

SELO Minutes
March 4, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Members Present

Adam Wygant
Sharon Schafer
Matt Johnson
Chad Korpi
Amanda Bright McClanahan

Guests

Dave Behrend (Wisconsin)
Rick Becker (Michigan Paving and Materials)
Tom Occipinti (EGLE)
Dana Dumont (MDNR)
Bill Harrison (WMU)
Caroline Leithen (Michigan Manufacturers Association)

Ad hoc agenda – go through each thematic area of the draft report.

Roll call by Matt.

Matt double scheduled, will be leaving, and turning over to Adam Wygant.

Matt's 2 sections

- 1 - How do we create/maintain skillset of employees required to assure that mining industry has workers it needs. Discussion with a few in industry but didn't have a clear answer. Matt proposes a quick survey to industry and labor.
- 2 - Second piece - social responsibility. Native American engagement. Matt wrote draft and sent to Evelyn Ravindren and NMU. Waiting for feedback and revision.

Adam took over the meeting.

Amanda Bright McClanahan shared screen.

Topic is a) update information broadly at the state level related to mining, and b) providing information about economic opportunities and education of benefits of mining. Three-part outline:

- 1 - Input from MEDC marketing team, local economic development groups, and
 - 2 - Tries to outline an accessible way for constituents to access information about mining; contacts for questions; regulations and how they apply; economic impact information and how to put it in one place.
 - 3 - Partnerships among local, regional, and state economic and industry groups; Industry-led public awareness campaign.
- Question about how to handle funding needs and identify sources to create and maintain public outreach.

Sharon had a question about Amanda's 1.h. - should this address that mining revenues support state parks? Sharon to provide some text and Amanda will include along with link to parks site. Park users don't pay full freight owing to state subsidy of the park operation.

What are rules on public comment? Bill comment on definition of skillset, willing to help provide definition. WRT Native American communities, WMU has relations w/ most and would be willing to facilitate.

There is a need for extended and increased unemployment benefits using an independent account manager; this could improve laid off miner's situation. Mine closures tend to be long-term and many miners look for other opportunities in neighboring states, some of which have greater unemployment benefits.

Should we reach out to UEIA for information and input? Is this type of funding pool used in other employment sectors? Is there a precedent? We should contact UEIA, there are some provisions for intermittent benefits during auto plant temporary shutdowns, UI works w/ employers on this to manage additional benefit.

Community colleges might make investments in this type of training, seems to recall an effort a few years ago during a mining uptick.

Public comment

Bill appreciates the opportunity to attend and compliments the group of their efforts.