



MINUTES

NORTHWEST OREGON WORKS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

April 24, 2020 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Zoom Call

Present:

Board: **Tony Erickson**, Oregon AERO, Chair; **Bryan Campbell**, DHS, VocRehab; **John Hawkins**, Service Employees International Union; **Rod Belisle**, NECA-IBEW Electrical Training Center; **Terre Cooper**, Tillamook County Economic Development; **Linda Dugan**, Linda Dugan Insurance, Treasurer; **Todd Simmons**, Tillamook Peoples' Utility District; **Birgitte Ryslinge**, Oregon Coast Community College; **Heather Clark**, Alterations by Heather; **Cami Aufdermauer**, Tillamook County Habitat for Humanity; **Stephanie Hurliman**, Oregon Employment Dept.; **Whitey Forsman**, Pacific Oyster; **Zach Poole**, Pig' n Pancake, Vice Chair/Secretary; **Josh Kvidt**, Alyrica; **Ivan Castille**, Laborers Local 737; **Ann Buchele**, Linn-Benton Community College;

Consortium: **Doug Hunt**, Lincoln County Commissioner; **Pamela Wev**, Clatsop County Commissioner; **Pat Malone**, Benton County Commissioner

Excused: **Henry Balensifer III**, LEKTRO; **Amanda Morris**, Samaritan Health Service;

Staff: **Heather DeSart**, NOW Executive Director; **Debra Smith**, NOW Program Manager; **Jason Swain**, NOW CFO; **Emily Schwartz**, NOW Office Manager

Guests: **Shawna Sykes**, Oregon Employment Department; **Erik Knoder** Oregon Employment Department; **Camille Padilla**, ResCare, Call-in; **Diana Nish**, ResCare; **Angeline Chan-Pepper**, ResCare; **Caren Lindahl**, ResCare; **Matthew Sneed**, ResCare; **Ross Tomlin**, Tillamook Bay Community College; **Jennifer Purcell**, Regional Solutions Coordinator; **Sarah Means**, Regional Solutions Coordinator; **Paul Vogel**, Interim Executive Director for Columbia County Economic Development

1. CALL TO ORDER, CONFIRMATION OF POSTING, AND ROLL CALL

Chairman Erickson called the Meeting to order at 10:02 am.

Chairman Erickson asked for confirmation of the public posting of the meeting; Emily Schwartz confirmed; Roll Call taken, and Quorum established.



2. AGENDA REVIEW

(Inclusion of any emergency items, or deletion of any items)

Inclusion of item 6, Reopening Oregon presentation.

MOTION: John Hawkins SECOND: Linda Dugan MOTION CARRIED.

3. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION

There were no comments from the public.

4. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

Approve Minutes of the January 24, 2020 Board Meeting.

MOTION: John Hawkins SECOND: Linda Dugan MOTION CARRIED.

5. DISCUSSION and POSSIBLE ACTION

Accept Staff’s recommendation to approve PY2019-20 Budget to Actual – Linda Dugan, NOW Board Treasurer

Mr. Swain explained that this budget to actual was through the third quarter end. Ms. Dugan asked staff if SYEP/YEP funds were going to be sent back. Ms. DeSart explained that there were issues with the parameters of the grant, making it difficult to spend the funds. Ms. Padilla explained that there was an extension on the grant, allowing them to try to spend the funds by the end of December 2020. Mr. Belisle asked if there was a way for the funds to be restructured so they were easier to spend. Commissioner Hunt stated that if staff would put together a narrative, he and Mr. Belisle would advocate for the funds to be more flexible at the state level. Commissioner Wev asked what the percentages for each county meant and Mr. Swain explained that of the total funds spent, those percentages reflected how much was spent in each county.

MOTION: Rod Belisle SECOND: John Hawkins MOTION CARRIED.

6. INFORMATION

Reopening Oregon – Jennifer Purcell and Sarah Means, Regional Solutions Coordinators, Office of Governor Kate Brown

Ms. Purcell presented on the Reopening Oregon plan. Commissioner Hunt asked about the regionalization of the reopening plan and expressed concerns with the coastal counties in particular. Ms. Purcell said that it will be the counties themselves that



decide when they feel they can open, and it will be a case-by-case approval. She also said that Lincoln, Tillamook, and Clatsop Counties were working closely together on this.

7. INFORMATION

Program Report – Debra Smith, NOW Program Manager

Ms. Smith presented on the current layoff aversion strategies while under the Governor’s executive orders of social distancing.

Commissioner Wev asked if the ORRATS system was accessible to everyone. Ms. Smith explained that it was not.

8. INFORMATION

ResCare Program Update – Camille Padilla, Diana Nish, and Angeline Chan-Pepper

Ms. Padilla explained that as part of the current rapid response process, the team connects with employers and employees through Zoom and passes on the recordings to those who are unable to attend. She explained that ResCare was still providing services, and even with COVID-19, they were still enrolling participants in the programs.

Ms. Dugan asked if there would be an issue getting people on unemployment insurance back to work because a lot of them are making more on UI than they were making while working. Ms. Hurliman stated that could be a potential problem.

9. INFORMATION

Oregon Employment Department Economic Update – Erik Knoder and Shawna Sykes, OED

The presentation focused on unemployment claims in the boards local area. Ms. Sykes explained that OED had needed to increase staff to help file unemployment claims. Mr. Knoder mentioned that they won’t be receiving April data until the end of May, and that data most likely will not be accurate based on the samples they get back from businesses.

10. INFORMATION

The State of Economic Development in Tillamook County – Terre Cooper, Tillamook County Economic Development

Ms. Cooper explained that a lot has changed with economic development for the foreseeable future due to COVID 19, and that most time is spent connecting with partners and the northwest recovery team to coordinate recovery solutions.



11. INFORMATION

The State of Tillamook Bay Community College – Ross Tomlin, TBCC President

Mr. Tomlin presented on what the college is currently doing, and what the college is planning for the coming years. Mr. Tomlin explained that the college was needing to expand to another building due to increased enrollment.

12. BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Chairman Erickson explained that the company he works for was approached fairly early in the COVID-19 response to help sew PPE, along with a few other companies.

13. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. DeSart presented on the Layoff Aversion funds that the board received and distributed to local businesses. Ms. DeSart explained that there was more funding coming to the state and that she has expressed to the governor that the boards local area needs more funds.

Commissioner Malone asked about the application process for the layoff aversion funds and Ms. DeSart explained that the Commissioners, chambers, SBDC centers, and economic development teams were essential in getting the word out to their communities.

14. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Commissioner Hunt updated the board on the outcome of the joint Commissioner's meeting with SOWIB and explained that for the time being, there wasn't a unanimous decision to continue discussions of joining the two boards.

Ms. DeSart let the board know that NOW have received 91K to go towards the new maritime coordinator.

15. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION

There were no comments from the public.

16. ADJOURN

Chair Erickson adjourned the meeting at 12:13 p.m.