MINUTES

NORTHWEST OREGON WORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING

April 24, 2026

Oregon Coast Community College
Newport Campus
Zoom

Present:

Board:
Tony Erickson, Oregon AERO, Chair; **Corey Habiger**, Oregon Employment Dept.; **Eric Sherman**, IBEW Local 932; **John Hawkins**, Service Employees International Union; **Chad Fenison**, Local 737; **Linda Dugan**, Linda Dugan Insurance; **Lisa Avery,** Linn-Benton Community College; **Than Tussing**, Fast Lube and Oil; **Terre Cooper,** Tillamook County Economic Development; **Greg Morill,** Bergson Construction Inc.; **Remington Augustine,** WCT Marine;

Excused: Gabe Gurule, Corvallis Fire Department; **Zach Poole**, Pig' n Pancake, Vice Chair/Secretary; **Todd Simmons**, Tillamook Peoples' Utility District; **Carrie Norris,** Samaritan Health Service; **Ann Buchele**, Linn-Benton Community College; **Heather Taksdal,** Zwald Transport Inc.; **Lauren Smith**, DHS, Vocational Rehabilitation; **Paul Davis**, JBT Lektro;

Consortium Guests:
Pamela Wev, Clatsop County Commissioner; **Casey Miller,** Lincoln County Commissioner; **Gabe Shepherd**, Benton County Commissioner;

Staff Present:
Jason Swain, NOW CFO; **Katrina Sturgeon**, Workforce and Community Development Manager; **Logan Garner**, Youth Programs Manager; **Brittney Lane**, Office Manager; **Kortnie Williams**, Behavioral Health Program Manager; **Ferdinand Richter**, Youth Program Data Manager; **Niki Price,** Program Director

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.

2. **REVIEW and APPROVE AGENDA**
   Chairman Erickson asked if there were any deletions or inclusions of any items into the agenda. Ms. Lane responded to the chairman and explained that Breanna Henderson would not be able to present today due to having the flu. Ms. Henderson will be offered the chance to present at the next board meeting in Tillamook. Other than this one deletion, there were no other changes made to the agenda.
   MOTION: Eric Sherman SECOND: John Hawkins MOTION CARRIED.

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

4. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
   Accept Staff's recommendation to approve the Minutes of the January 23, 2026 Board Meeting Minutes.
   Commissioner Shepherd spoke up and stated that he was in attendance of the January board meeting but that the minutes didn't reflect his attendance. The minutes will be corrected and posted to the NOW Website.
   FIRST: Eric Sherman SECOND: John Hawkins MOTION CARRIED.

5. **INFORMATION** DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION
   Nominate & Elect Board Officers (accept nominations and appoint with a majority vote)
   - Treasurer

   Chairman Erickson made the announcement that the Northwest Oregon Works Board of Directors needs a Treasurer. An email was sent out to the entire Board recently asking for nominations for the position. Todd Simmons' name was entered in for a nomination. With no other nominations being submitted, Todd was appointed the new Treasurer of the board. The directory on the website will be updated to reflect the new appointment.
   FIRST: Eric Sherman SECOND: John Hawkins MOTION CARRIED.

6. **INFORMATION** – Jason Swain, Chief Financial Officer, Northwest Oregon Works
   HECC Monitoring Report for Northwest Oregon Works and response
   Jason Swain presented the HECC Monitoring Report and explained overall that while we did have some findings, they are all capable of being resolved. It was explained that Northwest Oregon Works has been given a direct timeline and steps to resolve the findings and that all precautions are being taken to prevent any further findings.

7. **INFORMATION** – Marshall Roache, President, Oregon Coast Community College
   OCCC Update

8. **INFORMATION** – Paul Schuytema, Executive Director, Economic Development Alliance of Lincoln County
   Economic Update

9. **INFORMATION** – Shaun Barrick and Brittany Hjelte, Oregon Employment Department
   Lincoln County and Regional Update

10. **BOARD CHAIR REPORT** – Tony Erickson, Chair
    Chairman Erickson made a thank you to Marshall Roache and to Oregon Coast Community College for hosting the board meeting. He also asked the Board to please excuse Heather DeSart's absence from the Board Meeting and thanked Jason for taking over in her absence.

11. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Jason Swain, Chief Financial Officer, Northwest Oregon Works
    Jason also said thank you to OCCC and Marshall Roache. The next board meeting will be in Tillamook, location yet to be determined, on June 26, 2026. Jason introduced Niki Price, NOW's new Program Director. Niki spent a couple of minutes introducing herself and her background and said that she was excited to be a part of NOW and the work that the Board does.

12. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS** – Roundtable
    Eric Sherman made a comment about the transition between HECC and OED and stated that he thinks it imperative that the board do everything it can to make sure that our regions are represented and that our structure is kept the way that it is. Commissioner Wev spoke up as well and talked about the state of Astoria and that there are improvements happening to bring more attraction to Clatsop County and she's excited for the next time that our Board is in that region.

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

14. **ADJOURN**
    The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 am.