



State Workforce Innovation Board Meeting  
Tuesday, May 9, 2023  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
State Fund – 855 Front St, Helena, MT 59601  
[Video Recording](#)

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dylan Klapmeier (Governor Gianforte Designee), Superintendent Elsie Arntzen, Commissioner Laurie Esau, Senator Jason Small (remotely), Representative Ed Buttrey, Commissioner Mary Armstrong, Commissioner Mike McGinley, Chair Paul Hopfauf, Vice-Chair Dean Bentley Chanda Hermanson, Shane Etzwiler, Paddy Fleming, Adam Gilbertson, Heather O'Hara, David Smith, Amber Terry, Bo Bruinsma, Dale Carpenter, Quinton Queer, Jim Wonnacott, Deb Poteet (remotely), Jason Palin

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**STAFF:** Wesley Feist

**PUBLIC PRESENT (In Person and Remotely):** Roy Valdez (MT DLI), Career Futures, Kaleb Klass (MT State Fund), Mandy Rambo (MT Department of Commerce), Lisa Newman (CTI), Jason Butcher (Reach Higher Montana), Jasyn Harrington (CTI), Jacque Treaster (OCHE), Katie Madsen (OPI), Kristen Chambers, John Elizandro (MT DLI), Jane Demaray (MT DLI), Connie Kinsey (MT DLI), Kelly Cresswell (Reach Higher Montana), Michelle Marsh (MT DLI), Sarah Swanson (MT DLI), Katie Madsen (MT OPI), Barb Wagner (MT DLI), Ryan Van Ballegooyen (MT DLI), Crystal Armstrong (MT DLI)

**CALL TO ORDER (9:02 A.M.):** Chair Hopfauf called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL (9:02 A.M.):** Wesley Feist completed Roll Call. A quorum was present.

**AGENDA:** Chair Hopfauf asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

*Adam Gilbertson moved, and Heather O'Hara seconded a motion to approve the agenda.*

*The motion carried.*

**REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (9:05 A.M.):** Chair Hopfauf asked for public comment. No public comment was provided.

**JANUARY 31, 2023 MEETING MINUTES (9:08 A.M.):** Chair Hopfauf asked for a motion to approve the January 31, 2023 Meeting Minutes.

***Commissioner Mary Armstrong moved, and Commissioner Laurie Esau seconded a motion to approve the minutes.***

***The motion carried.***

**US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR INTRODUCTIONS (9:10 A.M.):** Wesley Feist introduced the visitors from the US Department of Labor, in Helena for a review of WIOA Programs and to sit-in on a SWIB Meeting. Wesley introduced:

- Eva Mejia – Employment and Training Administration, Region 4 Federal Project Officer
- Cliff Atkinson – Employment and Training Administration, R4 Performance Specialist
- Evan Rosenberg – Division of Youth Services, Policy Analyst
- Monica Moguel – Employment and Training Administration, Federal Project Officer

Commissioner McGinley asked the difference between a single area state and non-single area state. Eva provided a description of the difference and that Montana functions as a single area state.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATES (9:12 A.M.):** Quinlan O'Connor provided an update from the 68<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session on items that impacted the MT Department of Labor & Industry. Dylan Klapmeier also provided an update on workforce related bills from the Governor's Office. A conversation continued about the successes and opportunities from the session.

**WIOA TITLE IV TRAINING (9:27 A.M.):** Sarah Seltzer provided a presentation about WIOA Title IV.

- Note, there were some technical challenges during this presentation.

A conversation continued about the opportunities and benefits of working with clients and employees with disabilities.

**VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PANEL (9:58 A.M.):** Chanda Hermanson introduced the panel on Vocational Rehabilitation. Chanda introduced:

- Zac Snell – Wheat Montana employee and Vocational Rehabilitation Client
- Sherry Brown – Director of People and Culture at Wheat Montana and Wheat Holding
- Jason Kovnesky – Director of Operations of Wheat Montana
- Cheri Reed-Anderson – Montana Vocational Rehabilitation Business Services Specialist

A conversation continued about utilizing Voc Rehab and Blind Services with clients, employers, and counselors.

