

8.E.2 Award of Contract for Development of Virtual Job Center Web Site
(Action)

At the February 22, 2006 SWWDB visioning meeting, Dr. Borremans stated that the virtual Job Center web site prototype had been completed. The next step would be full development and testing leading up to "going live". He noted that the anticipated scope of work and associated cost would necessitate the competitive procurement of a vendor to do the work and that a Request for Proposals (RFP) will be used to solicit proposals from area vendors. A RFP is a competitive process, similar to a "Sealed Bid" process but, whereas under a sealed bid selection is based on the lowest cost bid, an RFP allows vendor qualifications and experience to be factors used for selection. Both sealed bid and RFP are competitive procurement processes that comply with both federal and state procurement guidelines.

The RFP was distributed to twenty-four (24) information technology consulting firms in the Madison area. As part of the process, a vendor meeting was held on Tuesday, March 7, 2006. The deadline for proposal submission was Thursday, March 16, 2006.

Only two proposals were received from the following vendors:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Proposed Amount</u>
Clifton Gunderson Technology Solutions – Madison	\$ 73,440
Yahara Software – Madison	\$ 69,250

At the time of this mailing, staff is still in the process of evaluating the two proposals. An award recommendation will be presented at a board meeting.

Also, at the visioning meeting it was noted that two other WDBs had expressed an interest in joining the virtual Job Center project. The two WDBs are North Central Wisconsin WDB and the Northwest CEP. Both WDBs serve a large geographic area in rural central and northern Wisconsin, and face many of the same problems experienced by SWWDB in trying to maintain the current number of Job Centers. They are looking for alternative approaches and see the technology-based concept as a viable solution. Discussion with these two WDBs has also resulted in a commitment to cooperate on a grant proposal that will be submitted to Council on Workforce Investment (CWI) yet this spring.

Board action to award a contract for development and implementation of the virtual Job Center web site is requested so that work can begin.