

Wyoming Workforce Development Council Meeting Summary

**Zoom Meeting
Cheyenne, Wyoming
February 22-23, 2023**

Day 1: February 22, 2023

Council Members Present

Fabian Lobera, Chairman	Ron Wild	Brenda Morgan
Katy Hogarty	Phillip Cornella	Korin Schmidt
Travis Lawrence	Tina Conley	Larry Fodor
Robin Sessions Cooley	Michelle Butler	Stacy Strasser
Dr. Sandra Caldwell	Nicky Harper	Tony Cross
Charles Wilson	Michael Kercher	Daniel Burau
Mark Madsen	Robert Short	

Council Members Absent

Fred Baldwin	Tamsin Johnson	Katie Legerski
Eric Trowbridge	Matt Hall	Jim Engel
Nate Williams	Dick Smith	Josh Dorrell

Designees Present

Dr. Michelle Aldrich for
Superintendent Degenfelder

Designees Absent

Ben Moritz	Kristie Arneson Gordy
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DWS Employees Present

Jennifer Wilch	Kari Eakins	Nancy Whiting
Trevor Mansfield	Meri Thompson	Gilbert Servantez
Ivie Moore	Sharon Geissler	Mary Orr
Shaye Moon	Christina West	Holly Simoni
Jeff Schulz	Ty Stockton	Tom Saprorny
Mark Waltrup	Liz Gagen	

Others Present

Representative Jon Conrad	Tiffany Comer Cook, Align
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Call to Order – Chairman Fabian Lobera

Chairman Fabian Lobera called the Meeting for the Workforce Development Council to order at 1:01 p.m.

WWDC Roll Call/Introductions: Jennifer Wilch took roll and called quorum.

Approval of Agenda

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kC03WwdoGLihVZysKqEIEkMz4O1OJyxh/view?usp=share_link

Dr. Sandra Caldwell moved to accept the agenda as written; Ron Wild seconded. The motion carried.

Approval of November 2-3, 2022 Minutes

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s30WXN_-CKA-dVTBrZN2okAnkZYGnTh_/view?usp=share_link

Daniel Burau moved to approve the minutes from November 2-3, 2022. Tony Cross seconded. The motion carried.

Message from the Chairman and Representative Conrad – Chairman Fabian Lobera and Representative Jon Conrad

Chairman Lobera welcomed former Chairman and current Representative for House District 19, Jon Conrad. Rep. Conrad spoke about the mission and vision of the Council and charged the Council with keeping that in its focus.

Chairman Lobera informed the members of two executive committee actions that took place last month, the approval two funding requests: \$45,000 to contract with Northern Illinois University to conduct evaluations of WIOA core programs and \$4,000 to Wyoming State FBLA for a Workforce Support System Grant for the State Leadership Conference.

Department of Workforce Services Update – Robin Sessions Cooley, Director

Director Cooley provided the DWS update, including information on the February 21, 2023 work session with the Wyoming Business Council on legislation that is currently moving through the Legislature.

Workforce Programs Update – Holly McKamey Simoni

DWS Administrator Holly McKamey Simoni presented an update on DWS Workforce Programs, including information on proposals for American Rescue Plan funding. The pre-apprenticeship proposal has been approved and two others are working through the approval process. Simoni also provided information on the Management Information System. DWS released an RFP last year and has chosen a new vendor for the MIS platform, Career Edge.

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Title I Program Team and One-Stop Operations Update – Christina West

Christina West provided the Title I Program Team and One-Stop Operations update by discussing how the training funds provided by the council have been used by her team

Southeast Regional Team Workforce Center Update – Jeff Schultz, Mary Orr, Gilbert Servantez

Mary Orr, Gilbert Servantez, and Jeff Schultz reported on success stories of individuals that the Laramie, Torrington, and Cheyenne Workforce Centers are working with.

BREAK: RESUME AT 2:30 MT

Strategic Planning Session, Part III - Align

Tiffany Comer Cook, Align, led the Council through Part III of the Strategic Planning Session.

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Daniel Burau moved to recess the meeting and Ron Wild seconded. Chairman Lobera ended the meeting for the day at 4:33. The meeting will resume at 8:30 a.m.

Recess

DAY 2: February 23, 2023

Council Members Present

Fabian Lobera, Chairman	Tony Cross	Brenda Morgan
Katy Hogarty	Ron Wild	Larry Fodor
Travis Lawrence	Tina Conley	Stacy Strasser
Josh Dorrell	Nicky Harper	Daniel Burau
Robin Sessions Cooley	Michael Kercher	Robert Short
Charles Wilson	Mark Madsen	Tamsin Johnson
Korin Schmidt		

Council Members Absent

Fred Baldwin	Matt Hall	Katie Legerski
Nate Williams	Dick Smith	Jim Engel
Phillip Cornella	Michelle Butler	Eric Trowbridge

Designees Present

Ivy Castleberry for Governor Gordan	Dr. Ben Moritz for Dr. Sandy Caldwell	Dr. Michelle Aldrich for Superintendent Degenfelder
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DWS Employees Present

Jennifer Wilch	Kari Eakins	Nancy Whiting
Trevor Mansfield	Ty Stockton	Erin Turbitt
Jennifer Cassidy	Sharon Geissler	Ivie Moore
Shaye Moon	Yvonne Adekale	

Others Present

Tiffany Comer Cook, Align

Call to Order – Chairman Fabian Lobera

Chairman Fabian Lobera called the meeting for the Workforce Development Council to order at 8:30 a.m.