**WIOA FISCAL UPDATE (10:42 A.M.):** Erin Weisgerber provided a presentation on WIOA funding.

**NEW BUSINESS (11:00 A.M.):**

**WIOA YOUTH PROGRAM WAIVER REQUEST**

Wesley Feist described the Youth Waiver Requests, found in the Board Member Committee packet. Additionally, the waiver requests were approved at the March 29, 2023 SWIB Executive Committee Meeting. A formal approval was also needed by the full board.

Chair Hopfauf asked for a motion to approve the Out-of-School Youth Percentage Waiver Request.

*Heather O'Hara moved, and Amber Terry seconded a motion to approve the motion.*

*The motion carried.*

Chair Hopfauf asked for a motion to approve the ITA for In-of-School Youth Waiver Request.

*Vice-Chair Dean Bentley moved, and Commissioner Mike McGinley seconded a motion to approve the motion.*

*The motion carried.*

**SWIB BYLAW UPDATE REQUEST – SECTION 204.2 and 302.3 (1:49:30)**

Wesley Feist described the request to update SWIB Bylaws.

Chair Hopfauf asked for a motion to approve the SWIB Bylaws Request.

Representative Buttrey asked if the bylaws update may be restated to identify that Montana State Law allows for proxy voting, but does not require proxy voting. Wesley Feist explained the rationale for the bylaw update, per US DOL guidance. A conversation continued about proxy and designee voting privileges for SWIB members. Through the conversation, additional clarification was requested prior to the bylaw update.

*Jim Wonnacott moved to table the motion, and Superintendent Arntzen seconded to table the motion.*

*The table motion carried.*

**EAST HELENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS (11:30 A.M.):** Camryn Beck and Shana Dachs provided a presentation about Career Awareness in East Helena Public Schools.

**OPI CAREER COACH UPDATE (11:49 A.M.):** Mary Heller provided an update about the Career Coaches. A conversation continued about the use and coordination of career coaches.

**BUILD MONTANA UPDATE (12:40 A.M.):** A video was shown about Build Montana. David Smith provided an update about the Build Montana. A conversation continued about the success of the program.

**MMEC GERMAN SCHOOL/APPRENTICESHIP/LABOR SYSTEM PRESENTATION (12:53 P.M.):** Jenni West provided a presentation about a recent visit to Germany about the school/apprenticeship/labor system.

**MT DLI OPERATIONS AND DATA BUREAU SCHIEF INTRODUCTION (1:15 P.M.):** Wesley Feist introduced Crystal Armstrong.

**SWIB DASHBOARD REVIEW (1:19 P.M.):** Emily Trautman provided a presentation about the new SWIB Dashboards.

**US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE EDA – TECH HUB PRESENTATION (1:37 P.M.):** Joe Thiel and Matt Olson provided a presentation about the US Department of Commerce EDA RFI and potential RFP Process. A conversation continued about the Tech Hub possibilities.

**SWIB DIRECTOR UPDATE (2:08 P.M.):**

Wesley Feist provided an update on the following topics:

- One-Stop Certification Process
- Job Service, Voc Rehab, and Adult Basic Education Transition/Referral Trainings
- Disability Awareness Conference (May 31 and June 1)
- Capacity Building Institute with OPI and Voc Rehab
- Federal Apprenticeship Grant
- Robert's Rules Training
- NGA Levers Document (in packet)

Commissioner Laurie Esau updated the board on the recent move of the SWIB Staff from Workforce Services Division to the Commissioner's Office.

**SWIB DIRECTION AND STRATEGY (2:18 P.M.):**

Chair Hopfauf led a discussion and update on the following topics:

- Direction of the SWIB
- Commerce Interface – Business Development
- Committee Structure

**REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (2:32 P.M.):** Chair Hopfauf asked for public comment. Wesley Feist provided comments written in the Remote Meeting Chat.

**ADJOURNMENT (2:36 P.M.)**

Chair Hopfauf adjourned the meeting.