

Trent Clark
Chair
B. J. Swanson
Vice Chair

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

317 West Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83735-0510

Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, January 10, 2019

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Mountain Time)

Location: The Riverside Hotel

2900 W. Chinden Blvd.

Boise, ID 83714

Meeting Conducted By: Trent Clark, Chairman

Attendees: Trent Clark, B.J. Swanson, Shelli Bardsley, Elli Brown, Donna Butler, Linda Clark, Brian Cox, Jane Donnellan, Audrey Fletcher, Dave Hannah, Marie Hattaway, Angela Hemingway, Steinar Hjelle, Deni Hoehne, Dwight Johnson, Tom Kealey, Kelly Kolb, Kate Lenz, Joe Maloney, Jeff McCray, Bret Moffett, Jan Nielsen, Jani Revier, Angelique Rood, Todd Schwarz, John Smith, Jeff Greene (proxy for Heather Sprague), Michelle Stennett, Scott Syme, Matt Van Vleet, Steve Widmyer, Kenneth Wiesmore, Lori Wolff, Travis Woolsey, Matthew Wrobel, John Young

Staff: Wendi Secrist, Paige Nielebeck, Matthew Thomsen, Caty Solace, William Burt

*Workforce Development Council is hereafter referred to as WDC

Call to order at 8:33 am

Welcome & Introductions

Chairman Clark welcomed everyone. Each council member introduced themselves.

Roll Call - quorum met

*Review/Approve Agenda

No changes to the agenda.

The agenda was approved

*Approve Minutes from October 24, 2018 Meeting Motion by Mr. Johnson to approve the minutes as written. Second by Dr. Clark. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Ms. Secrist reviewed the financial report.

IDAHO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2018

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OPERATING BUDGET								
STATE EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	1	RECINNING		OTAL YTD Spent	TOTAL YTD Spent %	TOTAL ENDING BALANCE		
Salary	\$	338,593.04	\$	160,887.47	47.5%	\$	177,705.57	
Benefits	\$	133,106.96	\$	57,442.39	43.2%	\$	75,664.57	
PERSONNEL	\$	471,700.00	\$	218,329.86	46.3%	\$	253,370.14	
Administrative Services & Supplies	\$	5,171.00	\$	2,480.49	48.0%	\$	2,690.51	
Communication Costs	\$	7,500.00	\$	1,378.12	18.4%	\$	6,121.88	
Computer Services & Supplies	\$	22,100.00	\$	7,799.89	35.3%	\$	14,300.11	
Employee Development Costs	\$	8,500.00	\$	7,899.09	92.9% ¹	\$	600.91	
Employee Travel Costs	\$	46,000.00	\$	10,348.51	22.5%	\$	35,651.49	
General & Professional Services	\$	377,200.00	\$	117,604.02	31.2%	\$	259,595.98	
Miscellaneous Expenditures	\$	47,629.00	\$	11,383.69	23.9%	\$	36,245.31	
Rentals & Operating Leases	\$	4,200.00	\$	2,471.70	58.9%	\$	1,728.30	
Repair & Maintenance Services & Supplies	\$	1,600.00	\$	2,599.82	162.5%	\$	(999.82)	
OPERATING	\$	519,900.00	\$	163,965.33	31.5%	\$	355,934.67	
Grand Total	\$	991,600.00	\$	382,295.19	38.6%	\$	609,304.81	
				% OF YR ELAPSED	50.0%			
STATE EXPENDITURE CATEGORY		TOTAL BEGINNING BUDGET	TOTAL YTD Spent		TOTAL YTD Spent %	TOTAL ENDING BALANCE		
TRUSTEE AND BENEFITS (REIMBURSEMENTS)	\$	7,561,500.00	\$ 1,815,316.20		24.0%	\$ 6,961,687.41		

WDTF Financial Summary						
WDTF Cash Balance 01/02/19	\$17,784,777.34					
Obligated Employer Grants	\$6,583,997.28					
Obligated Industry Sector Grants	\$1,492,441.50					
Obligated Innovation Grants	\$45,259.15					
FY 19 WDTF Admin Costs	\$519,043.71					
WDTF Obligated Balance	\$8,640,741.64					
Unobligated Balance	\$9,144,035.70					
Proposals Under Review	\$1,883,392.78					
Unobligated Balance if all funded	\$7,260,642.92					

¹\$3,675 of this amount was reimbursed from Idaho Department of Labor for 1/2 of NGA dues, but is included in Revenue and is not shown here.

