

Livelihood/Commerce Work Group Core

Meeting Notes of November 20, 2007, 3:30 pm, MVC Offices

Present

Members of the Core: John Abrams (Chair), Steve Bernier, Sherm Goldstein, Sean Welch
MVC Staff: Mark London

1. John Ryan Study – Phase 1

The Core made additional comments about the draft report.

It was suggested that it would be useful to be able to discuss this directly with John Ryan. Mark indicated that John was on standby to be able to discuss this by speakerphone, but the Core members felt it would be preferable to do this in person.

The Core asked to have a working session with John Ryan before the report is finalized. John Abrams is very busy from now to Christmas and is then going to be off-Island for six weeks, so he suggested that this take place in February. Michael Shuman could be invited as well, and we could have an all-day working session.

Mark expressed concern about putting everything off for three months and about the expense of bringing them both to the Island just to meet the Core group. If we have a working session, it should not only be to review the draft report but should be largely discussing future actions. He thought that if we go to the effort and expense of bringing one or both of them to the Island, it would be useful that we include a public meeting in the day's activities. Also, if we are going to expand the Core, we should do this before this session so that a larger number of people could provide input and benefit.

It was agreed that Mark and Sherm will finish compiling a first set of comments and would ask John Ryan to issue a revised draft by the second week of December, which could be circulated more widely.

2. December 1 Meeting with the Steering Committee

It was agreed to suggest two additional promising initiatives, based on the suggestions in the Ryan study, namely:

- Improve workforce and entrepreneurial training to help individuals adjust to the changing work climate and to build entrepreneurial capacity.
- Optimize the environment for remote work including communications infrastructure and support services.

Mark distributed a revised draft of the Synthesis Document, which incorporates the Discussion Paper and the Ryan study. It still has to be cross-checked with the Forum Proceedings and he wanted to add an additional paragraph about the Shuman study. Core members should make comments by next Tuesday. It will be distributed on Wednesday, as a draft working document.

It will be made clear to participants in the December 1 meeting that the Synthesis Documents are not required reading. They are supplementary material to give additional information for people with particular interest.

3. New Core Members

Sherm and Mark were asked to present recommendations at the next meeting.

Notes prepared by Mark London