



GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
500 E. Third Street, Room 200
Carson City, Nevada 89713
Telephone (775) 684-3911 * Fax (775) 684-3908

MEETING MINUTES
Governor's Workforce Investment Board (GWIB)
Agriculture Sector Council
Wednesday, March 25, 2015
2:00 p.m.

Council Members Present: Amber Smyer, Jeff Sutich, Heather Steel, Jeff Bryant, Mike Pointer, Christie Gescheider, Dr. Frederick Steinmann

Council Members Absent: Dave Coon, Senator James Settelmeyer, Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams (excused), Jeff Brigger, Mike Catalano, Rob Hooper, Dr. Boyd Spratling, Rod Adams, Peter Wallish

Ex-officio Members Present: Jim Kostecki, Christine Ridge

Ex-officio Members Absent: Tim Wilcox, Jeremy Hays, Melinda Lyons, John Collins

DETR WSU Staff Present: De Salazar, Coralie Peterson, William Anderson, Christopher Robison

Others Present: Judy Turgiss (Nevada Workforce Development Center), Bill Payne, Dean, College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources, University of Nevada, Reno (CABNR, UNR), Bob Potts (GOED).

**Please note that all attendees may not be listed above.*

Place of Meeting: **Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation**
2800 East St. Louis Avenue, Conference Room C Only
Las Vegas, NV

Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation
500 E. Third Street, Director's Conference Room
Carson City

Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation
Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation
1325 Corporate Boulevard
Reno

- I. Welcome, Introduction and New Members.....Amber Smyer, Chair
Governor’s Workforce Investment Board, Agriculture Sector Council

The Chair of this Council, Amber Smyer, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending this meeting. She then asked Coralie Peterson, Administrative Assistant for DETR’s Workforce Solutions Unit, to call roll.

- II. Roll call and Establishment of a Quorum.....Coralie Peterson, Administrative Assistant
Workforce Solutions Unit, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation, (DETR)

Coralie Peterson called roll and informed the Chair that a quorum was not present. Ms. Smyer then proceeded to address Item VI.

- III. Verification of Posting.....Coralie Peterson

Ms. Peterson verified that the agenda for this meeting was posted according to NRS 241.020.

- IV. **First Public Comment Session**Amber Smyer
Members of the public will be invited to speak before; however, no action may be taken on a matter during public comment until the matter itself has been included on an agenda as an item for possible action. Public comment may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the chairperson.

Ms. Smyer announced the First Public Comment Session and invited members of the public to speak. No comments were made. Hearing no comments, the Chair moved to Item VIII.

- V. **For Possible Action** - Approval of the November 19, 2014 Meeting Minutes.....Amber Smyer

As a quorum was not present for this meeting, the Chair tabled this item to be addressed in the next sector council meeting.

- VI. **Discussion** – DETR Update on Direction for the GWIB Industry Sector Councils.....Dennis Perea, Deputy Director
DETR

William Anderson, Chief Economist
Bureau of Research and Analysis, DETR

Ms. Smyer invited Mr. Anderson to provide his comments. Mr. Anderson thanked the Chair, and mentioned that Deputy Director Perea sent his apologies for not attending today’s meeting. Mr. Anderson stated that many may have heard that changes were afoot to the overall sector council infrastructure, and he and Mr. Perea wanted to share what those changes would entail.

As the Sector Councils have been in place since their adoption 3 years ago, DETR felt it would be an appropriate time to assess if the current process is providing the appropriate type of intelligence and if the process can be made more efficient. In addition, another consideration is budgetary, as the federal funding supporting the Workforce Solutions Unit has been reduced, with the result of the unit being disbanded.

Mr. Anderson went on to explain that the responsibilities associated with the Sector Councils, as well as the remaining Workforce Solutions Unit staff members, De Salazar and Coralie Peterson, are being transferred to the Research and Analysis Bureau under his supervision, as of July 1, 2015, when the proposed budget goes into effect. This will be a logical change, as all labor market information is housed in his “shop.”

