

MT SWIB

STATE WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD

Workforce Policy Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 11, 2023
12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Remote – [Click here to join the meeting](#)
[Video](#)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair David Smith, Senator Jason Small, Representative Ed Buttrey, Dale Carpenter, Shane Etzwiler, and Heather O'Hara

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

MEMBERS ABSENT: Paddy Fleming

STAFF: Wesley Feist

PUBLIC PRESENT: Annmarie Robinson (MT Commerce), Sarah Swanson (MT DLI), Joe Thiel (MUS), Barry Houser (Montana Contractors' Association), Stephanie Gray (Gallatin College – MSU), Barb Wagner (MT DLI), Brock Tessman (MUS)

CALL TO ORDER (12:18 P.M.): Chair Smith called the meeting to order.

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

Heather O'Hara moved, and Dale Carpenter seconded a motion to approve the agenda.

The motion carried.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2022 MEETING MINUTES (12:18 P.M.): Chair Smith asked for a motion to approve the September 7, 2022 Meeting Minutes.

Senator Small moved, and Heather O'Hara seconded a motion to approve the minutes.

The motion carried.

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT (12:20 P.M.):

Chair Smith asked for public comment.
No public comment was provided.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (12:21 P.M.):

Representative Buttrey

- Review of Economic Development Programs. Many programs exist. An effort is underway to revamp and possibly combine programs throughout state departments.

Looking to expand opportunities with Incumbent Worker Training. Most others would be housed at Commerce. Legislators will update SWIB with any bill progress. Senator Small

- Commerce appropriations is in progress through committees. Within the coming week, a better idea of where legislation is heading will be understood.

GALLATIN COLLEGE – MSU UPDATE (12:27 P.M.):

Stephanie Gray, Dean of Gallatin College provided a presentation on Gallatin College – MSU.

Chair Smith asked how Gallatin College is balancing the courtesy of two-year post-secondary education recruitment staying within each campus's region while providing access to all Montana students. Dean Gray identified that that is simple with unique to Gallatin programs, but need to be more creative with common programs. More physical space, allowing for additional capacity and structure may help with that balance and capacity.

Heather O'Hara asked if there are career pathways or industries that may be added to Gallatin College offerings if additional infrastructure were provided. Dean Gray indicated yes, there are additional programs especially in healthcare, heavy equipment, hvac, among others.

Shane Etzwiler indicated a need for trades professionals, especially with the Sentinel Project headed into the Golden Triangle area of Montana. He recently met with the Base Commander of Malmstrom, and this was a topic of conversation.

ACTIONABLE OPPORTUNITIES WITH GOALS (12:40 P.M.):

Chair Smith asked committee members to add any items to Incumbent Worker Training Program

Barb Wagner (Interim Workforce Services Division Administrator) thanked the SWIB members present for the IWT hearing for their input.

Heather O'Hara indicated that a hearing for HB101 is to be held on January 12. It sheds light on how behavioral health is affecting workforce challenges.

SWIB DIRECTOR UPDATE (12:50 P.M.):

Wesley Feist indicated that Board Members providing legislative testimony are welcome to do so. However, unless voted on by the SWIB and approved by Governor's Office, testimony on behalf of the SWIB is not otherwise allowed. There may be a possible SWIB Bylaw update in the future. Wesley will keep the board posted on legislation and if there are any questions, please refer them to him. The presentation on Gallatin College is on SWIB Meetings' Site.

PUBLIC COMMENT (12:53 P.M.):

Sarah Swanson provided an update that Build Montana, through the Montana Contractors' Association won the Associated Equipment Distributors (AED) Lester J. Heath Award (the association's highest award for workforce innovation).

ADJOURNMENT (12:55 P.M.)

Chair Smith adjourned the meeting at 12:55 p.m.