



workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

WSW Board Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2020

4:00 p.m.

Lower Columbia College, Student Center Conference Rooms STC120
Longview, WA

Board Members Present: Mike Backman, Ben Bagherpour, Chris Bailey, Jen Baker, Bob Carroll, Ralph Clark, Monte Constable, Kelley Foy, Bob Gustainis, Scott Haas, Ilona Kerby, Jim Lucey, A.D. Simmons, Ted Sprague, Denise Smith, Paige Spratt, Shannon Stull, and John Vanderkin.

Board Members with Excused Absences: Darcy Altizer, Bill Skidmore, Renny Christopher, Diane McWithey, Mike Bridges, Robert Gaffney, Mara Kieval, and Eddie Martin.

Board Members with Unexcused Absences: Bob Jungers

Guests Present: Kayce Coftus, Dayna Gohn, Rhianna Johnson, Sharon Pesut, Michele Mulhern, and Matt Sneed.

Staff Members Present: Kevin Perkey, Melissa Boles, Narek Daniyelyan, Darcy Hoffman, Barri Horner, Alyssa Joyner, Kari Kollander, Amy Gimlin, Julia Maglione, Miriam Halliday, and Benton Waterous.

Welcome, Introduction of Members, Guests, and Staff

Vice Chair Paige Spratt opened the meeting at 4:02 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Members, guests, and staff introduced themselves.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice Chair Spratt entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, consisting of the minutes from the Council meeting held on December 11, 2019, Contract Memo, Policy Memo, Title I Youth RFP Recommendations. Upon the motion duly made and seconded and with no discussion forthcoming, the Consent Agenda was approved with all in favor.

Jim Lucey, outgoing WSW Treasurer was recognized for his outstanding dedication of service on the board. Mr. Perkey and the full board wished him well in retirement.

WSW GOVERNANCE

Board Member Elections: Following introductions by Michele Mulhern, DVR, a motion was entertained to approve Michele Mulhern for Council terms beginning on March 11, 2020 through June 30, 2023. Upon the motion duly made and seconded and with no discussion forthcoming, the motion carried with all in favor.

Mr. Perkey shared with the Board, updated board roles and will be rolling out a new job description that stemmed from the work that was accomplished during December board Governance Workshop. Mr. Perkey also gave an updated on the three open seats on the board, one Clark Private Sector, one Cowlitz

Private Sector, and one Economic Development/Educational Sector. Questions were entertained and addressed by A.D. Simmons, Ralph Clark, and Mr. Perkey.

CEO REPORT

Mr. Perkey highlighted some actions being taken to reach the goals of the People, Systems, Funding, and Business portion of the new strategic plan. He touched on the three new committees that will be formed, People Committee led by Ms. Halliday; Business Committee led by Ms. Hoffman; and System Committee led by Mr. Daniyelyan. He also mentioned that Board member Kelley Foy will Chair the new Strategic Plan Task Force and will be reaching out to other board members in April. Mr. Perkey reminded the full Board that October 15-16th will be the WSW Bi-annual board retreat, held again at Kalama McMenamins with focus on the evaluation of our Strategic Plan for the next five years. Questions were entertained and addressed by Mr. Perkey.

THRIVE – INVESTING in ECONOMIC MOBILITY in COWLITZ COUNTY

Program Manager Melissa Boles presented to the full Board, an overview of WSW's THRIVE initiative which will help create a pathway of economic mobility in SW Washington and potentially throughout Washington state. Ms. Boles stated that the goal for THRIVE is decreasing 10% of households that are living below 200% FPL. Ms. Boles also shared that the four main components that will be focused on is childcare, outreach and recruitment, enhance in capacity, and structural change.

Director of Business Services Darcy Hoffman and Senior Project Manager Alyssa Joyner presented to the full Board the employee retention program for companies and how this model is starting to take shape. Ms. Hoffman also shared how LaunchPad is helping collect data to help with employee retention and understanding what barriers are present. Ms. Joyner shared some quick wins that the work retention coaches have been successful providing with some Cowlitz County business and employees through THRIVE. Ms. Joyner also presented the THRIVE employer network and what the businesses have been up to.

Mr. Perkey hosted a panel discussion with our employee and on the ground partners with THRIVE Dayna Gohn, Swanson Bark; Ralph Clark, Cowlitz Container & Die Cutting; Ilona Kerby, Lower Columbia CAP; and Monte Constable, DSHS. Questions were entertained and addressed by Mr. Perkey, and the THRIVE partners during the presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments were invited but none were forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further for the good of the order, Vice Chair Spratt adjourned the meeting at 5:41 p.m.