Mr. Anderson added that the staff working with the Sector Councils will include himself, as Administrator, De Salazar, who will coordinate the council meetings and agendas. In addition, Christopher Robison, Supervising Economist for the Bureau of Research and Analysis and Bob Potts in the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED), will both serve as research coordinators in various aspects of the Sector Councils. Coralie Peterson will provide staff support to the Sector Councils.

The future objective is to assist the Sector Councils to have business provide industry intelligence that *can be acted upon, specifically related to 1) critical workforce needs, 2) key occupations and challenges, and 3) desired workforce training.*

The leadership team mentioned will work with the Sector Councils to form an appropriate agenda, in an effort to get that needed industry intelligence. The Bureau of Research and Analysis will act as staff to the Sector Councils by putting together their data (relating to occupations, education, skill needs, et cetera) in a discussion item, allowing the Sector Councils to determine if the information is accurate or needs corrections or additions.

Mr. Anderson said the whole process of administering the Sector Councils has become burdensome, for example, in the area of convening formal sub-committee groups. Using a less structured approach may create a more efficient and productive infrastructure.

He concluded his comments by stating that changes will not take place immediately and in the meantime, he will work with De Salazar and Coralie Peterson to become familiar with the structure and work of the Sector Councils and address any issues that have been encountered. He said that once the changes have taken place, this should result in the gathering of type of intelligence that DETR can act upon, making the process more efficient, productive, and worthwhile for all who are involved.

Ms. Smyer thanked him for his comments and stated she looked forward to working with him in the future.

VIII. Discussion – Update on the Pilot Program.....Dr. Ronald Pardini, Interim Director College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources, University of Nevada Reno (UNR)

- Objective 2: Approval of industry survey questions and distribution list
- Objective 5: Finalize committee to compile educational courses/trainings within the state related to the agriculture sector

Amber Smyer reminded members that previously it was determined that were careers needed additional “hand-on” training in the areas of nursery, greenhouse and range management. The Pilot was submitted for funding for those opportunities. 7 companies were identified as training sites for UNR students. Commercial operations include: Dayton Valley Turf, Latin Farms, Moana Nursery, Resource Concepts, Inc., Snyder Family Farms. In addition, the Nevada Department of Agriculture is placing a Range Health Intern as well as Song Dog Native Plant Nursery (federal agency).

Ms. Smyer added that their search for 17 applicants has just concluded, and these applications are currently under review by the University, which will then be turned over to the companies for their intern selection. Ms. Smyer thanked Bill Payne, Dean of the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources (CABNR), University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) for their collaboration and cooperation and asked if he would like to add further comments.

Dean Payne commented that there is potential for further growth in the program, with the additional companies, students, and other commodity experts, such as 4 H.

Sector Council Member Christie Gescheider (Moana Nursery) asked the timeline, and Ms. Smyer said that hopefully within a week the companies would receive the applications, and should be able to interview any of the qualified candidates.

Ms. Smyer then reviewed The Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA) Survey – Overview handout provided for this meeting. She explained that this survey monkey will soon be finalized and distributed to companies, producers, individual and organizations in the areas of food and agriculture to determine what jobs/occupations are in demand, what education and skill sets and certifications are needed.

Ms. Smyer said that a next step will be to compile a comprehensive document listing training opportunities in the state’s education system pertaining to agriculture to overlay with the Survey responses and determine any gaps. Dr. Steinmann asked that specific requests be sent to him to begin compiling the resources.

VII. **Presentation** – Nevada Agricultural Education Overview and Highlight of the 86th Nevada State Convention.....Skyler Wellnitz, State Reporter
Nevada FFA Association & Foundation

Ms. Smyer invited Skyler Wellnitz to share comments on how agricultural education is helping students prepare for careers in agriculture. Ms. Wellnitz stated that 48 students received the State FFA degree in their recent 86th Annual Convention, adding that this is the highest award given. The event boasted their highest attendance of 548 students.

She went on to share the many benefits of participating in FFA Agricultural Education, such as developing leadership, public speaking and interview skills, earning money from “hand-on” projects, and the development of academic skills.

