



## **RUTLAND REGION** WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING**

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025, 8:30 AM

#### **MEETING DETAILS**

Virtual: [Teams Meeting](#), ID: 267 278 658 980, Pass: we9GG2R5

In-Person: 16 Evelyn Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Rutland, VT 05701

#### **MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Board Members: Amanda Richardson (SVTAHEC), Ellen Coyle (City of Rutland), Devon Neary (RRPC), Wendy Morse (VDOL), and Brian Kerns (RRMC)

Other: Missy Macklin (VWW), Karimah Edwards (RRPC)

#### **MEETING MINUTES**

8:30 CALL TO ORDER & INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting for informational purposes only.

8:35 APPROVAL OF APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup> 2025 AGENDA

Motion by Lyle Jepson. Seconded by Brian Kerns. Approved by voice vote.

8:36 APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> 2025 MINUTES

Motion by Brian Kerns. Seconded by Ellen Coyle. Approved by voice vote.

8:38 OPEN TO PUBLIC

None present.

8:40 FEBRUARY FINANCIALS

Neary presented the financial summary for February 2025. For informational purposes only.

8:42 REGIONAL UPDATES & COLLABORATION

1. Richardson: Partnering with the Governors Institute of Vermont to offer a health and medical institute at VTSU – Castleton for a week. About 70 students from across Vermont will be attending to learn about health and medicine. Also partnering with the City of Rutland on a research project with two medical students connecting health and water. Both opportunities will give students the chance to experience the Rutland region with the hope they may consider practicing medicine here after completing their studies.
2. Coyle: Starting the recruitment process for summer internships. The Department of Public Works will be taking on approximately five high school and/or early college age students. The internship will give participants exposure to multiple areas and disciplines over 10 weeks during the summer. After having successful experiences with multiple interns, the city will continue to partner with VTSU – Castleton and Vermont



## **RUTLAND REGION** WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

Law School to recruit interns. The city is also looking to expand the program to include internship opportunities throughout the year.

3. Jepson: CEDRR is promoting internship opportunities for Castleton students. The Bring Back the Trades event will be held May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at VTSU – Castleton. CEDRR is anticipating a successful event with over 1300 students registered to date.
4. Kerns: Announced a new member of the executive team, Eric Peterson. Peterson will be the new Associate Vice President of Facilities, Projects and Services. Peterson will be taking the lead on capital enhancements to the RRMCM buildings. RRMCM also has a new Director of Education and Clinical Excellence, Helen Papika. RRMCM will also be hosting ten paid summer internships for graduating high school kids.
5. Stubbins: Discussed experiences with on-the-job training. Provided detailed information and perspective as an employer seeking skilled employees. He expressed his desire to work with the Education to Employment Bridge Program to ensure participants were allowed career exploration to choose a pathway of interest. Shared that obtaining health insurance for employees can be challenging for small business owners.
6. Morse: Shared information on the Skill Bridge program which she described as a military sponsored internship program. The program works with employers to create employment pathways for veterans who often experience barriers to employment. Later, Morse also provided information on work keys assessments in response to Stubbins comment about the need for job readiness skills.
7. Edwards: Shared an update on the Bridge Program. Partnerships have been expanded to include CEDRR, ReSource, MINT, VWW as well as VAL and STC. CEDRR will provide an opportunity for career exploration as well as recruitment and engagement. STC will focus on CDL and health care training. The program continues to look for opportunities to partner with employers such as Coca-Cola and RRMCM.
8. Mackin: Shared in response to Stubbins and Morse, that work keys assessments have been effective for job readiness. Also share that Vermont Works for Women (VWW) continues to schedule trainings for the Trailblazers program that provides training for women and gender expansive participants. VWW has been running programs in partnership with MINT. The Trailblazers training program will return to the MINT in 2026.

### 9:25 FUTURE RRWIB SCHEDULE

Will revisit the idea of a one day retreat/workshop and add this to agenda in June.

### 9:30 ADJOURN

Lacking a quorum, adjourned informally at 9:35 AM.



## **RUTLAND REGION** WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

Questions? Need special accommodations?

Contact: Karimah Edwards at [karimah@rutlandrpc.org](mailto:karimah@rutlandrpc.org) or (425)243-4610.