*2019 Legislative Priorities

The Legislative Priorities document was distributed to the Council members. Please see attached document.

The objective of this discussion is to finalize the document and define the level of support the Council should provide to the initiatives. This could be a letter of support, in-person testimony or whatever else the Council is comfortable with.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the Idaho Career & Technical Education Legislative Priorities:

- The Program Alignment Initiative is to promote horizontal alignment and program portability.
- A question was asked is the Nuclear Energy Workforce initiative related to the Sector Grant that was reviewed by the Council?

- The sector grant is directly related. The Sector Grant was used to start up the program and the funding listed is to keep that program up and running. There is a nice dynamic being established with the Workforce Development Training Funds being able to start up the programs while permanent funding works its way through the traditional budget process.
- The State Board has expressed that they are supportive of these initiatives and will be actively involved in them.

Ms. Revier reviewed the Idaho Department of Labor Legislative Priorities.

- A question was asked is this spending authority to support an additional 150 students at the community colleges or at one community colleges? It is not clear how many students will be served for the \$4.5 million grant.
 - o It will start with 150 at CWI. It is a 3-year ramp up. In years 2 and 3 it will double in size but other institutions will be engaged.

Dr. Clark reviewed the Idaho State Board of Education Legislative Priorities.

- The Board feels that the Opportunity Scholarships are important tools to meeting the education goals of the State of Idaho.
- The Legislature over the past year have also increased the amount of funding for career advising which is an integral part of getting people to apply for the opportunity scholarships and moving them into postsecondary education.

Ms. Whitney reviewed the Idaho Department of Education Legislative Priorities.

- Governor Little recommended that the funding for literacy be doubled which does not appear on this list.
 - The Council would like literacy funding to be added to the list of Legislative Priorities.
- Half of the graduating seniors (2017) took advanced opportunity courses.
- The Governor has also recommended that starting teacher pay be no less than \$40,000 a year.
- Are both the teacher pay and the master teacher initiatives be available to CTE teachers?
 - Yes, they will be available to CTE teachers.

The Council feels that it is important to have the State Department of Education on the Council. Chairman Clark and Ms. Secrist will have a discussion with the Governor about this.

Ms. Secrist talked through the Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licenses Legislative Priorities

- Is there a possibility that we could expand beyond support for this specific initiative? Is there a way to craft language to show support for the initiative to streamline occupational licenses?
 - Mr. Schwarz offered to help draft language to broaden this support. This is to help encourage collaboration outside of just water and wastewater apprenticeships.
 - We could craft our statement to support the executive order and then call out water and wastewater specifically.

The STEM Action center has an initiative going before legislature for \$1 million to support their computer science programs. The Council would like to add this to the list.

Motion by Ms. Hemingway to add the STEM Action Center \$1 million initiative to support computer science programs to the Legislative Priorities Document. Second by Ms. Swanson. Motion carried.

Motion by Ms. Revier to add the Governor's Literacy initiative to expand the literacy programs in grades K-3 to the Legislative Priorities Document. Second Mr. Cox. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Schwarz to add language to the Idaho Bureau Occupational Licensing section that conveys support to streamline and/or align occupational licenses more broadly. Second by Mr. Johnson.

Should this be a priority of this council based on our limited ability to influence on licensing?

- What should our role be in this?
 - o Perhaps we should limit our support to initiatives that are industry led.
 - There is no specific legislative action needed for 2019 so maybe it is more of a broad statement of support rather than a legislative priority.
- We also need to be careful that we are not perceived as interfering with the business of the Licensing Boards/Bureau of Occupational Licensing.
- Since this document is specific to 2019 Legislative Initiatives perhaps staff can work with Administrator Packer to solidify a collaborative relationship where the council will provide support to employer-led changes in licensing.

Mr. Schwarz has withdrawn the motion. Mr. Johnson agrees with the withdrawal.

