



**Members:**

**Linda Rasmussen, Chair**  
*Communications Workers  
of America*  
Labor

**Al Dorgan**  
*United Steelworkers  
of America*  
Labor

**Cynthia Hurkes**  
*Oregon Child Care  
Resource & Referral  
Network*  
Public

**Kathy Nishimoto**  
*Duckwall-Pooley Fruit  
Co.*  
Management

**Tamara Russell**  
*Barran Liebman LLP*  
Management

**Patrick Smith**  
*Lane, Coos, Curry,  
Douglas Building  
Trades*  
Labor

**Mary J. Taylor**  
*Freeman Marine*  
Management

Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 30, 2009

The meeting was called to order, attendees and guests welcomed by Chair Linda Rasmussen at 1:35pm.

Present\*:

Linda Rasmussen, Chair  
Al Dorgan  
Kathy Nishimoto (by telephone)  
Tamara Russell  
Mary Taylor

Staff to Council:

Rebecca Nance

\*Quorum requirement met

Others Present:

Laurie Warner, Employment Department Director  
Tom Byerley, OED UI Administrator  
Mary Wood, OED UI Economist

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mary Taylor to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2009 meeting. Motion seconded by Tamara Russell. No discussion. Minutes were approved as presented.

State & Federal Legislative Update

Rebecca Nance reviewed the update of resignations, appointments and changes in the Oregon Legislature.

Federal Unemployment Insurance extension legislation was discussed. It has already passed the US House of Representatives and is currently in the US Senate. If a federal extension passes prior to the end of Oregon Extended Benefits (OEB), claimants currently on OEB will be transitioned to the federal extension.

Interim Legislative Committee Presentation

Tom Byerley reviewed the presentation that he and Laurie gave before the Oregon Legislative Interim Senate Committee on Commerce and Workforce Development on September 28, 2009.

Tom said that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Federal Additional Compensation of \$25 per week added on to UI benefit

Interim Legislative Committee Presentation (continued)

payments totals \$117.6 million. This is a significant amount circulating in the economy and providing an extra boost to individuals and their families.

Oregon is currently tied with California (12.2%) for 4<sup>th</sup> highest unemployment rate in the Nation behind Michigan (15.2%), Nevada (13.2%) and Rhode Island (12.8%).

Initial Claims projections show that claims volume will reach an all time high in January 2010. Weeks claimed are expected to peak in the October – November 2009 timeframe.

Maximum weeks of available benefits to claimants: Regular Benefits (26 weeks); Emergency Unemployment Compensation (33 weeks); Emergency Benefits (20 weeks); Oregon Extended Benefits (13 weeks); Oregon Additional Benefits (6.5 weeks). Oregon Additional Benefits is expected to trigger on sometime between January and March 2011.

Tom reported that Alternative Base Year (SB 462) that went into effect on July 1, 2009 is currently representing about 1% of our workload.

Weeks of benefits claimed; UI exhaustions by benefit program; benefits paid in dollars; trust fund comparison were also reviewed. It is anticipated that we will be in Tax Schedule VI in 2010.

Nationwide UI Trust Fund Solvency Update

Tom reported that currently 22 states are borrowing from the federal government. USDOL forecasts up to 41 states could be borrowing by the end of calendar year 2010.

UI Low Wage Workers Pilot

Tom reported that the pilot is set to begin on November 1<sup>st</sup> and will provide an update at the December meeting of the Council. Training funds are not available as part of the pilot, it makes it possible for disadvantaged workers to draw UI while in approved training.

UI Fast Facts & Oregon's UI Trust Fund Balance

UI Economist Mary Wood reviewed the September UI Fast Facts (August data) with the Council. Annual data is expected to show further increases in average duration, first payments and numbers of exhaustees. The UI Trust Fund balance, as of week ending September 19, 2009, was \$1,318.33 billion. A year ago this same week it was \$2,124.31 billion.

UI Diversion Discussion

The Council reviewed the UI Diversion Principles that were adopted on May 9, 2006 by the Governor's UI Task Force Diversion workgroup. They also reviewed the Advisory Council letters transmitted to the Governor and Legislature as well as the letter to the Council from the Governor.

The Council was in consensus about Oregon's UI Trust Fund and the importance of keeping it solvent. They indicated that the draw down from the Trust Fund was sobering and that given the significant decrease in balance diversions are not a good idea for any reason. They wish to discuss this more at the December Council meeting.

Follow Up Items:

1. Email documents to Council Members so they have all of them electronically.
2. Tom Byerley to follow up with Kathy Nishimoto about paper documents. Tom to call Kathy sometime at the end of October.
3. Rebecca to draft policy statement for the Council to review at the December meeting.
4. Rebecca to draft letters to the US Senate delegation regarding support of the extension of EUC.
5. Rebecca to draft letters to the entire Congressional delegation supporting a federal works program.
6. Rebecca to set up a mid-November teleconference to discuss tax rate schedule for 2010, review UI Trust Fund comparisons, and Trust Fund margins.

Meeting Adjournment

A motion was made by Al Dorgan to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mary Taylor. No discussion, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 4:30pm.