

# Meeting Minutes

SWIB Executive Committee  
Tuesday, October 4, 2022

10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

Walt Sullivan Building - 2nd Floor Conference Room

Teams Virtual Meeting

Meeting ID: 290 449 038 873  
Passcode: 27W5Yc

**Members Present:** Paul Hopfauf, Chair  
Dean Bentley  
Mike McGinley  
Adam Gilbertson  
Laurie Esau  
Dylan Klapmeier

**Members Excused:** David Smith

**Public in Attendance:** Jane Demaray (Remote) – MT DLI, Aaron Larson – MT DLI, 2 Unknown attendees

Meeting brought to order at 10:02 a.m.

Chair Hopfauf asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented  
Adam Gilbertson made a motion to approve, Vice-Chair Bentley seconded. All voted aye.

## **I. Review Suggested Changes to the SWIB Bylaws**

Chair Hopfauf and Wes discussed tracked changes, the review by the Lt. Governor, and the recommendations made.

Vice-Chair Bentley asked if the language should be reviewed for gender neutrality. Commissioner Esau added that for the sake of approval and time, this issue is not taken into consideration at this time.

Adam Gilbertson made a motion to approve as presented. Commissioner Esau seconded. All approved to move forward to the full SWIB.

a. Action Item (Approve to forward for full SWIB action/Reject/Table)

## **II. Individual Committee Meeting Recaps**

Education, Training, and Upskill Committee Meeting Review

Adam Gilbertson requested guidance for navigating non committee member input during meetings.

Chair Hopfauf encouraged directing individuals to public comment time during meetings.

Wes Feist indicated that the meeting minutes from the Training, Education, and Upskill Committee meeting were not completed, as he didn't have access to the video to complete the minutes. Once obtained, they would be completed.

Adam Gilbertson indicated he would get this to Wes asap. (Video received 10.04 and minutes and video were posted to SWIB website).

Adam Gilbertson also encouraged a review of state tax relief for military retirees.

A conversation then proceeded about increasing the competitive nature of attracting retirees.

Wes Feist identified the process of currently requesting Youth Program waivers with OPI, OCHE, and DLI.

Dylan Klapmeier indicated that tax policy is tied to workforce and are of interest to the governor.

Chair Hopfauf is interested in conversation about tax reform to incentivize workers.

Adam Gilbertson would like to ensure that what the SWIB proposes and is interested in working on is the same as governor's initiatives.

Commissioner Esau would like to ensure all resources are utilized to focus on alignment with Accelerate MT, OCHE, and OPI, among others. Additionally, she would like to ensure the k-12 pipeline and beyond are all well served.

Chair Hopfauf agrees with the alignment of programs and processes. He too would like to ensure the SWIB can help facilitate the bridges among all pipeline organizations.

#### WIOA Committee Meeting Review

Wes Feist presented the goals and topics discussed at the committee meeting, although he was not in attendance at the meeting. The committee had four key takeaways, including:

- Greater emphasis on job quality starts with healthy businesses
- New and Expanded programs require more employer engagement
- Broader Planning required to anticipate economic shifts – NACO talks about local plans vs State plans
- Stronger focus on investment in Business engagement

Wes Feist would also like to include the committee more in the state plan process moving forward.

Chair Hopfauf clarified if the committee is wanting to complete a business survey.

Wes Feist indicated that he wasn't sure exactly what they wanted from the survey, but that the survey data may already exist, and we must utilize current surveys and data.

Commissioner Esau asked about any information about the easing up on WIOA Restrictions, is this happening?

Wes Feist indicated that he has not noticed this, but that the USDOL has been willing to listen and help, but easing has not been seen.

#### Workforce Policy Committee Meeting Review

Wes Feist discussed the meeting notes and conversation from the Workforce Policy Committee meeting. Wes indicated that the majority of the conversation revolved around licensing reciprocity and issuance. Wes also indicated that he then met with the Deputy Administrator for the Business Standards Division about licensing reciprocity and potential legislation to update and streamline the process for all professional licenses.

Commissioner Esau asked if the SWIB meeting could host some from the division to update the board on Title 37 suggestions and licensing in Montana. Wes Feist indicated that he was happy to host them. Commissioner Esau will initiate conversation request.

Wes Feist indicated that another area of interest was to assist with the Red Tape initiative. Wes is unaware of how to proceed with this, but they are willing and able to be participative, if possible. Demographic questions about data was brought up. Wes previously shared with the committee LMI data and where to find it and how to utilize it.

Chair Hopfauf sees that most goals may reside in the Education, Training, and Upskill Committee. However, Chair Hopfauf clarified if the SWIB can be more helpful legislatively. Dylan Klapmeier will work to ensure there is a role for the SWIB or members to provide testimony to appropriate committees in the legislature but needs to be fluid. If this SWIB sees other items important to advance, please flag for Dylan.

Dylan sees himself, Aaron Larson, and Wes Feist as people to flag bills and legislative movement for the SWIB and committees to help with bill tracking.

Dean Bentley and Commissioner Esau are both excited to see that the SWIB has become a priority and useful tool for the department and the governor.

Chair Hopfauf continues to be excited about the communication and dialogue among board members and the movement forward to positively impact workforce in Montana. A conversation continued with similar comments.

### **III. Finalization of SWIB Goals**

a. Finalize Goals for presentation to the full SWIB at the October meeting  
Through the conversation and a follow-up to clarify goals, the following goals have been established and will be discussed at the full board meeting on October 19.

Education, Training and Upskill Committee

- Support the offering of short-term credentials with braided funding for students
- Build and support pipelines for students to utilize work-based learning
- Support the collaboration and partners between private industry and the State of Montana to engage industry employer support and buy-in to assist in the resolution of workforce shortages
- Provide support and connections with CTSO teachers

Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) Committee

- Develop analysis survey or utilize existing tools and data for Business Partners
- The WIOA Committee will serve as a resource and be included in the State Plan and Modification Process
- Support WIOA policy and administrative compliance.

Workforce Policy Committee

- Support and focus on streamlining communications and challenges related to licensing reciprocity
- Support the Governor's Red Tape Task Force recommendations related to workforce issues
- Coordinate and provide resource support for the Governor's legislative workforce priorities

### **IV. Public Comment**

Chair Hopfauf asked for public comment. No comment was received.

### **V. Adjourn**

Chair Hopfauf adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.