



**NEMO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

111E. Monroe • Paris, Missouri 65275 • Tel: 660.327.5125 • Fax: 660.327.5128 • TTY: Dial 7-1-1  
[www.nemowib.org](http://www.nemowib.org)

**NEMO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**April 25, 2022**

**WDB Members  
Present**

Michael Purol  
Corey Mehaffy  
Annette Sweet  
Steve Garner  
Jim Kolve  
Yvonne Wright  
Stephanie Cooper  
Kara Berlin-Bates  
Allie Bennett  
Dawn Mowery

**WDB Members  
Not Present**

Lisa Blickhan  
Mac Wilt  
Les Cardwell  
Dennis Gill  
Joe Rubison  
Mike McGhee  
Darin Arnsmeier  
Lydia McClellan  
Gabe Suddarth  
Steve Sellenriek  
Carolyn Chrisman  
Mark Chambers

**CLEO's  
Present**

Glenn Eagan  
Chris Gamm  
Ryan Poston  
Mark Shahan  
Alan Wyatt

**CLEOs**

**Not Present**

Rodney Cooper  
Buddy Kattelman  
Joseph Kaimann  
Duane Ebeling  
John Lake  
John Tracy  
John David Lomax  
Joe Gildehaus  
Mike Whelan  
Luther Green  
Deanne Whiston

**Guests  
Present**

Jenn Weber  
Chad Eggen  
Ruth Whitis  
Mandy McClanahan  
Erica Davis  
Dana Keller  
Shari Schenewerk  
Latrisha Hicks  
Janet Meyers  
Brent Stevens  
Mark Thompson  
Bill King  
Kim Meyer  
Jeanie Griffin  
Kerry Savage  
Becky Fletcher  
Carolyn Wisecarver  
Sutarrah Campbell

**WDB Staff  
Present**

Diane Simbro  
Sharon Hillard  
Wonda Hart

## **ROLL CALL OF THE NORTHEAST REGION CLEO CONSORTIUM**

Roll call of the CLEO Consortium was taken by Jim Kolve. Five CLEOs were present and a simple majority quorum was established.

### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Chairperson Michael Purol called the April 25, 2022 Northeast Missouri Workforce Development Board (NEMO WDB) meeting to order at approximately 12:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Hometown Bank in Hannibal, Missouri with a virtual option through Zoom.

### **ROLL CALL AND SIGNATURE SHEET**

Roll call was taken by Secretary/Treasurer Jim Kolve. Ten members were present and a quorum was established.

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Corey Mehaffy moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Allie Bennett seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

### **SPECIAL GUESTS**

Several special guests were present so everyone was asked to introduce themselves.

### **DISCUSSION ON PLAN FOR PY22 WITH NORTH CENTRAL MISSOURI COLLEGE AS THE FISCAL AGENT**

Yvonne Wright, Deputy Director Office of Workforce Development (OWD), said Dr. Leathers was not able to participate in the meeting and she and Becky Fletcher would be representing him. Becky, herself, OWD, and Dr. Leathers were available to support both regions in whatever way they could in moving forward with this initiative. She said OWD has developed and provided some materials to Brent, Diane, the CLEOs and workforce Board staff to ensure the work that needs to be completed can be accomplished. Yvonne asked the Northwest Region WDB Director Brent Stevens to walk everyone through the work the two regions had accomplished in moving forward with the potential merger.

Brent said he, Diane, Michael, Corey, Glenn, Chris and several others had been in discussions regarding the future of our regions. They considered the upcoming staff retirements in the NE Region and the cost of replacing and training those individuals and the continued decrease in funding of both regions. Looking to the future, they tried to determine what might be best for North Missouri and how to best serve the area with our dwindling budgets. Brent said both regions serve rural communities and we felt it was important that the workforce programs for North Missouri continue to be rural focused. We did not want to be swallowed up by the more metropolitan regions as we feel we best understand the needs of rural Missouri and how best to serve its citizens. Both he and Diane looked at several options and considered what it might look like if we merged the regions. We met with each of our Board Chairs and the CLEOs to tell them what we were considering and they wanted to know more about the process. We then spoke with Dr. Leathers and told him what we were considering and asked if he would support the merger and what we needed to do to make this happen. Dr. Leathers felt this was very innovative and was probably something that needed to happen. He said OWD would not force the merger but the regions would have OWD's full support. The Office of Workforce Development then realized they didn't have rules in place to make this happen at the state level. Therefore, Becky and her team went to work to see what would need to be done. They worked really hard to put some policies in place to help guide us through this process. Brent said he felt this would be the best option for both regions but this wasn't a done deal. Today's meeting was to discuss the possibility of a merger and they would like everyone's input.

