MINUTES

NORTHWEST OREGON WORKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING

June 26, 2026

Tillamook People's Utility District
Zoom

Board Present:
Tony Erickson, Oregon AERO, Chair; **Corey Habiger**, Oregon Employment Dept.; **Eric Sherman**, IBEW Local 932; **John Hawkins**, Service Employees International Union; **Linda Dugan**, Linda Dugan Insurance; **Than Tussing**, Fast Lube and Oil; **Greg Morill,** Bergson Construction Inc.; **Remington Augustine,** WCT Marine; **Todd Simmons**, Tillamook Peoples' Utility District; **Carrie Norris,** Samaritan Health Ser vice; **Ann Buchele**, Linn-Benton Community College; **Lauren Smith**, DHS, Vocational Rehabilitation; **Paul Davis**, JBT Lektro;

Excused:
Chad Fenison, Local 737; **Gabe Gurule**, Corvallis Fire Department; **Heather Taksdal,** Zwald Transport Inc.; **Lisa Avery,** Linn-Benton Community College; **Terre Cooper,** Tillamook County Economic Development; **Zach Poole**, Pig' n Pancake, Vice Chair/Secretary;

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

Staff Present:
Heather DeSart, Executive Director; **Jason Swain**, Chief Financial Officer; **Niki Price,** Program Director; **Katrina Sturgeon**, Workforce and Community Development Manager; **Aylee Rhea,** Program Director; **Logan Garner**, Youth Programs Manager; **Brittney Lane**, Office Manager; **Kortnie Williams**, Behavioral Health Program Manager; **Ferdinand Richter**, Youth Program Data Manager;

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**
   No changes were made to the agenda.
   MOTION: Paul Davis **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 April 24, 2026, Board Meeting.
   Board minutes are accepted and approved as is, no changes needed.
   MOTION: Eric Sherman SECOND: John Hawkins MOTION CARRIED.

5. **DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION**
   Accept Staff's recommendation to approve the new and revised to the following policies:
   P06 Monitoring
   P26 SAEF3 Participant Eligibility
   After discussion, the board accepted both policies as is with no changes to be made.
   MOTION: Carrie Norris SECOND: Erick Sherman MOTION CARRIED.

6. **DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION** – Jason Swain, Chief Financial Officer, Northwest Oregon Works
   Review and approve PY26-27 forecasted annual budget.
   After questions and discussion, the board accepted the forecasted budget as it is written.
   MOTION: Eric Sherman SECOND: Paul Davis MOTION CARRIED.

7. **INFORMATION** – Breanna Henderson, Owner, Sea-Bre's Premium Seafood
   Business Presentation

8. **INFORMATION** – Rebecca Donley, Hospitality Sector Strategist, Oregon Restaurant & Lodging Association
   Hospitality Update

9. **INFORMATION** – Shaun Barrick and Brittany Hjelte, Oregon Employment Department
   Oregon Employment Department Economic Update

10. **BOARD CHAIR REPORT** – Tony Erickson, Chair
    Chairman Erickson made a thank you to Todd Simmons and TPUD for hosting the board meeting.

11. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – Heather DeSart, Executive Director, Northwest Oregon Works
    Heather also thanked Todd Simmons and TPUD. She explained that NOW had a staff retreat the day before and spend the day at TPUD as well and that it was a great experience. The next announcement she made was that it was the last Board Meeting that Aylee Rhea and Ferdinand Richter would be attending. Their last day as employees of NOW is June 30th and everyone will miss them. Tina Berry was introduced as Diana Nish's replacement for Equus' leadership.

12. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS** – Roundtable
    Eric Sherman made a comment about the Blue Economy Task Force and asked the board to consider applying or sending the application to anyone who they thought would be a good fit.

13. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION

No public comment was made.

14. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.