MINUTES

NORTHWEST OREGON WORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING

January 24, 2025

Oregon Coast Community College - Newport

Present:

Board:
Tony Erickson, Oregon AERO, Chair; **Todd Simmons**, Tillamook Peoples' Utility District; **Angeline Chan-Pepper**, Oregon Employment Dept.; **Eric Sherman**, IBEW Local 932; **Kirstin Salmi**, WCT Marine; **John Hawkins**, Service Employees International Union; **Heather Taksdal,** Zwald Transport Inc.; **Mario Calderon**, Local 737; **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: Carrie Norris, Samaritan Health Service; **Greg Morill,** Bergson Construction Inc.; **Gabe Gurule**, Corvallis Fire Department; **Terre Cooper,** Tillamook County Economic Development; **Than Tussing**, Fast Lube and Oil; **Zach Poole**, Pig' n Pancake, Vice Chair/Secretary;

Consortium:
Gabe Shepherd, Benton County Commissioner; **Pamela Wev,** Clatsop County Commissioner; **Casey Garrett**, Columbia County Commissioner; **Casey Miller**, Lincoln County Commissioner; **Paul Fournier**, 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 Director; **Kortnie Williams**, Behavioral Health Program Manager; **Leonard Tumbarello,** Martime Program Coordinator;

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

2. **REVIEW and APPROVE AGENDA**
   There were no changes to be made to the agenda.
   MOTION: Eric Sherman SECOND: Angeline Chan-Pepper MOTION CARRIED.

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

4. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
   - Accept Staff's recommendation to approve the Minutes of the October 25, 2024 Joint Board and Consortium Meeting.
   - Accept Staff's recommendation to approve the Meeting Schedule for PY 2025 - 2026.

   MOTION: Eric Sherman SECOND: Paul Davis MOTION CARRIED.

5. **DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION** – Nadia Costa, Jones and Roth
   - Accept Staff's recommendation to approve PY 23-24 Audit Report

   MOTION: John Hawkins SECOND: Linda Dugan MOTION CARRIED.

6. **INFORMATION** – Doug Riggs and Iris Maria Chavez, OWP Legislative Consultants
   Legislative Conversation (20 minutes)
   Iris and Doug explained that a lot of their job is focused around education and awareness of what workforce boards do around the state to our Local Elected Officials as well as helping to have more conversations with legislation about how to help the local workforce boards get more help and support for doing their jobs and achieving their goals.

7. **INFORMATION** –Marshall Roache, President Oregon Coast Community College
   State of Oregon Coast Community College (15 minutes)
   Dr. Marshall Roache expressed happiness to be the new president and that he took the office in January of 2025. He explained that enrollment is increased, and that programming is also increasing due to the bond passing. A new workforce development building is going to be put onto the Newport Campus to help do training and help the community with gaps that it has.

8. **INFORMATION** – Paul Schuytema, Executive Director, Economic Development Alliance
   Lincoln County Economic Development (15 minutes)
   Paul explained in detail what EDALC does in the community. They're involved in multiple facets of the community, colleges and community. Paul also had an extensive list of events that they are both participating in and hosting. A full list of events is posted on their website.

9. **INFORMATION** – Len Tumbarello, Maritime Program Coordinator
   Check presentation to Newport Fisherman's Wives (5 min)
   Len presented a check to the Newport Fisherman's Wives and the representatives from NFW explained that the funds would be used for work environment safety and lifejackets and helping move safety transportation to more accessible locations.

10. **INFORMATION** – Sam Watson, Equus
    Program Update Lincoln County (10 min)
    Sam Watson explained that he's a Talent Development Specialist and has helped several people in Newport find employment and eat on the job training to upskill their knowledge and help they become a better employee.

11. **INFORMATION** – Shaun Barrick, OED
    Oregon Employment Department Economic Update (20 minutes)
    Shaun gave a detailed presentation about the Local Economic Development statuses. In 2024, most of Oregon is stabilizing for the most part. There are jobs being added, however there are challenges across the state to fill the jobs as well as a small number of people who are continuing to lose their jobs.

12. **BOARD CHAIR REPORT** – Tony Erickson, Chair
    Tony had nothing to report.

13. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Heather DeSart, NOW Executive Director
    Heather said thank you to the President for hosting us. She also introduced the new County Commissioner Gabe Shepherd from Benton County. The next board meeting will be in Tillamook County.

14. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS** – Roundtable

15. **SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION**
    Melissa Padgett from Tongue Point Job Corp wanted to invite the board to attend their workforce event in March.

16. **ADJOURN**
    The meeting was adjourned at 11:57 am.