



Serving Baker, Grant, Harney, Malheur, Morrow,  
Umatilla, Union and Wallowa Counties

**EOWB Board of Directors  
Quarterly Board Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 11, 2024, 9 AM – 3PM (PDT)**

x Susie Cederholm, CHD, <b>Chair</b>	x Kit Evans, Wallowa County Grain Growers
x Jeff Gritz, OSIDCL, <b>Vice Chair</b>	Katie Murray, Heppner Community Foundation/WCED
x Brian Lemke, NW Carpenters Union	x Kelly Morgan, Lamb Weston
x Bill Wylie, Chester’s Thriftway	Lindsey Miller, Wallowa Resources
x Dana Young, TVCC	x Mark Browning, BMCC
Dee Dee Satran, Vocational Rehabilitation	Martha Corrigan, Symmetry Care
Doug Dalton, Baker Technical Institute	x Matthew Willson, OED, Ex-Officio
x Joanna Larson, Northwest Beef Express	Meridith Hickman, AFSCME
x Karla Jimenez, Beef Northwest	x Riley Hill, Greystone Builders LLC
x Kimberli Munn, St. Alphonsus	

**\*>8=quorum (51%), >=4 (B)(25%)**

**Guests Presenting: Doug Riggs, Tony Wendell**

**EOWB Staff**

x Erin Carpenter, Executive Director	x Farideh Alvijeh, Director of Finance and Compliance
x Kasi Cooper, Manager of Communications	x Kristian Thornton, Employer Engagement Coordinator
Hugh Johnson, WSO Program Coordinator	X Lindsey Arnson, Youth Program Coordinator
x Dennie Rankin, Office Administrator	

**Meeting Called to Order: 9:11 AM**

**Susie Cederholm, Chair**

- Roll Call/Introductions
- Welcome new Board Member and Staff Member

**Items for Approval**

- Draft Agenda  
**Motion to Approve:** Bill Wylie  
**Second to Motion by:** Dana Young  
**Motion Carries with Voice Vote, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions**

Draft Minutes of the previous meeting and New Youth Protection Policy will be sent out after this meeting to review and vote for approval.  
Erin will send out a survey.

**Legislative Update** - Northwest Policy Advocates

Doug Riggs

- This presentation will be emailed to EOWB board members and is available to the public upon request. This presentation is available.

**Quarterly Report Recap and Q&A**

EOWB Staff

**Workforce Board Purpose and Oregon Workforce Partnership**

Erin Carpenter

- Shared the 17 functions of the local workforce development boards and the Oregon Workforce Partnership’s purpose.

**Regional Economist Annual Report to the Board**

Tony Wendell

- Presented an overview of the status of eastern Oregon’s workforce and economy with its challenges. This presentation is available.

**Making Apprenticeships Accessible to Youth**

Riley Hill

- There is a shortage of skilled workers in the licensed trades, especially plumbers and electricians
- If you want to double the housing production you need to double the workforce
- Need to come up with 6,000 workers for upcoming work for Micron
- Need to make it easier to get into the licensed trades by reviewing the 1:1 ratio
- What can we do? Advocate to legislators and BOLI
- How can we remove barriers to recruiting more apprentices into the licensed trades?
  - Lower the age to become an apprentice
    - The legal age required for entering contracts is 18, apprentices have to enter a legal contract
    - Insurance companies will not ensure a minor to do dangerous work
  - Make pre-apprenticeship credits/classes transferable to apprenticeships
- Please fill out this survey about Apprenticeships AND SHARE: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeUA8Xa6QhnhHQYrxii2vRaD0tVlghHRQUNtdDo1hwk3OiEw/viewform>

**WorkSource Oregon Updates**

Matt Willson

- Modernization changes happening over the last few years
  - New Focus to update I-Match Skills
- Paid Leave was inactive - OED lifted that brand new division
- NEW Unemployment Frances Online - launched March 1, 2024
  - Centers helping through the new Frances system
  - Can message unemployment directly is linked to their case
- Restructured Business Services model about 2 years ago - laser focused, one group of staff only focused on Business Services
- Supporting some of the HR workload for employers - first round interviews, pre-screening applicants

- Since the pandemic the employment office has seen more barriers to employment than we have seen in the past with jobseekers, more workers have unplugged and do not work.
- Training and Employment Consortium (TEC) is helping upskill jobseekers, teach soft skills, launched last year: WorkReady Program - verifying a jobseeker's skills, marked as "Work Ready" as a way to endorse them
- What does your industry need to be considered "Work Ready"? - please share with Matt

Matt Willson (cont.)

#### Strategic Plan Review

Erin Carpenter

- Overview of EOWB's six new goals for the 2024-2028 planning period and how they connect to the board's essential functions.
- Targeted Outreach - Jeff Gritz - geo fencing audience, what are we doing for digital outreach? Other outreach?
  - Kasi - EOWB newsletter, social media, theater ads, billboards, in-person events, school visits
- Susie - we need to help people with Childcare needs
  - Contact Kristian to participate in the Early Childhood Education Sector Partnership
- As Board members, please share events EOWB can participate in and promote

#### Review of Board Committees

Erin Carpenter

- Executive Committee - EOWB should have another business representative on this committee
  - Motion to add KiKit Evans to the Executive Team  
**Motion to Approve:** Jeff Gritz  
**Second to Motion by:** Brian Lemke  
**Motion Carries with Voice Vote, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions**
- Executive Committee will not serve as EOWB's RFP Review Committee
- DEI Committee and Board Member recruitment and onboarding on hold due to a lack of volunteers

**Public Comment:** None

Susie Cederholm

**Adjourn: 2:42 PM**

Minutes submitted by Dennie Rankin and Kasi Cooper