

# Next Generation Sector Partnerships & Career Pathways Committee

## Zoom Meeting

**April 05, 2023**

<b>Committee Members Present</b>		
Chairman Tony Cross	Larry Fodor	Michelle Aldrich
Ron Gullberg		
<b>Committee Members Absent</b>		
Tamsin Johnson	Nate Williams	Sandy Caldwell / Ben Moritz
Brenda Morgan	Katie Legerski	
<b>Staff Present</b>		
Jennifer Wilch	Kari Eakins	Nancy Whiting
Trevor Mansfield		
<b>Southwest Partnership Members Present</b>		
Amy Murphy	Jessica Evans	Carl Lembke

**Convene**

Chairman Tony Cross called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. Jennifer Wilch called attendance and noted that we do not have a quorum.

**January 11 and March 08, 2023 Minutes Review – Chairman Cross**

**The vote to was postponed until the next meeting.**

**NextGen Support Grant – SWMP – Jennifer Wilch**

Dr Aldrich asked about student input on the grant. Carl Lembke offered to take the idea back to the group for discussion. He believes that his Partnership will be receptive, that he thinks it’s a good idea, and that they have the right partners to do that.

**The vote to was postponed until the next meeting.**

**NextGen Academy Debrief – Jennifer Wilch**

Jennifer Wilch reported that around 55 people attended the NextGen Academy. The vibe in the room was positive and resulted in exciting action items. People hung around talking and planning after the meeting was over, which is a good sign of a successful meeting. John Melville will be sending a report that includes the action items and does follow-ups after Academy sessions. At least four—and maybe five—partnerships will be launching or re-launching as a result of the Academy.

Ron Gullberg was present and was re-invigorated by the Academy. He was pleased to see Rivertown and Lander there together, focusing on healthcare. Tri County region had all new people and their leader are also working on healthcare. Natrona and Converse are looking at healthcare as well. Those three partnerships are looking at collaborative possibilities.

He noted seeing veteran NextGen folks with experience as well as new folks to learn from the others. Several regions are looking at tourism.

Larry Fodor was sorry not to be there, but has had conversations with young contractors in Casper and Laramie, and is hoping to get some spin-offs there.

Chairman Cross saw very specific and useful deliverables and matters to work on, and noted that the Academy was very brass-tacks and hands on—a real positive. Because of the mix of experience and new people, especially with attendees taking advantage of the Next Gen 101s, the new attendees were able to hit the ground running in terms of participation.

**Sector Partnership Models/RFP – Chairman Cross, Jennifer Wilch**

Chairman Cross believes that we should go through the RFP process, but that shouldn't be an indication that there are terminal problems with the NextGen model—it's just that we do need the information on what's out there if we're going to be doing our due diligence for the Council. Regardless of the outcome, the process and discussion will help shape the Council's future work.

Dr. Aldrich said that she was encouraged by Ron Gullberg and Chairman Cross's reports, and she appreciates the desire of the Committee to perform our due diligence. Competition is healthy, and if we find that NextGen is the best deal, so be it, but something else that would be better might be available: the effort to look for it will pay big dividends.

Chairman Cross remarked that the five years of work with NextGen means that we are at the perfect time to be able to identify problems with the model.

Jennifer Wilch mentioned that Spector Partnerships is part of the WIOA law and there will always be partnerships. How they move, or how they are formed, is their model and it is the model that we will be doing an RFP. We're putting out an RFP for a model. We contract with Collaborative Economics for the NextGen Model—so we'll be looking for a new model that would meet the State's needs. She displayed the timeline drawn up by committee request and went through it step by step.

Ron Gullberg asked if ETS would be part of the process. Jennifer Wilch replied that they would not be, but the contractors sometimes take issue with the boilerplate, which takes time for negotiation. Ron Gullberg also noted that since he joined five years ago, NextGen is all he knows. Seeing bids for other models would be productive and hearing from John Melville again would, too.

**The vote to was postponed until the next meeting.**

**Other**

No other items were brought forward.

**Adjourn**

Chairman Cross adjourned the meeting at 12:33 p.m.