



**MASS WORKFORCE ASSOCIATION**  
**ONE SYSTEM – ONE VOICE**

## **Massachusetts Workforce Association Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

Stan Usovicz, Chair

Tuesday, March 23, 2021, 11:30 a.m - 12:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85745763730>

Meeting ID: 857 4576 3730

### Attendees (all via Zoom):

Robert Bower, *MA AFL-CIO/CLU*

Maddrey Goode, *MassHire Boston Career Center*

Jim Oliverira, *MassHire Greater New Bedford Workforce Board*

Erin Travassos, *Eversource*

Valerie Sutton, *Harvard University/MassHire Metro North Workforce Board*

Karen Pelletier, *Worcester Chamber of Commerce*

Joseph Peters, *Universal Plastics*

Stan Usovicz, *Verizon/MassHire North Shore Workforce Board*

Mary Sarris, *MassHire North Shore Workforce Board*

Robert Corley, *Neighborworks Housing Solutions*

### **Staff -**

Tonja Mettlach, *MWA Executive Director*

Raija Vaisanen, *MWA Associate Director*

### **Guests -**

Joseph Lopes, *MassHire New Bedford Workforce Board*

Chris Andresen, *USWA*

Jen Olivier, *CLA*

Tom Berton, *CLA*

### **Welcome and Introductions**

- Stan welcomed everyone to the meeting, introducing guests who would be presenting and also allowing everyone to introduce themselves.

### **Approval of December Meeting Minutes**

- VOTE: Motion to approve the December 2020 board meeting minutes (Jim Oliveira move, Robert Corley second).

- A roll call was then taken:
  - Stan - yes
  - Karen - yes
  - Maddrey - yes
  - Mary - yes
  - Jim - yes
  - Erin - yes
  - Jim - yes
  - Rob - yes

**FY20 Financial Review, *Jennifer Olivier and Tom Burton, CLA and Tonja Mettlach***

- Stan turned the meeting over to Tom and Jen of CLA who gave the Board an update on the FY20 Financial Review and 990 both of which were recently completed.
- The review had no major findings and no major changes from last year.
- Jen shared the reviewed financials. Expenses were less but that was to be expected with Covid and the cancellation of in person events.
- Mary asked a question about the cash on hand and how much an organization should have. Should MWA consider putting the cash somewhere else to get a better return? In response, Jen talked about what would be prudent depending on the organization but also that it can be hard to do with reimbursable grants. Stan commented that this is something that the finance committee should look into further.
- Jen also shared that there were two new financial standards implemented and were explained in the review as well.
- Tom then discussed the 990 and pointed out instances where there were changes from the prior year. It was suggested that MWA establish written policies on document destruction and CEO salary reviews.
- VOTE: Motion to accept CLA's financial review (Jim Oliveira move, Joe Peters second).
  - A roll call was then taken:
    - Stan - yes
    - Karen - yes
    - Maddrey - yes
    - Mary - yes
    - Jim - yes
    - Erin - yes
    - Jim - yes
    - Rob - yes

**Federal Update, *Chris Andresen***

- Tonja introduced Chris Andresen, a federal lobbyist who works with the United States Workforce Association, of which MWA is a member.
- Chris talked about Mayor Walsh recently being confirmed with bipartisan support as the U.S. Secretary of Labor. This process was much different than what we are seeing with the Deputy Secretary of Labor, Julie Su from CA, who had her hearing last week. There was a lot more push back from the committee with not much bipartisan support.

- Chris discussed the recently passed the American Rescue Plan and what was included in the bill, specifically through the local funding allotments. This funding can be spent over four years, with 50% now and 50% in a year.
- Chris talked about how the next big bill from Congress will be a big infrastructure bill, with workforce development likely included. This bill is unlikely to be taken up before the summer. USWA and some other national organizations just sent a letter asking for a \$100 billion investment. Tonja will share the letter with the board once received.
- Finally Chris talked about other legislative issues, including WIOA and TAA reauthorization.
- A discussion then ensued with Rob, Mary, Bob, and Jim asking questions and sharing comments with Chris.

### **Committee Updates**

- The board did not get to any committee updates.

### **Adjournment**

- Stan thanked the board for their participation
- VOTE: Motion to adjourn the meeting (Jim Oliveira move, Maddrey Goode second)
  - Unanimous