MINUTES

NORTHWEST OREGON WORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING

October 25, 2024

Linn-Benton Community College
6500 SW Pacific Blvd, Albany, OR

Present:

Board:
Tony Erickson, Oregon AERO, Chair; **Eric Sherman**, IBEW Local 932; **John Hawkins**, Service Employees International Union; **Than Tussing**, Fast Lube and Oil; **Carrie Norris,** Samaritan Health Service; **Heather Taksdal,** Zwald Transport Inc.; **Ann Buchele**, Linn-Benton Community College; **Lauren Smith**, DHS, Vocational Rehabilitation; **Linda Dugan**, Linda Dugan Insurance; **Lisa Avery,** Linn-Benton Community College; **Paul Davis**, JBT Lektro; **Whitey Forsman**, Pacific Oyster;

Excused:
Angeline Chan-Pepper, Oregon Employment Dept.; **Gabe Gurule**, Corvallis Fire Department; **Greg Morill,** Bergson Construction Inc.; **Kirstin Salmi**, WCT Marine; **Mario Calderon**, Local 737; **Terre Cooper,** Tillamook County Economic Development; **Todd Simmons**, Tillamook Peoples' Utility District; **Zach Poole**, Pig' n Pancake, Vice Chair/Secretary;

Consortium Present:
Pamela Wev, Clatsop County Commissioner; **Casey Garrett**, Columbia County Commissioner; **Casey Miller**, Lincoln County Commissioner; **Pat Malone,** Benton County Commissioner;

Consortium Excused:
Doug Olson, Tillamook County Commissioner;

Staff:
Heather DeSart, Executive Director; **Jason Swain**, NOW CCO; **Katrina Sturgeon**, Workforce Benefit Navigator; **Logan Garner**, Youth Programs Manager; **Emily Richter**, Accounting Technician; **Brittney Lane**, Executive Assistant; **Aylee Rhea,** Program Manager; **Kortnie Williams**, Program Coordinator; **Leonard Tumbarello,** Martime Program Coordinator;

1. **CALL TO ORDER, CONFIRMATION OF POSTING, and ROLL CALL**
   Chairman Erickson called the Meeting to order at 10:02am.
   Chairman Erickson asked for confirmation of the public posting of the meeting; Ms. Lane confirmed; Roll Call taken, quorum was established.
   Commissioner Wev called the Meeting to order at 10:03am

Commissioner Wev asked for confirmation of the public posting of the meeting; Ms. Lane confirmed; Roll Call taken, quorum was established.

2. **REVIEW and APPROVE AGENDA**
   Agenda required zero modifications.
   BOARD MOTION: John Hawkins **SECOND: Paul Davis** **MOTION CARRIED.**
   CONSORTIUM MOTION: Casey Garrett **SECOND: Pat Malone** **MOTION CARRIED.**

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**
   No public comment was made.

4. **DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: CONSORTIUM BOARD**
   Accept Staff's recommendation to RE-appoint the following (five) NOW Board Members – The terms of these Board Members will be October 31, 2024 – November 1, 2027.
   a. Carrie Norris – Business Rep – Samaritan Health Services
   b. Gabe Gurule – Labor Rep – Corvallis Fire Department
   c. Tony Erickson – Business Rep – Oregon AERO
   d. Whitey Forsman – Business Rep – Pacific Oyster
   e. Zach Poole – Business Rep – Pig N Pancake
   MOTION: Casey Garrett **SECOND: Pat Malone** **MOTION CARRIED.**

5. **DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: NOW BOARD**
   Nominate & Elect/Re-elect Board Officers:
   Tony Erickson – Board Chair
   Zach Poole – Vice Board Chair
   Kirstin Salmi – Board Treasurer
   MOTION: Than Tussing **SECOND: Carrie Norris** **MOTION CARRIED.**

6. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
   • NOW BOARD –
   - Accept Staff's recommendation to approve the Minutes of the August 23, 2024 Board meeting.

   MOTION: Eric Sherman **SECOND: John Hawkins** **MOTION CARRIED.**

   • CONSORTIUM BOARD –
   - Accept Staff's recommendation to approve the Minutes of the June 28, 2024 Consortium Meeting.

   MOTION: Casey Garrett **SECOND: Pat Malone** **MOTION CARRIED.**

7. **DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: NOW BOARD THEN CONSORTIUM BOARD –** Kirstin Salmi, NOW Board Treasurer and Jason Swain, NOW CFO
   Accept the Staff's recommendation to approve the finalized Annual Budget.
   Jason reviewed the budget and all changes, he also stated that NOW's audit is done and will be presented in January.

a. NOW Board

MOTION: Eric Sherman **SECOND: Heather Taksdal** **MOTION CARRIED.**

b. Consortium Board

MOTION: Casey Garrett **SECOND: Pat Malone** **MOTION CARRIED.**

8. **INFORMATION – Katie Winder, Dean of Instruction, Linn Benton Community College**
   Ms. Winder discussed the progress that LBCC has made and the enrollment progress that's had a drastic uptick since the pandemic.

9. **INFORMATION** – Christopher Jacobs, Executive Director, Corvallis Economic Development
   Christopher Jacobs presented and explained what the Economic Development Office did, who it's partnered with, what businesses they are trying to reach out to and connect with. He also explained the services that the EDO offers and how it helps bring money and people into the local economy to fortify what Benton County is trying to grow into. Christopher also introduced his team and some of their success stories to the group.

10. **INFORMATION** – Shaun Barrick, Economist, OED & Madeline Judokusumo, Workforce Analyst, OED
    Shaun gave a very detailed presentation on the Economic Status of the regions that Northwest Oregon Works serves. He also broke all the economic numbers down by county and focused on Benton County. He did say that most of the unemployment levels are back to pre-covid numbers and that it looks like the workforce might stabilize for a while based on the pattern that they've seen.

11. **INFORMATION** – Angela Turpen, Principal Youth Advisor, CSC
    Angela gave a presentation about who she is, what CSC does, and how it's work impacts the students and young adults in the area to help them get on the job training and schooling so that they can get a good paying job and do well for their lives.

12. **INFORMATION** – Logan Garner, Youth Program Manager, NOW
    Logan gave a presentation about the youth programs that are happening in Benton County as well as a small update about how all of the programs throughout Northwest Oregon Works' region is going.

13. **BOARD CHAIR REPORT** – Tony Erickson, Chair
    Tony thanked Heather DeSart for his presentation at the Working Together Conference and said that he's proud to be a part of the Board of Directors.

14. **CHIEF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORT** – Commissioner Wev
    Commissioner Wev talked about the Working Together Conference as well. She stated that she loved seeing NOW's representation at the conference and made note of other conferences that she wishes that she could see more of NOW's participation at.

15. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT –** Heather DeSart, NOW Executive Director
    Heather announced a thank you to Dr. Avery for hosting the Joint Board of Directors and Consortium Meeting. She also announced that the next Working Together Conference is in Salem in October of 2025. The last thing that Heather mentioned was that during the January Board Meeting the Board of Directors

will be asked to approve the PY 2025-2026 calendar.

16. BOARD ROUNDTABLE

No comment was made at this time.

17. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

No comment was made at this time.

18. ADJOURN

Chairman Erickson adjourned the meeting at 12:27pm.
Commissioner Wev adjourned the meeting at 12:27pm.
The meeting was concluded, and the zoom call was closed and ended.