Washington
Productivity Board
SECRETARY OF STATE
February 2010

Print & Shipping Reduction Plan Team FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Casey Walker, Kelly Higbee, Stacii McKeon, Chuck O'Donnell & Tia Livingood

Eastern Ragion Technology in the Field Team FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Robert Blegen, Darrell McCallum, Jon Hansen & Gregg Storey

Teamwork Incentive Program teams highlight busy February Productivity Board meeting

The members of the Productivity Board took their seats as they prepared for another normal monthly meeting.

By the time it was over, they had heard and approved savings and process changes that topped more than $530,000 in first-year savings. It was the most money saved in a single month in more than a year, and Secretary of State Sam Reed knew just what it meant.

“In times like these, agencies are looking for innovative solutions, and employees are always trying to find them,” Reed said. “There’s nothing better than being able to reward them for their creativity.”

Two Teamwork Incentive Program applications were officially approved during the meeting. The first belonged to Print & Shipping Reduction Plan Team, which helped the Liquor Control Board save money by converting all of its monthly retail publications into electronic files and placing them on their website. The team’s efforts were able to help save the agency $113,524.88 in the first year alone.

The second TIP team hailed from the Department of Transportation, and helped the agency break free of outside vendor fees by creating an entirely new management and reporting system for each of its field inspectors. With the implementation of the new system, the team was able to save their agency $422,480 in the first year.

The board members also approved two suggestions that provided the Department of Labor & Industries with $34,570 in first-year savings. The first idea came from David Frazee, who suggested that agencies around the state be able to use Department of Corrections offenders for landscaping projects instead of paying overtime to General Administration employees. The second idea that was approved came from Francis Leaman, who proposed that the agency have investigators do their fraud reports in Microsoft Word and provide a hyperlink to all of their exhibits and evidence. Both were welcome ideas that the department was happy to approve.

The Industrial Insurance Appeals Board also approved its first suggestion in four years when the agency recognized Lori McAllister for her idea to change the maintenance on the microfiche equipment from monthly to quarterly. This simple scheduling modification helped save the agency $9,000 in the first year.

The Productivity Board is committed to excellence in public service by demonstrating leadership, especially in times of economic crisis.

The Employee Suggestion Program and Teamwork Incentive Program encourage public employees to create, innovate and apply first-rate ideas.