

**Business and Industry Committee**

**February 2, 2022**

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. and was held via Zoom.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT - Sherry Neil, Joe Olivares, Michael Silveira, and Lydia Zabrycki

ABSENT - Fely Guzman and Scott Miller

AGENDA CHANGES: None

ABSTENTIONS/RECUSALS/

DISCLOSURES OF

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF

INTEREST: None

STAFF/CHAIR COMMENTS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

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| **Item** | **Description/Action Taken** |
| **1.** | **Resolution to Allow for Electronic Board Meetings Pursuant to AB361 and Making Requisite Findings of State of Emergency Due to COVID-19** |
|  | Blake Konczal, Executive Director, Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB) presented a resolution to allow the Business and Industry Committee to meet electronically. If adopted, the resolution would be effective for 30 days.  **SILVIERA/OLIVARES – ADOPTED A RESOLUTION TO ALLOW FOR ELECTRONIC BOARD MEETINGS PURSUANT TO AB361 AND MAKING REQUISITE FINDINGS OF STATE OF EMERGENCY DUE TO COVID-19. VOTE: YES-4, NO – 0 (UNANIMOUS).** |
| **2.** | **May 5, 2021, Business and Industry Committee Meeting Minutes** |
|  | Mr. Konczal presented the May 5, 2021, meeting minutes for corrections and/or approval.  **OLIVARES/NEIL – APPROVED THE MAY 5, 2021, BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY COMMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES. VOTE: YES - 4, NO – 0 (UNANIMOUS)** |
| **3.** | **New Business and Industry Committee Member** |
|  | Mr. Konczal presented for the Committee’s approval, a recommendation that the FRWDB ratify Director Stephen Avila as a member of the Business and Industry Committee.  **OLIVARES/NEIL – RECOMMENDED THAT THE FRWDB RATIFY NEW BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY COMMITTEE MEMBER. VOTE: YES - 4, NO - 0 (UNANIMOUS).** |
| **4.** | **Rapid Response – Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act Notice** |
|  | John Lorance, Business Services Coordinator - Government/Rapid Response, reported on Rapid Response services provided in the Second Quarter (Q2) of Program Year (PY) 2021 – 2022.  During Q2, the Rapid Response team met with (six) 6 businesses who were either closing, conducting layoffs or downsizing. Orientations were provided to 43 people, and 264 people were affected by the layoffs.  The Rapid Response team hosted a Job Fair on January 20, 2022. Sixty people affected by the above-mentioned layoffs attended. A link highlighting an interview with ABC 30 was provided to Committee members.  This was an information item. |
| **5.** | **Firebaugh Business Grant Program** |
|  | Erik Cherkaski, Business Services Manager, reported on a partnership between the FRWDB and the City of Firebaugh in a micro business grant program. He shared that the program provides up to $7,500 in grant funding to small businesses through this program, which is a community business development block grant through the Cares Act. The City of Firebaugh received $264,000 in funding for this program that will last (two) 2 years.  Mr. Cherkaski shared the qualifications for businesses to participate in the program and informed the Committee that the FRWDB would act in an outreach and administrative capacity. Mr. Cherkaski indicated that Sergio Martinez, Business Services Coordinator, FRWDB, was doing a great job providing information and application assistance in English and Spanish.  To date, 15 businesses were interested; with the goal being 25.  This was an information item. |
| **6.** | **2021-2022 Quarterly Business Awards Recognition** |
|  | Mr. Cherkaski presented (two) 2 videos that revealed the Outstanding Business Achievement Award winners for Q2 of PY 2021-2022. The Youth Employer of Excellence was awarded to Second Chance Animal Shelter, and the Adult Employer of Excellence was awarded to Browning Contractors. Inc.  This was an information item. |
| **7.** | **Agenda Items for May 4, 2022 Meeting** |
|  | Chair Zabrycki reminded the Committee that if they have any items to be added to the agenda for the May 4, 2022 meeting, to send those items to FRWDB staff at least (2) weeks before the meeting. |
| **8.** | **Meeting Feedback** |
|  | Mr. Konczal asked for suggestions on how the Business and Industry Committee meetings could be improved. The Committee provided no feedback. |

The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.