



Mission: “To passionately connect talent with employment opportunities”

Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2021 – Google Meet (Virtual)

Attendance:

Jason Eibling - Mid-American Therapy/Wyandot Chamber of Commerce
Greg Moon – Wyandot County Economic Development
Dave Courtad – Wyandot County Commissioners
Michael Augenstein – Marion Technical College
Tami Galloway – Retired, Marion Technical College
Kyle McColly – City of Upper Sandusky
Frank Gibson – Workforce Consultant
Angie Morelock – Vanguard-Sentinel Career & Technology Centers
Rhonda Caudill – Upper Sandusky Schools
Laurie Vent – Retired, Upper Sandusky Schools

Call to Order:

Jason Eibling called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m.

Action Recap:

Members shared updates and recent information relevant to the WETF:

- Wyandot Manufacturing Day Virtual Offering
 - Greg noted the videos are underway for this virtual offering, which he hopes will be sent out to each local high school over the next two months. These videos will be shown at each school at their discretion so it could be used with students beyond just the sophomore class.
 - There are currently 4 local manufacturers taking part, and 3 of those had video shot on site thus far. Once the video for Liqui-Box is completed, the videos will be edited and packaged together for distribution.
 - Greg would also like to include each manufacturer’s video on their respective page of the Community Opportunity site.
- Other Partner Updates
 - Frank – Working in many counties and all are working to figure out how to manage virtual versus in person meetings.
 - Mike – Now working in MTC’s new location in downtown Marion, and the college is now able to offer accredited courses at the site.
 - Dave – County recently worked through approving all departmental budgets. They also just hired a new solid waste management administrator to replace Kyle McColly who moved on to Mayor of the City of Upper Sandusky.
 - Angie – The school is working to enroll as much as possible right now, but in a safe and responsible way. Upper Sandusky HS students were actually scheduled to visit Sentinel today.

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- The school is using a new interactive platform to move away from strictly Zoom-type virtual meetings and classes.
- Sentinel has seen increases in enrollments over the last 5 years, and they are working to continue that.
- Tami – No updates necessarily, but is continuing to work with the Made in Marion event (virtual this year) and on The Forge entrepreneurship program with Mike.
- Laurie – Wanted to join the call to see if she could still contribute, which was greatly appreciated and desired by the group. Laurie will continue to work with the WETF to connect the group with new leadership at the schools and other resources she might have.
- Rhonda – Joining in on behalf of the schools to understand the group better, and will relay information to those within the school that should receive it.
- Kyle – No major update, but wanted to join in and make sure he still kept an understanding of what was happening with the group’s efforts and to contribute whoever he can.

Upcoming events:

- TechCred Funding Round
 - An application round is currently open and closes on January 31st.
 - Mike noted they made it easier by not having to provide actual employee names, and the timeline for training has been extended to 18 months.
 - An applicant also does not need to name their specific training provider anymore.
- CEO Program Potential
 - Greg advised that he had a meeting with the organization who helps to implement to the CEO program, and that North Central Electric Cooperative was a strong proponent and financial backer of the effort in Seneca County.
 - NCEC is planning to introduce the program to another county within the Loraine-Medina Electric Cooperative territory, and then look back to Wyandot County for a possible 2022-2023 program.
 - CEO does have a large price tag, and requires a large group of investors for a 3-year commitment.
 - Angie noted the CEO Program in Seneca currently has almost all of its needed investors lined up, but is not yet aware if the program is actually being implemented.
 - Greg stated there would more than likely be more informational sessions coming later this year, but saw that WETF as a core group to deliberate on the program when the time comes.
 - Angie also asked if entrepreneurship is a priority area for the WETF because it has not been noted as a priority item in past discussions.
 - Frank noted that through his work with SCORE, there have been many entrepreneurship focused groups popping up in different counties. This CEO Program could be a great resource, but there could be some other opportunities.

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- Mike mentioned that Michalina Lacy, who operates the Small Business Development Center out of the University of Ashland, covers Wyandot County and will now be working two days a week out of the new MTC location beginning this Thursday.
 - Mike asked if the group email listing could be shared so that he could share information on the SBDC and contact. Greg will send to the group along with the meeting minutes.
 - Mike suggested Michalina would be a great contact for this group and could provide some content.
- o RemotEDx - technical assistance webinar on Jan. 19 @ 1:00 pm (Frank)
 - o This is a resource for subgrants aimed at building and strengthening nonprofit and community-based partnerships supporting underserved students.
 - o Unfortunately applications are due by February 1st, but there could be future opportunity.

Setting Course for 2021:

- WETF Meeting Frequency, Format & Content
 - o Jason asked about our ability to accomplish tasks in the current landscape, and the desire to tackle issues instead of just convening online this year. He asked for feedback:
 - o Frank referred back to the Strategic Doing work that we did initially when the WETF was formed, and noted that at the time the group wanted to keep this meeting monthly.
 - Some suggested that Quarterly meetings would allow too much time between meetings and move efforts to the backburner.
 - o Angie noted that her focus in the near future has to be working for the school, but with Laurie transitioning there is a need to uphold the educational component within the group and she would still be participating. She did note that having meetings just to have them is not what anyone wants to do.
 - o Greg suggested bringing in resource and content providers for meetings where possible, and working to bring back the delayed sessions (Employee Retention Sessions (Scott), Attraction & Retention Session (Denise Ball), Work-based Learning Session) this year.
 - Angie said there may be value to bringing speakers to the meetings, but wanted to make sure we weren't sitting through sales pitches.
 - o Frank suggested trying to pull in business representatives to talk about their workforce situations and successes or challenges they've had. This could be beneficial for them to meet the WETF as a resource.
 - o Everyone agreed that having ongoing tasks following each meeting would keep our efforts moving in the right direction, and give purpose to a monthly touch-base.
 - o Jason closed with noting that he and Greg would have further discussion in the coming weeks to plan for the February and subsequent meetings this year.

Meeting Adjourned:

The next regular meeting will be February 17th (3rd Wednesday).

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