CALL TO ORDER:
Board Chair, Charlie Juneau, called the meeting to order at 10:35AM.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present:
Don Abert          Charlie Juneau          Dr. James Underwood
Rosemarie Brown   Jack Minner           Chuck Unger
Rhonda DeGonia    Jim Pennekamp         B. Dean Webb
Carol Foreman     James Pulley           Paul Wellhausen
Dr. Gary Giamartino Gerry Schuetzenhofer Rod Wolter
Walter Hunter     Mark Tade

Members Absent:
Monica Bristow    Dionne Jackson         Joe Stevens
Dr. Dale Chapman  Scott Jarmon           Dale Stewart
Dr. Georgia Costello Doug Magers         Jan Woker
Dr. Robert Daiber Brenda Walker-McCain   Al Womack, Jr.
Joe Glik           J. Ronald Payton
Sam Guarino        Laura Reed
David Holtgrave   Kevin Schmidt

Guests and Staff Present:
Alice Bunjan      Vicki Niederhofer
Scott Frick       Joe Streit
Bill Gagen         Lynette Rienbolt
Rich Heinz         Val Thaxton
Andrew Jones       Connie Vick
Matt Jones         Brock Willeford

PUBLIC COMMENT:
With no public comment, Charlie Juneau moved on to the next agenda item.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Action):
A motion was made by Jim Pulley to approve the December 7, 2011 meeting minutes and it was seconded by Rod Wolter. The motion carried unanimously.
COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Executive Committee:
Charlie Juneau reported that the Executive Committee met on February 8th and the minutes were in the packet. The next Executive Committee meeting will be on May 17th.

Membership and Management:
Dave Stoecklin welcomed Brock Willeford, Bond County Chairperson, to the meeting and introduced Andrew Jones as the newest board nominee from Bond County. Mr. Jones is with Southwestern Electric Cooperative and informed everyone about his background and work experience. Dave also introduced B. Dean Webb with the Greater Madison County Federation of Labor as the newest board member. Mr. Webb is replacing Marty St. Peters, who has accepted another position in Naperville, Illinois. After Mr. Webb’s welcome and background information, Dave also welcomed Scott Frick with Kraft – Capri Sun. Mr. Frick is considering joining the WIB and is also a board member of the Chamber of Commerce Southwestern Madison County as well as the Illinois Workforce Investment Board (IWIB).

Communications:
In Laura Reed’s absence, Dave Stoecklin reported that Laura and Connie Vick are working on the spring edition of the WIB e-newsletter, which will feature board member Paul Wellhausen, the March Career Days and today’s awards banquet. The spring e-newsletter should be out in April.

Youth Council:
Jay Hawley reported on the success of the March 22nd career day at East Alton-Wood River High School and March 27th at East Alton Middle School. Both events were a great success and Jay thanked Connie and the rest of the staff and youth council for their efforts. The next youth council meeting will be May 2nd.

Treasurers Report:
In Dave Holtgrave’s absence, Dave Stoecklin referenced the Treasurer’s Report in the packet.

CIMET:
Paul Wellhausen reported that the Continuous Improvement and Management Excellence Team met on January 25th and there was a lot of great discussion and sharing of best practices in regards to better serving job seekers and businesses. The MOU is due to the state by the end of May, so the next meeting will be in mid-April. Matt Jones also commented that Paul was very generous in providing lunch to the committee and the entire East Alton workNet Center at the January 25th meeting.

Business Services:
Matt Jones reference the Business Services Activities Report in the packet, prepared by Linda Odle and covering the period of 12/7/11-3/30/12.
Supporting Economic Development (Action):
Jim Pennekamp referenced the last 2 committee meeting minutes in the packet and gave an update on the Ameren E-Synchronist business retention visits. To date, 14 visits have been made to area businesses, mostly the larger manufacturers in Madison County. As part of a larger “retention” effort, Madison County is applying for a Department of Labor Workforce Innovation Grant. Dave Stoecklin gave a little bit more background on the grant application, which is modeled after a successful layoff aversion program in Michigan and Ohio. Although Madison County is applying as the grant recipient, the effort is actually a consortium of 6 workforce areas and 31 counties. The actual name of the consortium and program is The Great Rivers Consortium Proactive Layoff Aversion Program. Dave let everyone know that it would be summer before we hear of any news regarding the grant and support letters from WIB members to their local congressional representatives would be greatly beneficial to the application. Dave then asked for a motion to approve Madison County as the grant applicant and also to serve as the fiscal agent for the consortium. Gary Giamartino made the motion and Rosemarie Brown seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Great River Workforce Development Corporation:
Jim Pennekamp report that the Great River Workforce Development Corporation met on February 8th. All ad donations for the 2011 Annual Report are in and there are rough draft copies circulating around the table for questions or comments. The final reports will go out in the next couple of weeks. The 2012 scholarship information has been sent and as of today 1 scholarship application has been received. Jim also commented that St. Charles County is looking to model a similar program after GRWDC’s scholarship program.

Other Business:
Dave Stoecklin submitted the WIA-Title 1B report, which is in the packet. Dave also gave a re-cap of the January 10th Madison County and State of Illinois Comptroller’s Office Job Fair held in Edwardsville.

Dave presented a Manufacturers Survey in the packet and asked for feedback from everyone. This is in rough draft form and designed to pinpoint the skills needed by area manufacturers. The survey results will hopefully lead to training opportunities.

Dave talked about the current status of WIA re-authorization and funding. He also noted that consolidation of workforce areas is already occurring in the Chicago area and maybe a model for consolidation of workforce areas throughout the state. Dave may call on the WIB for their input and assistance in the event that consolidation becomes a reality.

Dave commented on the Granite City Education and Workforce Development Initiative, which is focused on high school students that are “lost in the middle” – not straight A’s or students with lower grades or behavior issues. Dave also let everyone know that the informational workshops with area libraries are still going strong and more have been scheduled for April.
Other Business (Con’t):
In closing, Dave acknowledged the staff retirements of Jane Felty and Frank Beam. Jane retired on 2/29/12 with 25 years of service and Frank is scheduled to retire on April 13th with over 36 years of service. With Jane’s retirement, Jan Cerny-Leggett was called back to replace her position after being on lay-off since July 2011.

Next Meeting:
Charlie announced that the next WIB meeting will be Wednesday, June 20th @ 7:30AM at Sunset Hills Country Club in Edwardsville. This will be Charlie’s last meeting as board chair before Gerry Schuetzenhofer becomes Chair Person.

Adjournment:
The meeting was adjourned at 11:21AM.