



COWC Meeting September 29, 2015

Location: Klamath Falls, OR KCC Campus immediately following ECWIB Meeting

Attending: Alan Unger (CLEO), Mike McCabe, Dan Shoun, Jim Bellet, Chip Massie, Wally Corwin, Andrew Spreadborough, Mike Kennedy, Liz Casey

****NO QUORUM REACHED****

The group discussed how to have a full meeting, given that all Commissioners/Judges are very busy. It was determined that meeting at the AOC November Meeting in Eugene would have the best chance of meeting a quorum. Liz will make plans and notify all.

- I. The Partnership Agreement was passed around to the group (as well as emailed to all members and posted on Basecamp) to see if there were any questions or concerns.-none
- II. Judge McCabe asked how the ECWIB Executive Director search was going-he also wanted to go on the record as saying he is impressed with Chip Massie and the ECWIB staff laying the foundations of this new local board.
 - Liz let the group know of the Executive Director posting closing on Sept. 30 and the ECWIB officers as well as Mike Kennedy, Karen Litvin, Karen Hummelbaugh will review and rate all applicants and then decide which candidates to move forward on.
- III. Commissioner Shoun asked for clarity on County Liabilities under the new ECWIB Board; states he appreciates the board volunteering but has concerns about counties being protected from financial liabilities.
 - Liz spoke to the group and assured ECWIB has both D & O and Board Liability Insurance in place in excess of \$2 million and in addition, Providers are required to have the same amounts of liability in place. This is also spoken to in the Partnership Agreement that 1st liability is the providers, second is the Board D & O, only 3rd is the counties, and only after all legal means are exhausted in the first 2.
 - Mike McCabe asked who has the oversight now of the Board and staff. Currently, it is the ECWIB officers and Liz confers with them directly; it will be the Executive Director.
- IV. Commissioner Shoun also wanted the group to know Lake County is very happy with the level of service that COIC is providing there, especially around youth. He asked that there be input from counties on what is needed and wanted. He stated for them, the alternative school and work crews, workforce development and true training is working. Commissioners need to be connected to the decision making process.



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- V. Commissioner Unger reminded the group that COIC is the service provider in many different streams/grants (over \$14 million total budget of which WIOA is only +/- \$2 million). Under the new WIOA law, we need to recognize that other systems are being asked to participate and combine their funds in some capacity (DHS, VR, Employment, 1B). He asked who is going to get/manage that money.
- Liz let the group know that funds between partners would stay separate but that integration and colocation will free up more funds for client training amongst all mandatory partners.
- VI. Wally Corwin reminded the group that we-as a board- need to get through this year, establish skilled staff, policies and organizational foundations. It is the tenor of the Partnership Agreement that Board Members will be in communication with County Commissioners.
- VII. Alan Unger- what does the TOCOWA close-out mean to providers? Will the providers ever get “carry in”?
- Liz let the group know that some of the funds given back to TOCOWA are just now coming back to ECWIB, much of it having specific labels such as Woodgrain NEG, DWT NEG, JD NEG, and is expected to go back out to the field. Wally stated it was never discussed at the board to “keep” the returned funds. The intent was that, when the funds come in, it will be put to work on the ground. We still have no clear picture of what amounts and restrictions there will be to the money.
- VIII. D.Shoun-local control was prioritized at the outset of dismantling TOCOWA and it was the reason he voted in favor of break-up – to bring local control back to our region; states we are working well but where is the state on its promises?
- Chip Massie states he is not sure yet where the state will land on OWIB Strategic Plan or where the ECWIB will fall into that, but training \$ will definitely increase. We were and are conservative with the budget. How do we get more \$ on the ground for trainings while still working withing the rules. We must be agents for change. Wally Corwin-the admin. budget this year will be underspent while staffing costs are lower.
- IX. Andrew Spreadborough stated he likes the direction the ECWIB is going however, in the short term, this change has brought profound budget challenges. Physical locations of staff is expensive and is an opportunity for cost cutting, but that potentially means less services in outlying areas. COIC is laying the foundation now for next year’s budget and must discuss with ECWIB and counties possibility of closing some rural offices.



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- X. Liz clarified to the group that, although the WIOA allocations actually went down, the Governor authorized release of “rainy day” reserves of \$6 million to get back to last year’s totals. NFA letters from HECC/CCWD to further define additional funds from TOCOWA dissolution.
- XI. The question was asked to the commissioners, “What do you want to see the ECWIB and staff do to ACT?” Some items suggested by the group:
- Executive Director and ECWIB Chair always have relationship with COWC and COWC can support and work with ECWIB ED “out in the field”
 - Monthly or quarterly reports would be nice
 - Priority around Business to be engaged in the process of Youth development
 - All have “skin in the game”
 - Priority around Youth and Collaborate with K-12, alt schools, community colleges, workforce training to skill up and engage young people as the pipeline for economic vitality in our Local Workforce Area