

PREVAILING WAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

Thursday April 7, 2011

International Union of Operating Engineers
555 East First Street
Gladstone, Oregon

Members Present

Greg Held
Kevin Jensen
Donald Kool
Norman Malbin
Jim McKune
Patrick O'Brien
Carl Redman

Members Absent

Dee Burch
Mark Holliday
Shawn Miller
John Mohlis

Staff Present

Lois Banahene
Christie Hammond
Rachelle Herbert
Kate Newhall
Selena Schryvers
Susan Wooley

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 pm by co-chair Norman Malbin.

Minutes of Last Meeting of January 20, 2011

The January 20, 2011 minutes were unanimously approved as written.

Staff Reports

Christie Hammond gave an overview of the PWR Unit's enforcement activities, current caseloads, and PWR seminars conducted fiscal year-to-date. Mr. O'Brien asked whether additional information regarding the numbers and types of violations and amounts collected per case could be provided. Ms. Hammond agreed to look into providing this information in future reports.

Ms. Hammond advised the committee members that a letter had been sent in February from Commissioner Avakian to 2,700 contractors who responded to the BOLI 2010 Construction Industry Occupational Wage Survey. The letter thanked the survey respondents and asked for comments and opinions regarding the survey via an online questionnaire. The letter also provided information regarding upcoming changes in the next survey cycle, in which half of the contractors will be surveyed in July and half in January. After reviewing the online survey questions for the committee, Ms. Hammond noted that only 27 out of the 2,700 letter recipients responded (.01%). Ms. Hammond indicated that she did not notice any particular patterns or trends in the responses other than comments that the timing of the survey is inconvenient for some. Mr. O'Brien

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commented that it appeared that most of the survey comments were negative. Jim McKune opined that a contractor questionnaire regarding the survey should be conducted annually.

Ms. Hammond presented a letter being sent by the Employment Department to interested parties soliciting lists of contractors to be included in the 2011 construction industry occupational wage survey to ensure all eligible contractors are surveyed. Ms. Hammond advised the committee members that the letter was being sent to all labor unions in the state, and requested suggestions from the committee regarding other groups, associations and organizations that should receive the letter. Ms. Hammond advised the members of the committee that they are free to distribute the letter as they wish.

Ms. Hammond also presented the committee members with a 2011-2012 survey schedule, which provides a weekly/monthly summary of survey-related activities, as well as showing the trades and regions that will and will not be surveyed. Ms. Hammond explained that the contractors surveyed will be randomly divided into two panels; half of which will be surveyed in July, and the other half in January. Because the survey is collecting more data than before by surveying four weeks instead of one, the goal is to spread out the survey workload and update the data on an on-going basis instead of only once a year. Kevin Jensen expressed concern that the random selection might cause too many small or large contractors to end up in one survey panel.

Ms. Hammond advised the committee that a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study had recently been released relating to the federal Davis-Bacon Act survey. A copy of the executive summary was provided to the members and Ms. Hammond said that she would email the entire 78-page report to the committee members.

Legislative Update

BOLI Legislative Director Kate Newhall provided a report of legislative bills of interest and summarized the substance and status of bills listed. A separate report by committee member Shawn Miller was also provided.

Ms. Newhall noted that it is a unique legislative session due to the House split and bi-partisan chairs, which has resulted in a slow and controversial session. Ms. Newhall said that many of the bills listed in the tracking reports will be “dead” by the end of the following day; Friday, April 8, if they have not yet been scheduled for a committee work session.

Next Meeting

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday June 23, at 3 pm at the International Union of Operating Engineers, Gladstone Oregon.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:22 pm.