

PROPOSED MINUTES OF THE WASHTECH PLANNING COUNCIL

March 11, 2006

Attendees: Marcus Courtney, Barbara Rader, Rick Saling, Todd Tollefson, Roberta Wilson, Brian Globerman, Dan Gillespie

Minutes taken by: Barbara Kempf

Communications Committee (Roberta): We're doing an article on the TAA story. We'll include the responses that Dan got in the survey. We're also working on an article on the U. of Ill. study of wages. We're going to do a follow up on Microsoft. They're apparently now planning to "Walmartize" Microsoft. WaMu is a possibility for an article on insourcing. We have a survey we're working on.

Monthly Report (Todd and Marcus): We now have 15 shop stewards. There are several grievances in the works. We aren't winning them. Cingular seems to be trying to drag them out to several rounds. COPE is going well. We need to get someone from Cingular on the PC soon.

Chelan County PUD organizing is still going on but not going to be successful this year. The election will be completed in May and they wanted this election so that the employees can have closure. Then we'll revisit it next year.

Washington State Labor Council will be meeting 5/13. Brian and Roberta (tentatively) and possibly Erik volunteered to go to represent us.

Cingular dress code has been a problem. They're on the phone during their entire shifts and it frustrates them that they have a dress code. It's inconsistently enforced. Shop stewards want to get t-shirts to protest the dress code. It would cost about \$550 which was approved by the PC. There have been comments on a survey with people griping that they don't see what the union is doing for them. This would be a win for us, something tangible that they can point to as proof that the union is working for them.

Treasurer's Report (Rick): We now have a surplus because we were double counting organization memberships. Rick and Loretta will be getting together to produce a running total monthly. Rick and Jana will be coming to give us the latest on the Cingular budget.

Education Committee Report (Barbara R.): The report came back from CWA and is probably too high to be worthwhile for people. Marcus said that Cingular employees may be able to get it reimbursed. Barbara said that we may be able to offer it less expensively but it wouldn't be accredited.

Membership Committee Report (Dan): He found a good place for the picnic in Juanita, \$170 deposit for 100 people with several times and dates available. We decided on 12-6. We're going to try for an early Sunday in August. We need to let Cingular employees know that they can remain at-large members if they leave Cingular. Brian and Dan are going to be looking into the possibility of health benefits.

Technology Committee (Brian): Getting maintenance on the net integrator has been a chronic problem because of Black Sheep. Our virus protection expired because they didn't follow up. We went around them and got our virus protection re-established. We'll be buying a package of support directly from the net integrator instead, approval pending budget availability.

The web site is still a problem. We still don't have an officers' list. We're waiting to see what Neil can do with the web hosting issues. Web development issues are being considered by Marcus and Roberta. Barbara R. will be able to help too. Blake will be updating the TechsUnite site.

Barbara was concerned about TechsUnite being static. Blake has it on his server. It's never worked right. He'll be giving us an update by Friday. We'll be involving Barbara in analyzing and planning the site. She'll be talking to Neil to see how she can plug in to be able to move it along, get it out of ColdFusion and into something easier to upload, maintain and eventually make interactive.

Good and Welfare (Todd): Jobs with Justice has a phone bank coming up. Todd will be coordinating a night to do it at Washtech.

Legislative Committee (Marcus for Erik): We pushed the Pascrel bill on H1B visas. We had a good series of meetings in D.C. We discussed our legislative strategy with legislators. Marcus is going to talk to CWA state council about it. Roberta said that we need to frame our position about H1Bs so we aren't labeled as racists. Dan mentioned that undocumented workers don't have green cards but H1Bs do. The H1B legislation would cap H1Bs at 65,000, would put them all under DOL, etc.

Rick went to the Aaron Dixon luncheon. A.D. is running for the Green Party against Maria Cantwell. Action items would be endorsement of Aaron Dixon and the possibility of us doing a position paper on outsourcing that they would sponsor. We need to decide on endorsement or non-endorsement so Marcus can go to the CWA state council and tell them our position. Roberta knows Mark Wilson and she thinks he'd give the Democrats a real choice if we don't endorse Cantwell. Rick made a motion that we give a non-endorsement to Cantwell. It was seconded and approved. All the things our at-large membership has approved, Cantwell has been against. Mark Wilson and Aaron Dixon will be asked to come to speak to us. Even though the Democrats will inevitably stay with Cantwell we hope that M.W. and A.D. will help push the Democrats and make a statement. We won't be doing a position paper for Aaron Dixon which would imply endorsement and goes against CWA. Rick and Roberta will do it as individuals.