



RUTLAND REGION WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2024, 11:00 AM

MEETING DETAILS

Virtual: [Teams Meeting](#), ID: 212 709 713 877, Pass: 4RJJdq

In-Person: The Opera House, 3rd Floor, 67 Merchants Row, Rutland, VT 05701

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Ellen Coyle (Rutland City), Amanda Richardson (SVTAHEC), Lyle Jepson (CEDRR), Devon Neary (RRPC), Maria Burt (HireAbility), Edward Bove (RRA)

RRPC Staff: Greg Poelker and Mary Kay Skaza

Public: Rob Gallipo (Vermont BGS), Samantha Abatiell (HireAbility), Devon Karpak (Otter Valley), Anna Telensky (VSAC)

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting was called to order at 11:05AM by Treasurer Jepson. Introductions were made.

APPROVAL OF May 21st AGENDA

No quorum.

APPROVAL OF APRIL 16TH MINUTES

No quorum.

FEBRUARY FINANCIALS

Skaza provided an update on the March 2024 Financials. For informational purposes only. Jepson asked if the RRWIB can expect a similar invoice from the RRPC for April and May. Skaza stated that the RRPC had a plan to spend down the budgeted Vermont Community Foundation funds by the end of the fiscal year with a focus on grant writing and employer outreach. Bove asked if the RRWIB would pursue sponsorships for events? Neary replied that they would consider the funding source but also look to reduce direct costs associated with events.

REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE



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Poelker proposed a bimonthly meeting schedule of the 2nd Tuesday from 8:30-9:30AM. Burt noted that there is a large event on October 8th that many will be attending. Burt proposed that an alternative week be chosen for October. The revised meeting dates will be the following:

Tuesday, June 11 th , 2024	8:30 – 9:30am
Tuesday, August 13 th , 2024	8:30 – 9:30am
Tuesday, October 1 st , 2024	8:30 – 9:30am
Tuesday, December 10 th , 2024	8:30 – 9:30am
Tuesday, February 11 th , 2025	8:30 – 9:30am
Tuesday, April 8 th , 2025	8:30 – 9:30am
Tuesday, June 10 th , 2025	8:30 – 9:30am

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT

Poelker provided an update to the proposed bylaw amendment. There was some discussion about the composition of the membership and the number of required business and education seats. Jepson requested the bylaw amendment vote be moved to the June meeting when there will be a quorum.

WORC 6 APPLICATION INITIAL REVIEW

Poelker provided a scope and timeline for the WORC 6 Application. The proposed application will focus on increasing workforce capacity in the areas of construction, infrastructure, and clean energy through support for training in the trades. Participants would primarily be graduating students from high schools around the Region who are not planning on pursuing postsecondary education. Discussion was had as to whether this model may be applicable across all industries. Jepson suggested piloting this program with a few students from each high school to see if it is viable. Discussion was had as to how intensive the application process should be for the program. It was noted that employers may not want to continue ‘buying in’ to such a program if the students they are getting do not follow through with it. It was also noted that creating application barriers may stop some students from pursuing the program, even though they would be a good fit. Training in the ‘soft skills’ of career development was discussed.

2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR EVENTS

Poelker proposed holding a region-wide Financial Reality Fair at a centrally located high school (or at the former CSJ campus) in Fall 2024. Jepson suggested that this would be a short timeline for organizing such an event, and that it might be more appropriate to pilot the event at 1-2 high schools this fall before growing it further. Discussion was had about the financial cost of the event, and whether financial literacy training should be prioritized before or after job training. Karpak noted that raising students’ interest in local careers through hands-on learning is essential to getting interest in job training programs later on.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 12:01PM.



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Respectfully submitted by Devon Neary