



# Kane County

## KC Jobs Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Government Center  
719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A  
Geneva, IL 60134

LEWIS, ALLAN, Bates, Daugherty, Ford, Strathmann, Young, ex-officios Pierog (County Chair), and Tepe (County Vice Chair)

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**Friday, November 15, 2024**

**10:30 AM**

**County Board Room**

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**1. Call To Order**

Chairman Lewis called today's meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

**2. Roll Call**

<b>PRESENT</b>	Board Member Anita Lewis Board Member Deborah Allan Board Member Mavis Bates Board Member Cherryl Strathmann Board Member David Young
<b>REMOTE</b>	Board Member Gary Daugherty
<b>ABSENT</b>	Board Member Ron Ford Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog Ex-Officio County Board Vice Chair Vern Tepe

Also present: Co. Bd. members Gumz\*, Juby\*, Linder\*, Molina\*; Dev. Dir. VanKerkhoff and staff Toth & Miller; JEG 360, LLC CEO Grueling; Community Reinvestment Dir. Berger\*; ITD staff Peters; and members of the press and public, including Northern KC Vocational Region 110 Dir., Terry Stroh, Education Exec. Dir., Nancy Coleman, Valley Education for Employment System (VALEES) Dir., Cassie Blickem, & Work Based Learning Specialist, Todd Stirn.

**3. Remote Attendance Requests**

Chairman Lewis announced the remote attendance requests for today's meeting. She asked the Committee if there were any objections to Committee Member Daugherty attending remotely. There were no objections.

**4. Approval of Minutes: September 26, 2024 and October 11, 2024**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mavis Bates

**5. Public Comment**

None.

A. Presentation: Todd Stirn, Ed. D - Work Based Learning Specialist Region

Education Exec. Dir., Nancy Coleman, shared information on the Alignment Collaborative for Education which is a non-profit organization that the Elgin Business Community put together. Alignment Collaborative for Education's vision is to invest in youth to ensure the future strength of the community and its workforce. The organization offers future workforce development across twelve industry clusters in ten different communities with Elgin. The goal is to prepare middle and high school students to transition to a post-secondary education or to an apprenticeship training program. Alignment serves nine high schools including U46 in Bartlett, Streamwood, Larkin, Elgin and South Elgin, as well as Districts 300 in Carpentersville and Dundee, and 301 in Burlington. The organization focused on sectors that have the largest job growth projected over the next decade. Over 5K seniors a year graduate from the organization. Coleman stated that there are over 200 business partners, and last year 10,212 volunteer hours were logged. Last year, a total of 146 summer internship opportunities were paid. Alignments revenue had a 34% increase last year, and 66% of funding comes from investments by business, community and municipal partners. Discussion ensued. (Committee Member Allan arrived at 10:50 a.m.)

Northern KC Vocational Region 110 Dir., Terry Stroh, stated that Education for Employment Directors (EFE) are the liaisons between the State Board of Education and school districts to manage State and Federal Grant funds for district partners. The importance of Career and Technical Education (CTE) is looking at the data points for the region and districts, such as graduation rates, reading and math proficiency, post program placement, and post secondary credits earned. Stroh announced that District 300 is planning to open a Career Technical Center in the next few years. The graduation rate for all non-CTE statewide students is 80%. For statewide CTE concentrator students, the graduation rate is 95%.

Valley Education for Employment System (VALEES) Dir., Cassie Blickem, stated that VALEES serves southern Kane County schools, including Batavia, Geneva, Kaneland, East and West Aurora. VALEES also serves twelve other districts within parts of Dekalb, Kane, and Kendall County. There are two career centers within the VALEES region including Fox Valley Career Center located on Kaneland High School's campus, and a career center in Sandwich. Blickem announced that West Aurora High School recently built a Weisner Family Center for Career Development, and East Aurora High plans to build a similar CTE in fall of 2026. Lastly, there will be a high school internship program on Thursday, December 5 from 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. at the Valley Industrial Association in Geneva. Much discussion ensued.

**B. Fabulous Fox! National Water Trail Updates**

Exec. Dir. VanKerkhoff stated that the Fabulous Fox! Water Trails system was designated on June 2, 2023, and has been a distinctive national network of water trails that are cooperatively supported and sustained.

**6. Jobs Committee Priorities**

Exec. Dir. VanKerkhoff stated that the contract for planning, marketing, and infrastructure for new and improved launch site, river access and soofa signage was approved by the American Rescue Plan Committee (ARPA). The (DCEO) Grant was approved for the improvements to five new kayak and canoe launch sites. There will be a new opportunity for the DCEO and Economic Opportunity Tourism and Attractions Grant up to \$200K, with an 100% local match. Applications are due December 20, 2024. Construction of these launch sites will begin in 2025. The purpose of the Soofa signs is to provide safety information on current conditions such as expected water levels, and weather, as well as connect visitors with amenities, and residents with the river. VanKerkhoff noted that staff requests to revise the Soofa sign resolution to reflect non-ARPA funding and have a contract for up to twelve signs, with a 25% contribution from community partners. Much discussion ensued.

- C. Authorizing the Use of Fund 400 - Economic Development Funds for a Contract Between the County of Kane and Changing Environments, Inc. dba Soofa for the Lease of up to Twelve (12) Solar Powered Soofa Signs for Kane County Development and Community Services Department's ARPA Fabulous Fox! Water Trail Promotion Project**

KC Executive Committee

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE</b>
<b>TO:</b>	KC Executive Committee
<b>MOVER:</b>	Mavis Bates
<b>SECONDER:</b>	David Young
<b>AYE:</b>	Anita Lewis, Deborah Allan, Mavis Bates, Gary Daugherty, Cherryl Strathmann, and David Young
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Ron Ford, Corinne M. Pierog, and Vern Tepe

**D. Kane County Economic Development Initiatives Staff Updates**

JEG 360, LLC CEO, Gruiling, reviewed the updated Kane County, Illinois 2023-2024 Major Business Development Projects Report. (Committee Members Young and Bates left at 11:55 a.m.)

**7. Office of Community Reinvestment - Workforce Development Division****A. Monthly Report**

OCR Dir., Berger, stated that the accounts payable financial reports were on file.

**8. New Business**

None.

**9. Reports Placed On File**

No longer an in-person quorum. No votes were taken.

**10. Comments by Co-Chair**

No comments were made.

**11. Executive Session (if needed)**

None.

**12. Adjournment**

No longer an in-person quorum. No votes were taken.

This meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Rachel Santora  
Recording Secretary