

NWDB Leadership Committee Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2022

Present: Sean Lavin (Chair), JD Williamson, Kimberly Gregory, Tameka Gibbs, Amber Morse (staff), Rachel Clipston (staff), Dave Whitmer (staff), Annette Barnes (staff), Niaisha Stokley (staff); Mike Ervin (Albemarle Commission Executive Director)

Absent With Notice: Larry Lombardi

Absent Without Notice: Janet Russ (Vice-Chair)

1. **Welcome and Approval of Minutes:** Chairman Lavin called the meeting to order. Tameka Gibbs made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by JD Williamson and passed unanimously.

2. **Realignment Study; Center Closure and Staffing Updates:** Albemarle Commission Executive Director, Mike Ervin, discussed a meeting that he had in Raleigh with the following attendees: Senator Bob Steinburg, Representative Bobby Hanig, Representative Ed Goodwin, NC Commerce Chief Deputy Secretary Jordan Whichard, Assistant Secretary Division of Workforce Solutions Chet Mottershead, NCWorks Commission Director Annie Izod, and DWS Business Services Director Jenni Harris. Director Ervin stated that it was clear that the representatives of the various state agencies at the meeting (Whichard, Mottershead, Izod, Harris) are intent on moving forward with realignment of the workforce boards regardless of how the boards, COGS, or regions in general fought it. The big question is how it will be done and what model will be used – from what they have been promoting, it looks as if it will be the prosperity zone model. Pointed questions were asked at the meeting but there were not any real answers about why this is all taking place. Director Ervin also informed the committee that there are only three ways in which the boards can be realigned: 1. At the request of the local officials (counties) 2. Due to significant fiscal issues 3. Due to not meeting performance. Director Ervin stated that he was concerned about the board's ability to meet performance considering the recent DWS staff cuts. Director Whitmer then discussed the decisions that had been made for the NWDB region by Larry Donley, Regional Operations Director Northeast and Mark Edmonds, DWS COO including closing the Dare County Career Center, DWS no longer serving as One-Stop Operator for the NWDB region, and not allowing the Center Manager and Assistant Manager to consider serving as the functional managers of the career centers. Director Whitmer also referred to the "Realignment Document" which was included in the meeting packet. This document was passed by the NCWorks Commission's Governance and Strategic Alignment Committee and is scheduled to go to the full NCWorks Commission's board.

3. **Updates:** Director Whitmer informed the committee that all requested documents had been sent to the Financial Monitor and we were waiting to hear back from her. We have started working on the Annual Plan Update which is an extensive amount of work. The NCWorks Commission has released the updated Center Certification criteria and timeline. Krystal Watson with Regulator Marine has been appointed to the board. Chair Lavin stated that considering the urgent issues that were being dealt with, he is recommending delaying the board retreat until possibly the fall.

4. **Committee Chair Check-in:**

JD Williamson, reporting on behalf of the Finance Committee, stated that the committee will meet next week and will vote on the budget.

Tameka Gibbs, reporting on behalf of the Career Center Committee, reported that the committee did not meet in February but will meet today at 3:30.

Dr. Kimberly Gregory, reporting on behalf of NextGen, stated that our NextGen Program Coordinator, Janaye Clark, will be leaving us and we are currently planning to fill that position. There is a tour for NextGen Youth with Pasquotank EMS coming up. There will be a tour in the fall at COA Currituck. There is a job fair with First Flight HS tomorrow and one being planned with Manteo HS.

Amber Morse, reporting on behalf of the Business Resources and Opportunities Committee, stated new committee member, Paige Griffin, has participated in her first BROOC meeting and they are excited to have her. The Committee has also received an Employee Training Grant from Coastal Staffing.

Chairman Lavin stated that NC Workforce Board Chairs have quarterly meetings and he is not always available to attend. He asked the committee members to consider attending in place when he is not available.

5. **NWDB March Meeting Agenda:** After discussion, the committee agreed to include the following on the March meeting (in addition to the regular agenda items): FY 23 Budget; Employee Training Grant – Coastal Staffing; Presentation from Larry Donley regarding changes in NWDB region.

Minutes prepared by Dave Whitmer.

Approved by:  Date: 04 / 07 / 2022

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