Motion by Mr. McCray that we endorse the listed initiatives with the additions discussed above, pending approval from the Governor's Office, and direct staff to engage as necessary. Second by Ms. Fletcher. Motion carried.

Break: 10:00 am - 10:15 am

Executive Director Report

- 1. Ms. Secrist briefly reviewed the Committee Reports. Please see attached Committee Reports.
- 2. Ms. Secrist shared the Press release on the Job Corps Demonstration Project. Please see attached Press Release.
 - This project will transition over the next 6 months. The bulk of the funding becomes available on July 1. Part of the startup funding will allow us to visit a program in lowa to see how it is functioning.
 - The WDC's role is to reach out to help with the employer outreach. This Job Corps program will focus on work-based learning. It would be great to be able to offer Apprenticeships, Internships, or STRAP to all participants. We are in an advisory role on this project.
 - Most of the building and construction trades have a direct entry program for anyone who has completed the Job Corps program.
- 3. Ms. Secrist showed a video on the AGC Construction Project (We Build Idaho).
 - This has been a great opportunity for AGC, the Council, the Colleges, and other recruiting partners to develop a model of collaboration.



- The first program launch is in Twin Falls at the College of Southern Idaho in February.
- In March the program will launch in the Treasure Valley at CWI.
- Idaho has also been awarded funds to help attract people into the highway industry. We have the opportunity to recruit individuals from many different places. The AGC Construction course will be integrated into the pathway for this highway industry. We are going to be integrating into the surveys of those impacted by this project to see what skills and training they have and if they are interested in these types of jobs. We are going to also be working with CWI's Adult Education program to see how they can support a path to this industry for individuals who need math and English literacy to participate.
 - Ms. Secrist reviewed a flow chart showing the I-84 Construction Recruiting/Training
 Pipeline. Please see attached chart.
- Ms. Secrist and Wayne Hammond (AGC) have been asked to present this at the national AGC conference in Denver.
- 4. Ms. Secrist shared a flier that the Idaho Rural Water Association and Department of Labor created about the water/wastewater apprenticeship program. Please see attached flier.
- 5. Ms. Secrist shared a pamphlet on the Skill Bridge program. Please see attached pamphlet.
 - This is going to be an amazing opportunity for industry to connect with those serving in the military.
 - Micron has been doing this program for a few years in Virginia and it has been very successful. Micron has had a few conversations about getting this started in Idaho as well.
 - Ms. Secrist has asked the Council to identify if their businesses would be interested in participating in these discussions/program.
 - CTE has been working on a troop to teachers program that occupationally certifies them to be CTE teachers. This is a pipeline we need to continue to focus on.
 - If the employer requires some sort of industry credential, the military will pay for them to get this credential within six months of their separation.
 - Another opportunity is to look at licensing fees it would not cost the state much to waive initial licensure fees for those coming out of the military.
- 6. We are partnering with the STEM Action Center to launch the teacher externship program this summer. Ms. Secrist and Ms. Hemingway have committed to pilot with 10 teachers and businesses.

Would it be better for the STEM Action Center to give the business the funds to pay the stipend for the teacher or for the STEM Action Center to pay the stipend directly?

- Consensus from the employers on the Council is to offer to pay the stipend directly from the STEM Action Center.
- Businesses have had trouble connecting with teachers. It will be great to see how those connections can be developed.
 - Idaho Association of School Administrators would be a great connection to help find the teachers.

We want this to be a two-way exchange where teachers are learning about how industry works. They can then bring this back to the classroom and integrate real-world problems into their

curriculum. This may also help teachers gain the experience they need to become certified as CTE teachers.

One of the goals of the program is to have the teachers create lesson plans based on what they learned and bring that back to share with other teachers. Additionally, we would like the teachers to have the opportunity to talk with HR in the companies to find out the specific workforce needs of each company and be able to take that back as well.

- 7. Ms. Secrist shared the summary of the problem-solving activity from the October meeting. Please see attached summary.
- 8. Ms. Secrist provided an update on the Ad Hoc Committee appointed to develop a WIOA Service Provider Selection policy. The Governor wants to ensure that we have enough time to work with legal counsel and implement a well-designed procurement process. He recommends that we use the time between now and the April meeting to develop the policy and then extend the existing contracts for a period of time to ensure that process is carried out appropriately and effectively.

