

Board Meeting Minutes **DRAFT**

Monday, October 5, 2026

2 PM. PT /3 PM. MT

Members in attendance to the call:

X	Quinn Anderson, Umpqua Bank		Jeff Gritz, Oregon & Southern Idaho.
	Maisie Taylor, Blue Mountain Hospital	X	Brian Lemke, NW Carpenters Union
X	Bill Wyllie, Chester's Thriftway		Mike Aldritt, AFL-CIO
	Martha Corrigan, Symmetry Care		VACANT, CBO
X	Riley Hill, Greystone Builders LLC		Dana Young, TVCC
X	Alana Carollo, Eastern Oregon Visitors Association	X	Mark Browning, BMCC
X	Kelly Morgan, Lamb Weston	X	Tory Stinnett, GEOEDC
X	Joanna Larson, Northwest Beef Express		Matt Wilson, OED (Ex-Officio)
X	Susie Cederholm, Chair CHD Inc.		Kathy Cook, ODHS-VR
	Wallowa County Business VACANT		

*>9=quorum (51%), >4= (B)(25%)

Also in attendance: Josh Hall - Trade Act, State Workforce Labor Liaison, and Patty Dorroh - CLEO

EOWB Staff: Leif Ryman, Kasi Cooper

1. Meeting called to order at 2:02pm by Susie Cederholm

- Quorum established

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve: Brian Lemke

Second: Kelly Morgan

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes 06/17/26

Motion to approve: Brian Lemke

Second: Riley Hill
Abstain: Alana Carollo

Questions on Minutes:

- Brian Lemke: Find 7 of the Budget modification reviews, the last item, last bullet point. The board discussed whether any unspent funds would need to be returned. What's the status of that? And is there remaining balance that's going to be carried forward?
- Leif Ryman: We did a great job of spending in partnership with TEC all the WIOA funds. We had a little bit unspent with the America Rescue Act plan, the ARPA contract.
- Brian: concerns with BTI and the Conservation Corps, is there still concerns with BTI or have we worked through those issues?
- Leif: it does look like they have a plan for this year. I'm just going to work with them on better communication and see if we can iron this out. We did not get anything billed for the prior fiscal year. [plans to work out this plan in next 6 months]

5. Alana Carollo welcomed to the Board

6. Changes to the business of the Board of Directors presented by Leif Ryman

Oregon's Public Meetings Law appropriately requires Board deliberation and decisions to occur in open meetings. Because we cannot rely on email voting to handle routine decisions between meetings, we should make sure the items requiring Board action are genuinely governance-level decisions rather than administrative matters that can appropriately be delegated to staff.

199-050-0055

Public Vote Requirements

- (1) All official actions of a governing bodies shall be taken by public vote.
- (2) Results of all votes shall be recorded, including the vote of each individual governing body member by name. For public bodies with more than 25 members, the individual votes do not need to be recorded unless one member makes such a request.
- (3) Secret ballots are prohibited.
- (4) If written ballots are used, the written ballot shall identify the individual governing body member by name and each governing body member's vote shall be announced during the meeting at which the vote occurred.

Statutory/Other Authority: ORS 244.290

Statutes/Other Implemented: ORS 192.610, ORS 192.650, ORS 192.660 & ORS 192.685

History: [GEC 1-2024, adopt filed 09/24/2024, effective 10/01/2024](#)

Jobs Council/CLEO = public accountability

Workforce Board = strategic governance

Executive Director/staff = administration and execution

7. Vice Chair Elections

Tory Stinnett nominated Brian Lemke as Vice Chair

Brian accepted

Voted and approved

8. Executive Director Update provided by Leif Ryman

Updates included:

- 2025-2026 Performance
- Financial and grant status
- Priority Pivot Away from Re-entry
- Monitoring
- Employer and sector initiatives
- State or federal workforce developments

Materials:

- Board Scorecard
- Performance Report

9. Board Discussion / Questions

Opportunity for Board members to raise questions, provide input, identify emerging workforce issues, or request future agenda topics.

- **Riley Hill:**
 - Highlighted the severe national and local shortage of skilled trades (specifically plumbers and electricians) and noted that local school districts, the ESD, community college, county court, and cities have endorsed starting trade programs at age 16.
 - Criticized Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) journeyman-to-apprentice ratios (e.g., 3:2 for electrical, 1:1 for plumbing) and age restrictions (requiring apprentices to be 18), arguing these "artificial rules" lock out youth and Hispanic students who want to enter the trades.
 - Noted that neighboring Idaho reformed its ratio laws (moving to 1:6 for residential electrical and 1:unlimited for plumbing) to successfully expand youth access to trade careers.
 - Pointed out that pre-apprenticeship programs do not solve the issue for plumbers and electricians because students still cannot access formal apprenticeships due to BOLI ratio caps.
 - Requested that EOWB lobby state legislators and advocate for BOLI rule changes to allow 16-year-olds access to electrical and plumbing apprenticeship programs.
- **Leif Ryman (EOWB Executive Director):**
 - Acknowledged the challenge regarding BOLI regulations and safety restrictions (such as power tool usage for under-18 youth).
 - Offered to take the trade ratio and youth access issue to the Oregon Workforce Partnership (OWP) executive directors and engage OWP's hired lobbyist to gauge legislative strategy in Salem.
 - Noted that Career and Technical Education (CTE) and incumbent worker training are rising organizational priorities for EOWB.
 - Proposed exploring creative solutions to CTE instructor shortages, such as funding a "floating instructor" to share block teaching time across multiple regional high schools.

- Announced an open call for EOWB grant funding for community-based workforce projects (running through June 2027) to support local workforce development initiatives.
- **Alana Carollo (EOVA):**
 - Inquired about how current high school CTE programs and pathways are being leveraged for trades.
 - Emphasized the unique scale of Eastern Oregon's small business economy—noting that a 7-person business in La Grande represents the proportional equivalent of a ~317-person business in Portland—and urged framing regional workforce discussions around these rural realities.
- **J. Mark Browning, Ed.D.:**
 - Supported Riley Hill's assessment, confirming similar workforce supply challenges during his previous work in Idaho, where major industrial projects (e.g., Micron) absorb local skilled trades talent.
 - Stated that past attempts to adjust trade ratios faced heavy resistance regarding labor union alignment.
 - Suggested that progress requires finding a partner on the west side of Oregon aligned with labor who can help demonstrate that lower entry barriers create more opportunities for union membership while maintaining safety boundaries.
- **Brian Lemke (Labor Representative):**
 - Clarified that electrical and plumbing trades are uniquely restricted because they are legally *licensed* trades requiring strict supervisory training hours.
 - Explained that ratio rules exist to prevent contractors from becoming full-time training agents, taking on excessive financial risk, or compromising jobsite productivity/safety.
 - Acknowledged the need to support youth entering trades and expressed interest in collaborating with local CTE coordinators (specifically in Malheur County) to expand trades events like Career Walks.
- **Patty Dorroh:**
 - Shared past experience on the Oregon Workforce and Talent Development Board (OWTDB) advocating for Eastern Oregon's unique rural needs.
 - Recommended escalating BOLI policy and ratio discussions to high-level state leadership and suggested bringing the issue up at the upcoming Governor's Jobs Council meeting.

10. Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Brian Lemke at 2:59pm

Second: Riley Hill