training.

Government organizations including Idaho National Laboratory, Department of National & Homeland Security and the FBI, medium sized employers with a significant online transactional presence like Melaleuca's Global Headquarters, and small regional financial institutions like Bank of Idaho are all in need of resources for hiring and upskilling their current and future workforce.

To achieve this, the College of Eastern Idaho has optioned to purchase a 6,000 square foot former retail building located adjacent to the campus with the intention of creating a "Cyber Center". The \$750,000 requested through this grant would be used to fund the renovation and equip the classrooms of the former retail building into an educational facility, designed specifically to support multiple use cyber related programs including cybersecurity, networking, advanced computer training, and additionally, K-12 STEM outreach.

College of Eastern Idaho is requesting a total amount of \$750,000. They are anticipating training 1,000 people through this grant.

Is the \$270,000 included in the \$480,000 for the renovations?

- No they are requesting the \$270,000 and the \$480,000. They are paying \$500,000 for the building. This could be argued to be more cost effective than purchasing a new building.

Is there a match for this grant?

- It is coming from CEI.
- They did not note in their budget that INL donated a super computer to this project as well.

Motion by Senator Stennett to approve the College of Eastern Idaho Industry Sector Grant in the amount of \$750,000. Second by Ms. Meuleman. Motion carried.

Employer Grant – NewCold

Seventy (70) NewCold Burley employees will be trained in highly sought-after cold storage and logistics services. Both Americold and VersaCold, the largest cold storage providers worldwide, have recently followed NewCold in creating automated cold storage warehouses in the United States for their clients.

NewCold has established an Implementation Team, comprised of sixteen (16) Tacoma-based employees. The Implementation Team will spend time learning operations and processes in Tacoma, where the company just opened another state-of-the-art warehouse. The team will also develop trainings and learn train-the-trainer techniques while in Tacoma, making several trips to Burley to train the Burley-based Operational Team, which consists of seventy (70) trainees.

The Burley Operational Team will also train and work in Tacoma. Depending on role, trainees will spend between two (2) and eleven (11) weeks in Tacoma. The Burley Operational Team trainees will learn core-

functions of the business, software, client-specific services, standard operating procedures, safety training, and role specific training (e.g., forklift driver training, planner training).

NewCold is requesting an amount of \$139,930 to train 70 employees. This comes out to \$1,999 per position. They have a property investment at \$40 million, facility investment at \$20 million, and equipment investment at \$43 million. They are offering an average wage of about 40% higher than the average county wage. All employees are new hires and thus there is not wage increase after training.

Motion by Mr. Touchstone to approve the NewCold Employer Grant in the amount of \$139,930. Second by Ms. Meuleman. Motion carried.

Employer Grant – Aviation Specialty Unlimited

Aviation Specialty Unlimited is now expanding into offering worldwide shipboard operations for Scenic Cruises and are the aviation services provider of record for their new ship, the Scenic Eclipse. As this new portion of our business grows, our team needs to learn skills and gain certifications they do not have to this point. This includes certification on the maintenance and repair of additional aircraft as well as flight training on additional aircraft.

The team will also need to understand and gain certifications for overwater travel with guests and their rescue in the event of accident as this is all new to ASU. All these certifications are transferrable. This new program alone has created 6 jobs so far and we are very likely to hire more for this project over the next 2 years.

We are also beginning to manufacture night vision systems at our company headquarters in Boise. These systems have not had a significant redesign in over 20 years and ASU has begun the prototyping process and the qualification process to build our own significantly improved Night Vision Goggle system, which will be built in Idaho. This will require investment into our facility and workforce training for our manufacturing, logistics and sales teams.

ASU has also just won a prototype contract with the Air Force for development of a new flight helmet. If we can win this contract, we will again be hiring and planning to assemble the thousands of new Air Force helmets in Idaho. In short, our business is strong, and we continue to seek out new talent and are discovering that we can also develop internal talent to meet the greater needs of tomorrow. Help from the Idaho Workforce Development Council will accelerate our ability to meet the needs our new projects and contracts will create.

Aviation Specialty Unlimited is requesting an amount of \$60,138.03 to train 20 employees. This come out to \$3,000 per position. There is a significant wage increase with this training.

Motion by Mayor Widmyer to approve the Aviation Specialty Unlimited Employer Grant in the amount of \$60,138.03. Second by Senator Stennett. Motion carried.

Feedback on Online Grant Portal

There were a few issues with getting logged into the system. Mr. Thomsen was able to go in and fix this issue.

Training plans that have been altered will be input into the application as adjusted. There was some confusion with something being labeled as adjusted. The original will be available as well so the Committee members are able to compare the two.

There is no way to go back and update comments or add additional comments once a member has reviewed the application. It would be nice to be able to go in and make changes to those areas.

- Since applications are not being scored the Committee can avoid hitting the record evaluation button. Not pushing this button allows members to go back and update their comments.

Will Committee Members be able to see other members scores?

- No, but this is something the WDC staff can provide to the Committee before the meetings once we begin using the scoring functionality.

The Grant Review Committee will be meeting jointly with the Policy Committee on January 10. Ms. Secrist will be sending out some documents for the Grant Review Committee to look at before that meeting.

Motion by Mayor Widmyer to adjourn. Second by Mr. Larsen. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 2:55 PM