MINUTES

NORTHWEST OREGON WORKS
CONSORTIUM BOARD
MEETING

April 11, 2025

Zoom

Consortium Present:
Pamela Wev, Clatsop County Commissioner; **Casey Garrett**, Columbia County Commissioner; **Casey Miller**, Lincoln County Commissioner; **Gabe Shepherd,** Benton County Commissioner; **Paul Fournier**, Tillamook County Commissioner

Staff Present:
Heather DeSart, Executive Director; **Brittney Lane**, Executive Assistant; **Aylee Rhea,** Program Director;

1. **CALL TO ORDER, CONFIRMATION OF POSTING, and ROLL CALL**
   Chair Wev called the Meeting to order at 11:05am.
   Chair 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.
   First: Casey Garret **SECOND: Gabe Shepherd** **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 Minutes.

   MOTION: Casey Garrett **SECOND: Gabe Shepherd** **MOTION CARRIED.**

5. **DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: CONSORTIUM BOARD**
   Accept Staff's recommendation to reappoint the following (two) NOW Board Members, and appointment of the following (one) NOW Board Members – The terms of these Board Members will be 04/11/2025 – May 1, 2028. Resumes and Nomination Letters for appointments are attached.
   - Ann Buchele – Title II Representative – RE-appointment
   - Eric Sherman – Rep. of Labor – RE-appointment
   - Chad Fenison – Rep. of Labor – APPOINTMENT

   During this discussion Commissioner Garrett asked if Heather could look further into whether or not NOW could have a non-union associated labor representative. Heather stated that she would talk with HECC and

other organizations to see if it's a possibility or not. He stated he was asking the question because he thinks there is a community of non-unionized construction reps that would be a good fit for the board but was unsure of the rules around board representatives.

MOTION: Casey Garrett **SECOND: Gabe Shepherd** **MOTION CARRIED.**

6. **INFORMATION –** New County Commissioner Introductions
   6..1. Gabe Shepherd – Benton County
   Commissioner Shepherd introduced himself and said that even though he's a brand new Commissioner he's excited to learn about what Local Workforce Development Boards do and how he can help the community and support everyone.
   6..2. Paul Fournier – Tillamook County
   Commissioner Fournier also did an introduction. During his introduction he invited the group on the call to go out on his boat and go crabbing while they are in town for the Board Meeting at the end of the month.

7. **CHIEF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORT** – Pamela Wev, Chair
   Pamela didn't have anything official to report.

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Heather DeSart, NOW Executive Director
   Heather reported that she was going to start making the rounds to do presentations to each of the County Commissioner Board Meetings about NOW and what the workforce development board does. She also said that she'd like to draft a HB support letter and have all the commissioners sign it. All commissioners agreed to add their signature once it was drafted and sent out via DocuSign. Heather also suggested that at the next Consortium Meeting in June that the Commissioners should vote on a Vice Chair to step in if the situation ever presents itself.
   DURING THIS PART OF THE MEETING, THE COMMISSIONERS DECIDED TO ADD A VOTING ITEM TO THE AGENDA TO VOTE FOR THE CONSORTIUM VICE CHAIR.

9. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION –**
   Accept staff's recommendation to appoint a Vice Chair for the Consortium Board.
   GABE SHEPHERD WAS NOMINATED BY HIS PEERS.
   FIRST: Paul Fournier **SECOND: Casey Garrett** **MOTION CARRIED.**

10. **CONSORTIUM MEMBER COMMENTS** – Roundtable
    During this time Commissioner Miller asked some policy questions and asked his peers about resources to use if/when he runs into have questions or concerns about how a commissioner's office runs and what everyone's experience has been being in office. Pam Wev had a lot of insight, stating she's been in the office for many, many years and it was a longer discussion about finding mentors and resources.

11. **SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION**
    No public comment was made.

12. **ADJOURN**
    Commissioner Wev adjourned the meeting at 12:15pm.
    The meeting was concluded, and the zoom call was closed and ended.