After this meeting the WDC staff will send out a survey asking about their experience with the WDC over the past year.

Economic Forecast

Craig Shaul gave a presentation on the 2019 Economic Forecast. Please see attached presentation.

Is the job growth rate ever limited by workforce supply?

• Yes, but it is complicated. It will be different for each industry, employer, and the skill sets that employers are looking for. There have been instances where a business cannot enter into a contract because they know they do not have the workforce to support it.

What would be the ideal sweet spot for an unemployment rate?

• Yes. Generally, 5% national is the rule of thumb for economists. Idaho's is probably just a little bit above 4%.

What is driving the reduction of the hospitality industry?

- A lot of the hotel projects that were ramped up over the past few years have been completed so the growth is slowing.
- It could also be the lack of affordable housing. The industry is having a hard time finding workers that can afford to live in resort communities.

Which are considered urban counties?

• There are 9 urban counties in Idaho. Labor does not use the Census Bureau's definition of urban.

Are remote workers or long term contracted workers counted?

 Oregon is looking at how to do this type of reporting. Labor does not currently have this type of data for Idaho. Is the data that is provided on in-demand jobs granular enough to make decisions on how to invest in workforce training?

• It does go down to the occupational level by county. The real-time component is provided by a third-party entity and is based on job postings. Is this enough to focus the resources? It could be used that way.

Governor's Workforce Development Priorities

The Governor shared his workforce development priorities with the Council.

He wants to create the best possible opportunities for our kids and grandkids to stay in Idaho. They need to have good jobs and an education system that provides them the skills to get that good job. Most professional fields require education beyond high school. It is important that we plant the seed in the minds of our kids to realize that the days are gone of one job and one skill set your entire life. It is also important to create a business climate in Idaho such that when our kids come back to Idaho there are multiple businesses where they can apply their skills.

The Governor discussed the Job Corps project. The US Secretary of Labor believes that there are opportunities to improve the current Job Corps model nationally. Idaho is the first state charged with seeing if we can improve the outcomes and lower the cost of the Job Corps Program.

An analysis of the College and Career Advising program has been requested by the Legislature. This is being conducted by the State Board of Education. It is important to talk to the counselors and ensure that they are working with the kids to let them know what resources are available to connect them to careers.

Governor Little is going to be appointing a taskforce to look at the investments we are making in education. He would like CTE and the Workforce Development Council to be part of these discussions and part of this taskforce. He believes that CTE needs to be a bigger part of the 60% goal. People need to be able to adapt to the fast-changing pace in Idaho.

The Governor responded to the following questions from Council members:

One area Idaho is deficient is in work-based learning and being able to receive credit for work-based learning. Where does this fit into the Governor's agenda?

• The Governor is supportive of working towards awarding credit for these types of workforce training programs.

There is a struggle with gathering data on illegal immigrants that are moving to Idaho. Can you offer any advice on this?

• This is a difficult thing to accomplish. This is something that needs to be dealt with at the federal level.

How are we going to tackle our broadband issue?

• The Governor has met with the providers and the Department of Commerce has a good template for what needs to be done for broadband. Utah has done well on this issue and is serving as a guide for this project. A committee is going to be put together to figure out whether



we need to have a program for broadband from an incentive standpoint? We want to have competition among the vendors since that will drive the price of this program down. They are also going to make recommendations on access, where switches will be placed, etc.

What do you expect from the Workforce Development Council?

• To hear that the needs of employers are being met. That we have addressed industry's needs, thereby creating opportunities for Idahoans.

Lunch: 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Strategic Workforce Priorities

Governor Little has been thinking about workforce issues for years. What were the takeaways from the Governor's speech?

- He reinforced that we need to be listening to find out what businesses need. There is also no cookie cutter approach due to the diversity of the state.
- He is going to do a deep dive into the use of the college and career advising funds.
- The Advanced Opportunities program has grown dramatically and is something to be proud of.
 There is concern, though, with what college courses high school students are taking. We need to
 ensure that credits are transferrable. The opportunities for our students are important but we
 need to make sure that they are getting credit that will move them towards their desired
 degree/certificate.

