



# FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Workforce Development Board  
October 5, 2022 @ 4:00 p.m.  
SPECIAL MEETING

## SUMMARY MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 4:09 p.m.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT – Stephen Avila, Paul Bauer, Edgar Blunt, Alysia Bonner, Jeff Hensley, Wyatt Meadows, Terry Metters, Jr. (arrived at 4:29 p.m.), Dennis Montalbano, Joe Olivares, Sal Quintero (arrived at 4:25 p.m.), Vasili Sotiropulos, and Legal Counsel Ken Price.

ABSENT – Lacey Barnes, Fely Guzman, Mike Karbassi, Scott Miller, Sherry Neil, Chuck Riojas, Shelly Tarver, and Lydia Zabrycki

COMMENTS BY FRWDB CHAIR  
AND/OR EXECUTIVE STAFF: None

AGENDA CHANGES  
REMOVAL OF ITEMS OR  
EMERGENCY ADDITIONS: None

ABSTENTIONS/ DISCLOSURES OF  
POTENTIAL CONFLICTS  
OF INTEREST/RECUSALS: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

### **Item Description/Action Taken**

#### **6. ValleyBuild NOW Presentation**

Beatriz Lopez, Project Coordinator, Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB), narrated a Power Point presentation highlighting the ValleyBuild NOW program. She explained that ValleyBuild is a construction program, and ValleyBuild NOW is a construction program focused specifically on women. The first ValleyBuild NOW cohort had its graduation on September 30, 2022. Thirteen women graduated from the eight (8)-week pilot program and through the program, received certifications in Multi-Craft Core Curriculum, forklift operation, first aid and CPR, OSHA 10, HAZWOPER 40 and scaffolding. Graduates were recognized by various local elected officials at the ceremony for their accomplishments. Ms. Lopez introduced six (6) of the graduates, who attended the FRWDB meeting in order to share about their backgrounds, how they heard about the ValleyBuild NOW program, and their overall experience going through the program. All of these six (6) graduates have been offered transitional jobs with local construction companies.

Feedback from the FRWDB Directors was very positive and they congratulated the graduates.

Director Quintero arrived (4:25 p.m.) QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Director Blunt asked what was the capacity and future for this program. Blake Konczal, Executive Director, FRWDB, indicated that funding has been identified to keep the program going into the first quarter of 2026.

This was an information item.

## **7. Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board Bylaws**

Mr. Konczal presented red-line revised FRWDB Bylaws for approval. He noted that the most significant changes to the Bylaws were the addition of two (2) members of the Executive Committee. These two (2) additional members would come by including the FRWDB Chair Emeritus to the Executive Committee, and adding one (1) Vice Chair position, so there would now be a First Vice Chair and a Second Vice Chair to replace the current Vice Chair seat. The other significant change was a revision to the Director attendance requirements. Previously, the FRWDB's attendance requirements were only applied to the full FRWDB meetings. Now, those same attendance requirements would also apply to the FRWDB's Committees and Councils. Mr. Konczal added that Legal Counsel at Baker, Manock and Jensen also changed references from Workforce Investment Act (WIA) to Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) in the Bylaws.

Director Metters arrived (4:29 p.m.)

Legal Counsel Price stated that in addition to changing references from WIA to WIOA, there were other changes in the law that required specific references in the Bylaws under the WIOA regulations so that the FRWDB would have operational consistency with the WIOA regulations.

Director Olivares asked if there was an expectation noted in the Bylaws that Directors participate in a sub-Committee of the FRWDB. Mr. Konczal indicated that yes, Directors would be expected to select a Committee on which to serve within 30 days of their appointment to the FRWDB. If they do not select a Committee within the 30 days, they would receive written notice from the Chair that they will be deemed to have resigned their membership on the FRWDB.

## **BAUER/BONNER – APPROVED THE FRESNO REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD BYLAWS. (UNANIMOUS)**

## **8. Committee Reports**

Executive Committee: Chair Hensley shared that the Executive Committee (Committee) met on July 20<sup>th</sup>, when they reviewed and accepted the May 2022 Financial Report and the May 2022 Agency Budget and Expenditures Report, with no concerns. The Committee also reviewed the 2022-2023 Agency Budget and Personnel Plan and recommended it for the FRWDB's approval. The Budget included an increase in rent, an increase to professional services for Human Resources and cyber security, and there was an increase for purchases of office furniture and equipment for FRWDB facilities. The Committee discussed the revised organizational structure for FRWDB staff and adjusting position titles and compensation. Also discussed was FRWDB management's efforts in working with its Human Resources consultant on succession planning for the agency. The Committee also authorized the approval of a Rapid Response and Layoff Aversion contract in the amount of \$187,000 to Central Labor Council – Partnership.