WWDC Roll Call: Jennifer Wilch took roll and called quorum.

Plenty Farming - Josh Dorrell, CEO of WBC

Josh Dorrell shared the history and background of Bright Agrotech, a company building indoor farming equipment. Bright Agrotech was recently purchased by Plenty, a ground-breaking controlled environment Precision Ag business. The Bright Agrotech Laramie location is now the Research and Development facility for Plenty, and an expansion from 80 personnel to 200 personnel is in progress.

Workforce Development Training Fund – Shaye Moon, Sharon Geissler, Ivie Moore

Shaye Moon provided the Council with an overview of the WDTF Grants, including Business Training Grants, Internship Grants, Pre-Hire Economic Development Grants, and Pre-Obligation Grants.

Ivie Moore discussed grants related to Registered Apprenticeships and Wyoming Apprenticeship Programs. Apprenticeship Grants are available to Wyoming Registered Apprenticeship sponsors and instruction providers associated with Wyoming-based sponsors. She also provided information on the Youth Apprenticeship Outreach.

Shaye Moon addressed the May 22 rule change that affects specific grant programs, and discussed how the rule change affects grant trends. This rule change has increased funding for many grant programs and has produced both increased interest in grants and more approved grants.

Sharon Geissler provided information on business training grants.

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Safety and Workforce Summit - Yvonne Adekale

Yvonne Adekale provided the Council with information on the upcoming **2023 Safety and Workforce Summit: From Barriers to Breakthroughs**, to be held in April in Cheyenne. Summit topics include: Safety Leadership, Rules, and Engagement: How Leaders; Drive Safety Culture Success; The Great Resignation vs. The Great Return; Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP) Credentials; Social Media Masterclass. Shari Harley, author of **How to Say Anything to Anyone**, is the Keynote Speaker. The agenda includes 1st-Day Workshops and multiple Breakout Sessions.

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Spending Plan/Expenditures – Jennifer Cassidy

DWS Finance Team Jennifer Cassidy presented the Spending Plan and Expenditures for November, December, and January of Fiscal Year 2023. Total spending was \$1,022,700, with \$1,885,660 remaining. Projects with outstanding allocations include the Safety and Workforce Summit, the Next Gen Academy, the Evaluations Contract, Microcredentialing, Strategic Planning, Board Software, and FBLA Sponsorship.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1E7m7KsXhXe3EODzrScLU6eKmTZWEA2SA/edit?usp=share_link&ouid=107406158049036424144&rtpof=true&sd=true

Robert Short moved to approve the spending plan and expenditures. Ron Wild seconded. The motion carried.

BREAK: RESUME AT 10:10 a.m. MT

Strategic Planning Session - Align

Tiffany Comer Cook, Align, led the Council through Part III of the Strategic Planning Session.

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1clFuH7CZDBmgDpYMOXJN9PsAOMnv8g7-6MNIB41AYJs/edit?usp=share_link

Committee Breakouts

Committee Updates

Communications & Community Relations

Danny Burau updated the Council on Committee activity, which included discussion on direction, committee expansion, and bringing in more communications knowledge. Chairman Lobera noted that he would like to bolster the Council's knowledge base for creative marketing, PR, and communications.

Next Generation Sector Partnerships & Career Pathways

Larry Fodor updated the Council on Committee activity, including the upcoming NextGen Academy, SkillsUSA's need for judges, the FBLA and FCCLA also need for judges, Gillette has a new NextGen Partnership, and the discussion of the marketing materials for the Cheyenne Young Contractor's project, for rollout locally and in Casper for distribution to school districts.

Strategic Performance & Finance

Robert Short updated the Council on Committee activity, including upcoming and committed projects that involve current funding, funding allocation structures and flexible methodology for allotment needs, NextGen and the monies committed to the NextGen Academy, the monies planned in Workforce Council budget, Strategic Planning implementation costs and needs, what the current status of Microcredentialing is and the possibility of updates on the funding use.

Public Comment

No issues were brought forward for public comment. Chairman Lobera noted upcoming events, including the Safety and Workforce Summit, the Next Gen Academy, and the May Quarterly Meeting in Rock Springs.

Adjourn

Daniel Burau moved to adjourn the meeting. Robert Short seconded. Chairman Lobera adjourned the meeting at 11:51 a.m.