VIII. **For Possible Action** – New Business and Future Agenda Items.....Amber Smyer

Brief updates on 1st Quarter 2015 Activities from:

- Governor’s Workforce Investment Board (GOED)
- Nevadaworks and Workforce Connections
- NV Energy
- Northern Nevada Development Authority (NNDA)
- Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDA)

IX. Next Scheduled Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.....Amber Smyer

X. **Second Public Comment Session**.....Amber Smyer
Members of the public may now comment on any matter or topic, which is relevant to or within the authority or jurisdiction of the Board. You may comment now even if you commented earlier; however,

please do not simply repeat the same comment you previously made. Please clearly state and spell your name. Public comment may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the chairperson.

Amber Smyer announced the Second Public Comment Session and invited members of the public to speak. Anne Willard, Education Programs Professional for the Agriculture and Natural Resources Office of Career Readiness, Adult Learning and Education Options, announced the development of a new program of study, Food Science Technology, which may be offered to agriculture education students through secondary school CTE programs. The planned course sequencing will begin with Agriculture Science I, Agriculture Science II, Food Science Technology (completer course – L3C) followed by an Advanced Studies option.

The Nevada State Skill Standards Writing Team nomination forms have been distributed to CTE Coordinators/Administrators in all school districts. Nominations for participation on the standards development team will be accepted through Friday, March 27, 2015. There will be another opportunity to participate in the program development process when the final draft is to be vetted by Agriculture Industry representatives. It is anticipated that the new program of study in Food Science Technology will be submitted to the State Board of Education for approval by June 2015.

Ms. Willard asked that inquiries and nominations be sent to her directly at awillard@doe.nv.gov.

Hearing no further comments, the Chair moved to the next agenda item.

XI. AdjournmentAmber Smyer

Ms. Smyer adjourned the meeting at 2:42 p.m.

Agenda items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration by the public body, and/or pulled or removed from the agenda at any time. The Chair may continue this meeting from day-to-day. Pursuant to NRS 241.020, no action may be taken upon a matter raised during a period devoted to comments by the general public until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.

GOVERNOR’S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
AGRICULTURE SECTOR COUNCIL

Amber Smyer (Chair), Dave Coon (Vice Chair), Senator James Settelmeyer,
Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams, Jeff Sutich, Heather Steel, Dr. Ron Pardini, Jeff Brigger,
Mike Catalano, Rob Hooper, Dr. Boyd Spratling, Dr. Frederick Steinmann, Rod Adams, Jeff Bryant, Mike Pointer,
Heston Johns and Peter Wallish

***Notice:** Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting should notify Coralie Peterson, DETR, Workforce Solutions Unit, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m., in writing at 2800 E. St. Louis., Las Vegas, Nevada 89104; or call (702) 486-0523; or fax (702) 486-6426 on or before the close of business Tuesday, March 24, 2015.*

Notice of this meeting was posted at the following locations on or before 9:00 a.m. on the third working day before the meeting: DETR, 2800 E. St. Louis, Las Vegas, NV; DETR, 500 East Third St., Carson City, NV; DETR, 1325 Corporate Blvd., Reno NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 3405 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 119 Water St., Henderson, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 2827 N. Las Vegas Blvd., North Las Vegas, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 1929 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 172 Sixth St., Elko, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 480 Campton St., Ely, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 121 Industrial Way, Fallon, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 475 W. Haskell, #1, Winnemucca, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 4001 S. Virginia St., Suite G, Reno, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 1675 E. Prater Way, Suite 103, Sparks, NV; GRANT SAWYER OFFICE BUILDING, 555 E. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, NV; LEGISLATIVE BUILDING, 401 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV; NEVADAWORKS 6490 S. McCarran Blvd., Building A, Unit 1., Reno, NV; WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS, 6330 W. Charleston Blvd., Las Vegas, NV. This agenda was also posted on DETR’s Web site at www.nvdetr.org. In addition, the agenda was mailed or e-mailed to groups and individuals as requested.