

**MINUTES**  
**SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**LYON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER**  
**COMMISSIONER'S ROOM – 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR**  
**APRIL 3, 2025**  
**4:00 P.M.**

Members Present: Beth Wilms, Vince Robinson, Tim Jones, Lori Wynia, Anne Johnson, Brad Vaughn, See Moua-Leske, LeRoy Kiecker, Marly Wagner, Hilary DeVlaeminck

Joining Via ZOOM: Jacque Peters, Terry Gaalswyk, Mimi Schafer, Bruce Bergeson

Members Excused: Carla Goedtke, Andy Easley, Rochelle Remund, Scott Marquardt, Melissa McGinty-Thompson, Dawn Schnell

Guest Presenters: Linda Pesch, Rebecca Weber, Della Ludwig

Staff Present: Carrie Bendix, Maria Peters, Jenna Weyer

Beth Wilms called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**Welcome & Introduction**

Beth Wilms welcomed members, and everyone introduced themselves.

**Approval of the Agenda & Agenda Additions**

Beth Wilms asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Hearing no additional agenda items, a motion was made by Hilary DeVlaeminck to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by See Moua-Lekse and passed unanimously.

**Updates from Minnesota West Community & Technical College – Dr. Terry Gaalswyk, Linda Pesch, Rebecca Weber**

Terry Gaalswyk introduced Linda Pesch, Director of Enrollment, and Rebecca Weber, Dean of Student Services & Enrollment, with Minnesota West Community & Technical College. Updates were presented including a website relaunch in November 2024, logo and messaging rebrand, and new programs at the Pipestone (HVAC) and Granite Falls (surgical tech & medical lab technology) campuses. Funding offered to students included the Workforce Development Scholarship (\$2,500), Bluejay PSEO (\$2,000), and the new North Star Promise and Promise Plus Grant. The presenters also reviewed goals and statistics of the Strategic Enrollment Management plan developed in 2022, career exploration and recruiting events, and enrollment data from the past five years.

**Della Ludwig – DEED Central and Southwest Workforce Strategy Consultant**

Della Ludwig, the newly appointed Central and Southwest Workforce Strategy Consultant with

DEED's Business Development Office, introduced herself to the Board. She provided an overview of the mission and current initiatives of the Business Development Office, including its focus on Economic Development and State Projects. Della also outlined the key components of the office, which include Business Development, Workforce Strategy, Energy Transition, and the Minnesota Job Skills Partnership. She concluded with a brief mention of upcoming events including the Career and Technical Education Jamboree on November 20, 2025 at Big Lake High School, and Tour of Manufacturing events planned during Manufacturing Month in October.

### **Consent Agenda Items**

- SW MN Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes – December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- Drive for Five Committee Meeting Minutes – January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025
- Youth Committee Minutes – February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025
- Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council Report

Anne Johnson made a motion to approve the consent agenda including the Minutes of the December 5, 2024 SW MN Workforce Development Board Meeting; Minutes of the January 21, 2025 Drive for Five Committee Meeting; Minutes of the February 6, 2025 Youth Committee Meeting; and the Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council Report. Terry Gaalswyk seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

### **Unified Local Youth Plan & Youth Program Updates – Program Year 2025 WIOA Youth and MN Youth Program Approval – Attached – Maria Peters**

Maria Peters presented the Unified Local Youth Plan for Program Year 2025 WIOA Youth and the Minnesota Youth Program plan to the Board. Highlights of events and activities from the Youth Program were also discussed. Terry Gaalswyk made a motion to approve the Unified Local Youth Plan for Program Year 2025 WIOA Youth and Minnesota Youth Program plan. LeRoy Kiecker seconded the motion and passed unanimously. Tim Jones abstained from the Youth Plan, the SW MN PIC Financial & Compliance Audit, Request for Proposals, and Funding Approvals.

### **Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council Financial & Compliance Audit**

Carrie Bendix discussed results from the CliftonLarsonAllen Compliance Audit Report for Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2024. Lori Wynia made a motion to accept the Annual Financial & Compliance Audit Report. LeRoy Kiecker seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

### **Request for Proposals**

Carrie Bendix requested approval to submit proposals for the Youth at Work Competitive Grant in the amount of \$580,000 and the Youth Support Services Grant in the amount of \$100,000, both in partnership with South Central Workforce Council. The funding would be split evenly between the organizations. See Moua-Leske made a motion to approve proposing for Youth at Work Competitive

Grant for \$580,000 and the Youth Support Services Grant for \$100,000. Vince Robinson seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

### **Funding Approval**

Carrie Bendix requested approval to receive funding in the amount of \$250,000 for the Transformative Career Pathway Competitive Grant, \$33,000 for the Get Ready/Gear Up Program, and \$14,690 to implement the Regional Plan. Brad Vaughn made a motion to approve receiving \$250,000 from the Transformative Career Pathway Competitive Grant, \$33,000 for the Get Ready/Gear Up Program, and \$14,690 to implement the Regional Plan. Anne Johnson seconded the motion and passed unanimously. See Moua-Leske abstained from the Transformative Career Pathway Competitive Grant approval.

### **New Regional Strategies**

Carrie Bendix discussed the strategies developed to support each of the three workforce development goals identified in the Regional Workforce Development Plan. Vince Robinson made a motion to approve the updated regional strategies. Brad Vaughn seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

### **2025 Meeting Schedule Approval – Bi-Annual**

Carrie Bendix proposed the meeting schedule for the second half of 2025 on the first Thursday of selected months from 4:00p.m. – 6:00p.m. The proposed meeting dates are August 7, 2025 (Updating due to the MAWB Conference held during the second week of August), October 2, 2025, and December 4, 2025. Discussion took place to have an in-person meeting in Marshall on October 2, 2025 similar to last year. See Moua-Leske made a motion to approve the proposed meeting schedule for the second half of 2025. The motion was seconded by Marly Wagner and passed unanimously. Vince Robinson followed up with a motion to approve an in person meeting in Marshall on October 2, 2025. Lori Wynia seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

### **Committee Reports**

Bruce Bergeson reported on the Youth Committee meeting from February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and Carrie Bendix provided an update from the Drive for Five Committee meeting held on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

### **Director Updates**

Carrie Bendix discussed updates since the last meeting including statistics from the WIOA Impact Report and items learned from the National Association of Workforce Boards Conference in Washington D.C. Tim Jones reported that a Career Fair was held to help with impacts from the Case New Holland (CNH) layoff in Benson scheduled for April 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Important Dates**

Drive for Five committee Meeting – April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - 4:00 – 5:00p.m.

Page Four, Southwest Minnesota Workforce Development Board Minutes  
April 3, 2024

Executive Committee – June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 - 3:00p.m.  
Workforce Development Board Meeting – June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 4:00p.m - 6:00p.m.

**Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 5:53p.m.

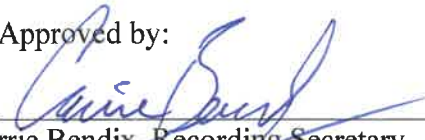
Approved by:



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Beth Wilms, Secretary

Approved by:



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Carrie Bendix, Recording Secretary