INVEST	INNOVATE	IMPACT
○ Focus on data to prioritize investments. ○ Optimize ROI through resource management. ○ Increase resources for workforce development.	○ Pursue practices & programs that can be scaled up. ○ Develop strategic partnerships. ○ Lead efforts that result in employment and advancement.	○ Mobilize opportunities that support industry sectors. ○ Foster development of career pathways. ○ Educate communities about workforce services available.

AGENDA

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Benton County Kalapuya Building

Address: 4500 SW Research Way, Corvallis, OR 97333

Zoom

Meeting ID: 874 5026 7333

Passcode: 349296

Computer: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87450267333?pwd=TaFVQaCnkHTM9VS3YG14wegdnPkxGx.1

January 23, 2026 - 10:00am – Noon

This meeting has been properly noticed and posted to the Northwest Oregon Works website for public posting in accordance with the Oregon Public Posting Laws.

This Agenda is also available at www.nworegonworks.org.

Those wishing to speak should sign the "Public Comment" sign-in sheet

A quorum of the Local Elected Officials Consortium Board may be in attendance. No actions or decisions will be taken and will be reflected in the minutes of this meeting.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, CONFIRMATION OF POSTING, and ROLL CALL**

2. **REVIEW and APPROVE AGENDA**
   Inclusion of any emergency items, or deletion of any items.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION**
   Please clearly state your name and address for the record. Each public comment will be limited to three (3) minutes at the Chair's discretion.

4. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
   - Accept Staff's recommendation to approve the Minutes of the October 24, 2025 Joint Board and Consortium Meeting Minutes.

5. **INFORMATION** – Lisa Avery, President, Linn-Benton Community College
   LBCC update (20 minutes)

6. **INFORMATION –** Christopher Jacobs, Economic Development Manager
   Economic Update (15 minutes)

7. **INFORMATION** – Shaun Barrick, Oregon Employment Department
   Benton County Update (20 minutes)

8. **INFORMATION** – Rick Reid, WCT Marine & Construction
   Information and updates (20 minutes)

9. **BOARD CHAIR REPORT** – Tony Erickson, Chair

10. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Heather DeSart, NOW Executive Director

11. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS** – Roundtable

12. **SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION**
    Please clearly state your name and address for the record. Each public comment will be limited to three (3) minutes at the Chair's discretion.

13. **ADJOURN**

Northwest Oregon Works meetings are open to the public and conform to Oregon Public Meetings Laws. A request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or other accommodations for persons with disabilities, should be made at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting to our EO officer, Jason Swain at 541-921-7270 or jasons@nworegonworks.org. TTY is available at 711 or (800) 735-2900.

MINUTES

NORTHWEST OREGON WORKS
ANNUAL JOINT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
CONSORTIUM BOARD
MEETING

October 24, 2025

John Gumm Building and Civic Center

Board:
Present:
Tony Erickson, Oregon AERO, Chair; **Eric Sherman**, IBEW Local 932; **John Hawkins**, Service Employees International Union; **Than Tussing**, Fast Lube and Oil; **Ann Buchele**, Linn-Benton Community College; **Lauren Smith**, DHS, Vocational Rehabilitation; **Linda Dugan**, Linda Dugan Insurance; **Paul Davis**, JBT Lektro; **Chad Fenison**, Local 737; **Terre Cooper,** Tillamook County Economic Development;

Excused:
Angeline Chan-Pepper, Oregon Employment Dept.; **Gabe Gurule**, Corvallis Fire Department; **Greg Morill,** Bergson Construction Inc.; **Todd Simmons**, Tillamook Peoples' Utility District; **Zach Poole**, Pig' n Pancake, Vice Chair/Secretary; **Carrie Norris,** Samaritan Health Service; **Heather Taksdal,** Zwald Transport Inc.; **Lisa Avery,** Linn-Benton Community College; **Whitey Forsman**, Pacific Oyster;

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

Staff:
Heather DeSart, Executive Director; **Jason Swain**, NOW CCO; **Katrina Sturgeon**, Workforce Benefit Navigator; **Logan Garner**, Youth Programs Manager; **Brittney Lane**, Office Manager; **Aylee Rhea,** Program Manager; **Kortnie Williams**, Program Coordinator; **Ferdinand Richter,** Youth Program Data Analyst

1. **CALL TO ORDER, CONFIRMATION OF POSTING, and ROLL CALL**
   Chairman Erickson called the Meeting to order at 10:05am.
   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 10:05am
   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 ONE modification. Item 4 states that there are 5 reappointments, however, there are only four. Agenda will be corrected to reflect in minutes.