Are we moving the direction of what we should be accomplishing? Would the Council like to begin a new strategic planning process at the April meeting?

- It is extremely important for the Council to develop strategic priorities to help guide the
 education taskforce that the Governor is creating. Now would be an ideal time to create those
 priorities.
- It is important to develop a mission, vision, and values for our new Council. This would be a good place to start. The previous iterations can be modernized to meet the needs of today.
- It is a statutory requirement that we have a strategic plan both at the state and federal level.
 - We will be required to submit a new WIOA State Plan in early 2020 to the US Department of Labor.
 - We have to submit a state-level strategic plan every July.
 - Each of these have their own templates/required formats. It may be better for us to develop our plan and then let the information flow into those templates.
- This needs to be an action oriented plan.

The Council agrees that the April meeting should be dedicated to creating a strategic plan.

One of the most compelling pieces of information that was presented to the Workforce Development Task Force was the document that provided the complete scope of funds dedicated to the workforce system. It is divided between 8 agencies and 24 different programs. The Workforce Training Fund was noted as the most flexible of the funds; however, this is a small fund. It is about \$4 million of the \$161 million in state and federal funds. The Council is responsible for coordinating this whole system, not just to administer the training fund.

Chairman Clark shared the Executive Committee's perspective on the roles and responsibilities of the Council with respect to the Workforce Development Training Fund. It became clear at the October meeting that if we spent the majority of our quarterly time together reviewing workforce training fund grants we would not have time for the important strategic workforce development that we are tasked with. In addition, we need to have a legally defensible process on how we make decision on awarding WDTFs and there is concern that some proposals come to the full Council for final approval while others go to the Executive Committee. It becomes problematic when we are reviewing grants at the council meeting when people are missing, proxies are filling in for people, etc. When asked by Governor Otter to take over responsibility for the WDTF, one of his concerns was that the decision making remain nimble and responsive to community and business needs. This means that we have to have a process that allows approvals between our quarterly meetings.

The Executive Committee believes the goal of the Workforce Development Council is to be focused on broad state workforce efforts, and the WDTF is just one piece of that. The Council needs to set clear guidance for the Grant Review Committee for Workforce Development Training Fund Grants. The recommendation from the Executive Committee is to make the Grant Review Committee the primary decision maker on Workforce Development Training Fund Grants. Their recommendations would then go to the Executive Committee to provide a "quality control check" to ensure the Grant Review Committee applied the policies that are set by the Council. The offer is open for any Council member to serve on the Grant Review Committee as it is important to have those who are passionate about the WDTF involved in the decision making.

The Executive Committee is also asking the Governor to amend the Executive Order to add a representative of organized labor to the Executive Committee. There was previously a seat on the Executive Committee for a representative and we think it is important to restore it.

There is also concern with self-dealing/conflicts of interest. The question is how do we maintain transparency in grant making if a Council member's company or organization decides to apply for a grant. This issue was discussed with the Governor and he agrees that it is problematic to exclude any member based on the possibility that they may pursue a grant. However, we do need to be firm in our conflict of interest policy to ensure that members recuse themselves from any decisions that benefit them or their organization. The Governor said that he would consider increasing the requirements around conflict of interest if the full Council asks him to do so. We also need to remember that grants are just a small part of this Council and it is important to have members representing diverse interests.

Members expressed their views including that we consider asking members to resign if their company decides to apply for a grant.

- The company would just be choosing for that 3-year term to not apply for a grant and do what is best for Idaho. It means going forward that we should take the stand that we have set a high ethical standard. The Governor appoints all of the private businesses to the council. There could be a perception that they were appointed just to give their company grant funds. Council members should be here to serve the state, not for the betterment of their company.
- It is important to ensure that there is a high ethical standard set for our council members.
- Would community colleges not be eligible for grants as well?
 - No, they are getting grant funds for a broad spectrum of employers. Not just one employer.



