



workforce
SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

WSW Board Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2020

4:00 p.m.

Zoom Conference Call

Board Members Present: Darcy Altizer, Mike Backman, Chris Bailey, Jen Baker, Bob Carroll, Renny Christopher, Ralph Clark, Monte Constable, Kelley Foy, Bob Gustainis, Scott Haas, Ilona Kerby, Mara Kieval, Eddie Martin, Diane McWithey, Michele Mulhern, A.D. Simmons, Denise Smith, Ted Sprague, Shannon Stull, and John Vanderkin.

Board Members with Excused Absences: Ben Bagherpour, Robert Gaffney, and Paige Spratt.

Board Members with Unexcused Absences: Mike Bridges and Bob Jungers.

Guests Present: Matt Sneed, Rhianna Johnson, Kelly Dawson, and Joseph Hennessey.

Staff Members Present: Kevin Perkey, Linda Czech, Narek Daniyelyan, Denise Elliott, Amy Gimlin, Darcy Hoffman, Barri Horner, Alyssa Joyner, Kari Kollander, Julia Maglione, Miriam Martin, Sean Moore, Benton Waterous, and Traci Williams.

Welcome, Introduction of Members, Guests, and Staff

Interim Vice Chair Kelley Foy opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance. Members, guests, and staff introduced themselves.

CONSENT AGENDA

Interim Vice Chair Foy entertained a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, consisting of the minutes from the Council meeting held on March 11, 2020, Contract Memo, Policy Memos, submitting WSW's Local Plan the State Workforce Training & Education Coordinating Board for approval and the WorkSource Certification Memo. Upon the motion duly made and seconded and with no discussion forthcoming, the Consent Agenda was approved with all in favor.

BOARD BUSINESS

Officer Elections: A motion was entertained to elect the following officers to serve in their respective positions for two-year officer terms beginning July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020: Paige Spratt of Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt, Chair; Kelley Foy of LifePort, Vice Chair; and Renny Christopher of Washington State University Vancouver, Treasurer.

Upon the motion duly made and seconded and with no discussion forthcoming, the motion carried with all in favor.

Term Extension Elections: A motion was entertained to approve the renewal of three-year Council member terms for Paige Spratt, Schwabe, Williamson & Wyatt; Bob Carroll, IBEW 48; and Kelley Foy, LifePort. Mr. Clark and Ms. Simmons updated the full board that Robert Gaffney and Denise Smith had

WSW Board of Directors Meeting

June 10, 2020

Page | 1

decided to not renew their seats on the board. Upon approval of the nominations, these board members will serve from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023.

Board Recruitment:

Ms. Simmons shared with the Board that there are several open seats that the Governance Task Force will be actively recruiting for over the next several months. Currently WSW has 4 private sector Clark County, 1 private sector Cowlitz County and 1 Community Partner seat open. The Governance Task Force is finalizing a matrix to evaluate potential candidates and will be communicating with the full Board shortly to help identify potential candidates.

Ms. Simmons also informed the full Board that the Executive Board has unanimously voted to add Ralph Clark, private sector Cowlitz, to the WSW Executive Board. Ralph has, in a very short period, been a very active and engaged Board Member for WSW, representing the voice of small business in Cowlitz County and co-leading with her on the Governance Task Force.

FISCAL REPORT

Treasurer Renny Christopher recapped the essentials of the proposed PY20 budget, including all operational costs and special projects.

Following the presentation, questions were invited and addressed by Ms. Christopher and Mr. Perkey. A motion was entertained to adopt the PY20 budget as presented, with the caveat that any subsequent changes along with the expected mid-year budget revision will be brought before the Council for a vote before implementation.

A motion was entertained to adopt the PY20 budget as presented. Upon the motion duly made and seconded and with no discussion forthcoming, the motion carried with all in favor.

REOPENING, RECOVERY, REINVESTING

Mr. Perkey invited the directors to highlight some things that their teams have been working on since working remotely. Miriam Halliday, Director of programs noted that the last couple of months they have been working on transferring all existing programs to be accessible virtually to the community. Ms. Halliday also stated that the Thrive Initiative is still going strong and expanded eligibility to be more accessible to more individuals in South Kelso and the Highlands neighborhood. SummerWorks is continuing forward with all virtual internships and virtual workforce preparation for up to 70 young adults graduating high school this year. Internship placements will be focused on nonprofit capacity building across the region, as well as supporting organizations and businesses with projects and work that they need a continued focus on.

Julia Maglione, Director of Communications updated the Board that WSW's website and our local WorkSource website www.WorkSourceSWWA.com are routinely updated to provide new resources and information to businesses and individuals impacted by COVID-19. Recent updates include childcare and domestic violence resources and a map of free Wi-Fi locations. Accessibility tools on all three of WSW's websites (WSW, WorkSource SW WA and Next) have been expanded to provide greater access to individuals with disabilities. Ms. Maglione also noted that Our "Workforce System Response to COVID-19" reports to the community on what's happening and how WSW and its partners are supporting businesses and individuals impacted by the crisis have been well received and will continue for the foreseeable future. WSW expanded the reports to include industry unemployment data and have reported on construction and healthcare so far.

Narek Danilyelyan, Director of Strategic Initiatives touched on that through partnerships with Edge Networks, The Community Foundation of SW WA, WSU Extension, Wahkiakum School District, and Lower Columbia Community Action Program, we purchased and distributed 30 Google Chromebooks to families in need of technology resources. While only addressing a fraction of the immense needs of the community, these Chromebooks will allow the recipients to stay connected to the workforce and education during these challenging times. Mr. Danilyelyan also shared that through a partnership with Comcast, WSW purchased 6-months of free high-speed internet for up to 200 families. Along with working with our network of partners to identify families in need and get them connected to this resource as soon as possible. WSW is in the final stages of executing a contract with Wahkiakum County Health and Human Services for Job Seeker Outreach and Recruitment in Wahkiakum County. This contract will enable a consistent workforce presence in Wahkiakum County.

Darcy Hoffman, Director of Business Services updated the Board that the business team has spent the past 11 weeks fielding calls from businesses regarding unemployment insurance programs and SBA lending, providing advice and best practices for each unique business situation. Overall, the business team has consulted directly with about 60 companies, many needing multiple sessions to pick their best path forward. Additionally, the business team has provided information to broad business audiences through various town hall virtual meetings over the past three months. The industries largely mirror those that our state is reporting as experiencing the greatest impacts in terms of layoffs: Manufacturing, Construction, Healthcare, Accommodation and Food Services, and Other Services.

Amy Gimlin, Chief Operating Officer introduced the Fiscal Team's new hire Denise Elliott, Staff Accountant II. Ms. Gimlin also shared with the Board that WSW reposted the IT RFP and revised the requirements to include remote work experience and cloud storage. WSW is also working on a plan to reopen our office in a phased approach. Also, the monitoring of our subrecipients is starting back up from being put on hold during the COVID break out. WSW will be conducting all the reviews (program and fiscal) remotely.

Questions were entertained and addressed by Mr. Perkey and the Directors.

Vice Chair Foy also noted that the Executive Board is evaluating what a Fall Strategic Planning retreat might now look like for the full Board. It's highly unlikely this will be in person; however we do want to take time to engage and continue the conversation around how we as a regional Workforce Development Board continue evolve given the world we now find ourselves living in. More information will be given out to the Board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments were invited but none were forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further for the good of the order, Vice Chair Foy adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.