BOARD MOTION: Than Tussing **SECOND: Eric Sherman** **MOTION CARRIED.**
CONSORTIUM MOTION: Casey Miller **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 (four) NOW Board Members – The terms of these Board Members will be October 31, 2025 – November 1, 2028.

a. Greg Morrill – Business Representative – Bergerson Construction
b. Heather Taksdal – Business Representative – Zwald Transportation
c. Terre Cooper – Economic Development Representative
d. John Hawkins – Labor Representative

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

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

• NOW BOARD –

- Accept Staff's recommendation to approve the Minutes of the June 27, 2025 Board meeting.
- Accept Staff's recommendation to approve adjustments made to the following policies:
- A02 Grievance Process
- A03 Incident Reporting
- P01 WIOA Adult-DW Eligibility
- P03 Equal Opportunity Non Discrimination
- P06 Monitoring
- P12 Youth Eligibility Additional Assistance
- P16 Records Retention
- P20 Basic Skills Deficient
- P25 Personal Identifiable Information

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

• CONSORTIUM BOARD –

- Accept Staff's recommendation to approve the Minutes of the June 30, 2025 Consortium Meeting.

MOTION: Paul Fournier **SECOND: Gabe Shepherd** **MOTION CARRIED.**

6. **DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION: NOW BOARD THEN CONSORTIUM BOARD –** Jason Swain, NOW CFO

Accept the Staff's recommendation to approve the finalized Annual Budget.

Jason reviewed the budget and all changes, no questions were asked, vote was asked for.

NOW Board

MOTION: Ann Buchele **SECOND: Paul Davis** **MOTION CARRIED.**

Consortium Board

MOTION: Casey Garrett **SECOND: Pamela Wev** **MOTION CARRIED.**

7. **INFORMATION** – Vero Reeves, Internship Coordinator, PCC Oregon Manufacturing and Innovation Center
   OMIC Updates
   Ms. Reeves gave a detailed overview of the many internships that are happening over at the OMIC center. She also talked about long term plans and goals that OMIC and the internship/apprenticeship program has.

8. **INFORMATION** – Paul Vogel, Executive Director, Columbia Economic Team
   Mr. Vogel talked about the economic team in Columbia County as well as how the county's economic development is going overall.

9. **INFORMATION** – Shaun Barrick, Economist, OED
   Oregon Employment Department Economic Update
   Mr. Barrick gave an economic and employment update on all of NOW's regions with a focus on Columbia County. At the end of the presentation Mr. Barrick answered a handful of questions from both the board and consortium as well as public.

10. **INFORMATION** – Mike Barter, Talend Development Specialist, Equus
    Mr. Barter gave a presentation about the Youth Development and the program that Equus is working to help the youth of the community to find employment and get on the job training. There was a student participant at the meeting who shared their story and the story of how Equus has helped them.

11. **INFORMATION** – Sandra Huitt, Operations Manager, Equus
    Ms. Huitt spoke about being the new One Stop Operator and what a One Stop Operator does. She also explained how Equus was going to continue to bring each of the centers together and create a cohesive plan to make sure that each center and participant is represented and taken care of appropriately.

12. **BOARD CHAIR REPORT** – Tony Erickson, Chair
    Mr. Erickson thanked the Board and Consortium for all meeting together in Columbia County. He also expressed thanks to everyone being patient and kind about his medical conditions.

13. **CHIEF LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIAL REPORT** – Commissioner Wev
    Commissioner Wev talked about the Working Together Conference and expressed with great enthusiasm that anyone that can make the trip should make the trip to next year's conference. She stated how much impact it has on what the Board does and how it helps bring people together for the greater good of our communities.

14. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT –** Heather DeSart, NOW Executive Director
    Ms. DeSart made a short report about agreeing with Commissioner Wev about the Working Together Conference. She also thanked everyone for coming and expressed that the next board meeting is going to be in January in Benton County, OR.

15. BOARD ROUNDTABLE

No comment was made at this time.

16. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

No comment was made at this time.

17. ADJOURN

Chairman Erickson adjourned the meeting at 12:01pm.
Commissioner Wev adjourned the meeting at 12:02pm.
The meeting was concluded, and the zoom call was closed and ended.