- Does the normal practice of recusal not work in this instance?
 - Concerns were raised about the dynamic of not voting against the person sitting next to you.
- This practice would just be for employer grants?
 - That is correct.
- Sometimes the council member is not aware that their company is submitting a grant. How would that play out?
- The Governor tasks the Council with making these decisions. He did not task committees with making these decisions. There is concern with issues coming up later that would make the Council look bad (e.g. funding of building a facility for a college).
 - The CEI Cybersecurity Training grant was clarified to explain that the funds are not being used to purchase the building. CEI is purchasing the building, WDTF is being used to renovate the classrooms and purchase equipment to furnish the classrooms to do the training. The bottom line is that CEI will be training 1,000 individuals under the grant and their gap was the funding for the renovation and equipment. They have access to the curriculum and instructors and will use their money for those aspects of the project.
 - Our policy does not state that those kinds of expenses cannot be funded. Looking back through past grants we have funded curriculum development and equipment in many grants which is also an asset not a direct training.

There is concern that the Executive Committee making the decisions for the full Council.

The grants that would be reviewed could go on a consent agenda for the full council and it would be up to the Council to then ask questions about the grants and if need be make changes to policy.

- Could a monthly electronic vote be taken on these?
- There is still the concern with the consistency of 36 people reviewing these grants.

Previously the Council was tasked with just approving items at each meeting that staff brought them. If we get into the situation of reviewing every grant that comes to the council, we will get back into the habit of rubber stamping things. It would leave no time for the council to actually work on strategic workforce issues.

There can be clearer guidelines for the Grant Review Committee to make these decisions. The Grant Review Committee would like more strict guidelines to ensure they are operating correctly. Once they have clear guidelines then the only role would be for the Executive Committee to ensure that they are following policy. The Policy Committee is working on an update to provide that clarity and it will come to the full council for a vote in April.

• A full discussion of the council on specific grant applications is the wrong time to make a policy change. This could get the council in trouble.

Anyone who is interested can ask Chairman Clark to be appointed to the Grant Review Committee.

Motion by Commissioner Smith that, consistent with state law, funding decisions be made by the full Council and to investigate an electronic voting method for the full council to approve these grants ensuring that the process is consistent and timely. Second by Representative Syme.

Is there a way to expedite the policy updates?

• The Grant Review Committee and Policy Committee are having a discussion today on this issue.

The speed of grant approval is important. California has a board of no more than 10 people who review these types of grants. A council of 36 is too many to have reviewing.

Ms. Swanson opposes the motion on the basis that it will become a cumbersome process for the Council, does not promote consistency in decision making and would keep the Council from strategic work.

The chair called for a voice vote. The results were not clear, so the chair asked for a raise of hands. There were 3 aye votes and 31 nay votes. The motion did not pass.

Chairman Clark will work with Ms. Secrist to create a process for the full council to review grant decisions.

Outreach

The Committee is grappling with how to best allocate our resources to support the Task Force recommendation of "Public Engagement & Outreach". The legislature gave us the responsibility for this but did not tell us how. It is our responsibility to develop an overreaching outreach strategy and make decisions on where those funds will have the most impact. However, we can't become paralyzed by what we don't know – there is low hanging fruit that we can capitalize on now to effect change. As we are doing that we can continue to refine our methods with the data we capture and develop that greater and more sophisticated strategy. Specific initiatives that need our attention immediately are:

- The "hub" which fulfills one of the short-term actions given by the Workforce Development Task Force: "Implement a single platform for career exploration and post-secondary planning" is now underway. This afternoon the Outreach committee will engage in a focus group with Strategies 360 to engage in the process, and make sure the Council's needs are met. Tomorrow there will be a high-level, all-day session by Strategies 360 involving leadership staff from agencies including the State Board of Education, State Department of Education, Career & Technical Education, Department of Labor, and Workforce Development Council.
- We are in the data collection phase to build a statewide workforce development / career resources map. This includes projects and activities down to the local level leveraging education and economic development partners. We are simultaneously engaging Strategies 360 to build an interactive asset map that will be shared publicly.
- We are also starting to work on the Employer Toolkit Ms. Secrist mentioned in her director's report and will develop a complementing Educator Toolkit.

April Council Meeting

The April Council meeting will be moved to April 11 to allow the Council to meet at Micron.

Chair's Closing Remarks

Members should adjourn to their committee meeting and the full council will not reconvene.

Motion by Mr. Woolsey to adjourn. Second by Ms. Fletcher. Motion carried. Adjourned at 2:55 pm.