Brent said the Northeast Region Commissioners had met and voted to proceed forward with the merger as well as to move the fiscal responsibilities to North Central Missouri College which is currently the Fiscal Agent for the Northwest Region. He said the college has been the fiscal agent for the NW Workforce Programs since they were put to a regional level. The college has a lot of experience and they have the infrastructure in place to really support this. As a Board staff, he is employed by North Central Missouri College and this allows the Board to lean on the resources that the college can provide and it works very well. Last week the NW Board met and voted unanimously to move forward with the merger. Today we are here for the NE Board to decide how they want to proceed. Brent said this would not be a fast process and there are exit ramps throughout the process, if at some point, it is decided that this is not a good decision. The first step is to submit the letter of intent to merge to the State. That letter has been signed by the commissioners and the Board chair on the NW Region. Today we are asking the NE Region WDB to vote on whether or not to move forward by signing the letter so it can be submitted to the State. Afterwards, he and Diane will work on the application that has to be submitted. Brent said the application talks about how the change will affect the services in North Missouri and what the alignment of the two is going to look like. This will be submitted by the end of this program year of June 30. Once the approvals begin, there is a cooling off period of one year. We would like that cooling off period to begin July 1. After we submit the application, it goes to the State WDB for their approval. If approved, it goes to the Governor for his approval or denial. Dr. Leathers has already had conversations with the Governor about this but everything needs to be good on the application. We are very excited that up to this point, all votes have been unanimous. Information regarding the process was sent to everyone to review and packets of that information were available as well. Brent said when all is accomplished, there will be one new board to serve North Missouri.

The floor was opened for questions. It was noted that the Bylaws would be revised to represent the whole area and would not be weighted more to one side than the other. Brent said it would be designed to have equal representation and that one side would not have power over the other. Board representation would also be designed to have equal representation and ensure that each county was represented. Yvonne added that the process was designed to take into account the interest of both boards.

Diane commented that she didn't foresee any changes in how we serve the employers and job seekers in the future. She thanked Corey, Glenn, Chris and Michael for their help in this effort. She said a lot of research was done and different options were considered but we felt the merger, was the best option for sustainability. She said being 34 counties strong should also give us more weight when begin considered for grant opportunities.

Michael said at the March Board meeting, the Northeast Region WDB voted to support the change of Fiscal Agent to North Central Missouri College and to support the merger with the Northwest WDB. Since that time, the CLEOs voted to approve those recommendations. Now the board needs to vote to approve or deny those recommendations.

Corey Mehaffy moved that the Northeast Region WDB approve North Central Missouri College as the Fiscal Agent for PY22 and that they approve the letter of intent to merge with the Northwest WDB Region. Allie Bennett seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

### **LOCAL PLAN REVIEW AND APPROVAL (Revised as required to update any board and/or economic changes)**

The Board and CLEOs were sent a copy of the revised Local Plan for their review. Diane said every four years the Region has to write a Local Plan. In addition, every two years the Region has to review and revise anything that may have changed in those two years. Jim Kolve, Mark Chambers and herself worked on the revision and several changes were made. Diane said most of the changes were due to the change of the Warrenton Job Center from a Comprehensive Job Center to an affiliate. She then reviewed the changes which included adding construction as a targeted sector, updating Labor Market Information, etc. She noted that part of the Plan included the regions Sustainability Plan. To calculate the budget, the

administrative funds for both regions were combined and split equally for each region. She reviewed the budget and after discussion, the following motion was made.

Stephanie Cooper moved to approve the Local Plan and the Sustainability Plan as presented. Corey Mehaffy seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved. Commissioner Mark Shahan moved to approve the Local Plan and the sustainability plan as presented. Commissioner Glenn Eagan seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Michael thanked the CLEOs and Board members for their work in making this decision. He also thanked the State staff for their assistance. He felt the Region was moving in the right direction.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Diane said we are still serving job seekers and employers and partnering with local agencies and this should continue throughout the merging process. She also talked about several local agencies that were interested in doing some registered apprenticeships. She said she was looking forward to the work ahead and she noted that the merging process may require more frequent meetings.

#### **CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING DATE & LOCATION**

The next NEMO WDB Meeting was scheduled for June 20, 2022. Due to that being a holiday, it was suggested to change the meeting date to June 13, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.

Annette Sweet moved that the next WDB Meeting be scheduled for 1:00 p.m. on June 13, 2022. Corey Mehaffy seconded the motion and the motion was unanimously approved.

#### **ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:30 p.m.