



Meeting URL: <https://sowib-org.zoom.us/j/87430644768?pwd=trSzR2KlgbpihvSalVmSktg6TePdbq.1>
Meeting ID: 874 3064 4768
Passcode: 530153

MINUTES

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum

Robert Westerman
Jennifer Gustafson (B)
Jason Traylor (B)
Debbie Sargent
Ali Mageehon
Marie Simonds (B)
Amy Kincaid
Mike Hicks
Rod Sprinkle
Nichole Moody (B)
Andy Owens (B)

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm by Robert Westerman. 11 of the 15 members (excluding vacancies) were present, making up 73% of the total members. Of the 73%, 45% represent Businesses.

2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS/CURRENT OPENINGS

New Board Members

Jennifer Gustafson with Allcare Health was welcomed as our new Board Member and introduced to the Board.

Miranda Plagge, with Curry County Economic Development, was introduced as our guest and upcoming board member.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION: Members of the public may now comment on any matter posted on this Agenda, which is before this Board for consideration and action today. Please clearly state and spell your name and state your address for the record. Each public comment will be limited to three (3) minutes.

No public comment was presented.

BOARD ACTION ITEMS

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Consent Agenda (Approved with One Motion)

a. Meeting Minutes – November 20, 2025

Marie Simonds made a motion to approve the November 20, 2025 Minutes and Consent Agenda and John Sweet seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. PRESENTATION: SOWIB Audit Presentation; *Garima Pathak*

Review of Independent Auditor's Report. SOWIB achieved an exceptionally strong financial standing this year, receiving a "clean" unmodified opinion.

Rod Sprinkle made a motion to approve the annual audit as presented and Mike Hicks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. PRESENTATION: WIOA RFP Process & Timeline; *Rena Langston*

An update was provided of the review and selection process on the Request for Proposals (RFP) for WIOA-funded services and Board members were invited to participate in reviewing and ranking proposals.

Andy Owens made a motion to approve the WIOA RFP timeline as presented, and John Sweet seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

STANDING REPORTS

7. INFORMATION: *Operations Update; Mindy Woodworth*

Mindy discussed that we are seeking to identify and engage a new third-party provider for our 360 Performance Reviews and Disk Assessment.

8. INFORMATION: *Financial Statements; Yolanda Brumfield*

Yolanda gave an overview of funding for SOWIB. We currently have \$2.1M in total net assets as of December 31, 2025.

9. INFORMATION: *Director's Report; Sara Stephens*

Sara gave a status update on grant tracking, Rapid response, Legislative update and budget reductions, ARPA Funding *regarding the Department of Early Learning and Care; the Senate Bill codifying the Prosperity 10K Program*

Sara has been asked to sit on a few committees, and she *gave status updates of* Business Oregon Statewide Economic Development Strategy Advisory Committee; The Postsecondary Attainment Steering Committee; and Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission;

INFORMATION: *Agency Updates; Sara Stephens*

Apprenticeship. The surgical technology exception from BOLI was approved in December.

Sector work: Several attendees from the group participated in the first construction sector launch. Evan and Rachel partnered with SWOCC to host a welding sector meeting to share feedback and recommendations.

Dental sector: A meeting will be launched soon, supported by a grant from the OCF and championed by Marie Simons.

SOWIB Projects

INFORMATION: *Program Updates; SOWIB Staff*

10. INFORMATION: *Rapid Response; Rachael Larson*

Multiple closures and layoffs have impacted 253 workers across the region. A National Dislocated Worker Grant has been secured to support these individuals, with additional funding helping to backfill regional workforce service needs.

11. INFORMATION: *SCREL update; Sara Stephens*

SCREL has a director position opening.

12. INFORMATION: *HOW-TO grant; Sara Stephens*

The HOW-TO grant was recently closed out. Early discussions are underway regarding potential CTE building collaborations between Coos County high schools and partners to explore opportunities for expansion.

13. INFORMATION: *Budget Status; Sara Stephens*

We are preparing for 26-27 budgets which will be a bulk of our May meeting discussions.

PROVIDER UPDATES

INFORMATION: *Provider Updates*

Build; *Ali Mageehon*

An update was provided on the pre-apprenticeship construction program funded through SOWIB's BUILD grant, as well as the diesel technology program. The diesel technology program's first year is progressing well. Due to high interest in the pre-apprenticeship program, a new full-time faculty member was hired. Industry collaboration remains a priority, with plans to establish an advisory committee to help guide curriculum development and ensure alignment with workforce needs.

South Coast Business Employment Corporation; *Melissa Hendrickson*

South Coast Business Services provided an update providing 830 total services across the region. Services supported multiple sectors including healthcare, transportation, manufacturing, and maritime. Additional

outcomes included scholarships, on-the-job training completions, occupational certificates, and licenses. The on-the-job training (OJT) program supported transitioning from part-time or seasonal positions to higher-paying, full-time roles. Participants were able to stop using public assistance benefits, and all five remain employed with their employers.

ADJOURNMENT

Rob Westerman officially adjourned the meeting at approximately 1:17 PM PST.

Meeting Calendar Available upon request