This was an information item.

**9. Ad Hoc Nominating Committee**

Chair Hensley reported that his term as Chair of the FRWDB was coming to an end and that a new Chair would need to be elected. In addition to a new Chair, a First Vice Chair and a Second Vice Chair would also need to be elected. He indicated that he asked Director Bauer to serve with him on an Ad Hoc Nominating Committee to put forth names for the elections in December. Mr. Konczal indicated that all Directors would be sent a list of offices that are available and would include descriptions of the duties for those positions.

Chair Hensley stated that any Director who wished to participate on the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee, to please contact him.

This was an information item.

**10. Board Member Highlight**

Mr. Konczal explained that this item would be a recurring item at each FRWDB meeting to highlight one (1) Director and their organization/agency. Director Stephen Avila shared about himself, personally, and shared about his company, Trillium Fresno, which included its history, its past and projected growth as an employer, and an overview of its manufacturing operation of vertical turbines and other specialty pumps. Director Avila is the Plant Manager at Trillium Fresno.

Director Avila indicated that Trillium is working with FRWDB to help staff some of their more technical positions they currently have open. Trillium is also in line to become a partner with California State University, Fresno's VIP program for Engineers.

This was an information item.

**11. Approval of the June 1, 2022, Meeting Minutes**

**OLIVARES/METTERS – APPROVED THE JUNE 1, 2022, MEETING MINUTES. (UNANIMOUS)**

**12. July 2022 Financial Report**

Mr. Konczal presented the July 2022, Financial Report for the FRWDB's acceptance. He noted that due to the COVID pandemic, when expenditures were lower than normal, both the State and Federal funding agencies granted no-cost extensions to multiple grants to allow Workforce Boards to more fully expend grant funds. Chair Hensley asked if FRWDB staff was seeing a trajectory of spending getting back to pre-COVID levels. Mr. Konczal indicated that he believed spending would get back to those levels. Mr. Konczal did note that during COVID, FRWDB staff was forced to change the way meetings and trainings were conducted and how Workforce staff interacted with clients. He indicated that some of those changes really work for some clients and that staff continues to learn and flow with these changes to be more responsive to client needs.

**MEADOWS/OLIVARES – ACCEPTED THE JULY 2022 FINANCIAL REPORT. (UNANIMOUS)**

**13. Consent Items (A1 – B1)**

**OLIVARES/BLUNT – APPROVED CONSENT ITEMS A1 – B1. (UNANIMOUS)**

**14. In the Community – Marketing Update**

Martha Espinosa, Marketing and Grants Manager, FRWDB, presented a Power Point presentation highlighting the marketing activities and events that occurred within the first four (4) months of the new Program Year.

Forestry Program: KMPH news aired a story that highlighted the FRWDB's Forestry Program. Mr. Konczal and Jerry Irvin, Project Coordinator – Forestry, FRWDB, were interviewed. Ms. Espinosa showed the news clip.

Robert Pimentel Reception: The FRWDB hosted a celebration honoring Fresno City College's new President, Dr. Robert Pimentel. Because of the FRWDB's long-time partnership with Dr. Pimentel, they felt it was important to honor and celebrate his new position. Mayor Jerry Dyer and State Center Community College District's Chancellor, Dr. Carole Goldsmith, were among the speakers at the reception.

Ribbon Cutting at Winepress: On August 17<sup>th</sup>, the Ribbon Cutting ceremony was held at Fresno's new America's Job Centers of California Comprehensive (AJCC) site, located at the Winepress Shopping Center. Supervisor Sal Quintero spoke at the ceremony and the FRWDB received a certificate from the office of California State Assembly Member Devon Mathis.

Participant Picture Project: Ms. Espinosa explained that when planning for the artwork for the new AJCC site, Phyllis Stogbauer, Senior Deputy Director, FRWDB, thought it would be inspiring to display pictures of participants in their work environments. FRWDB and Provider staff have identified 50 participants to highlight and are looking for 30 to 40 more. Their photos will be put onto 30 x 30 canvases and will be displayed throughout the AJCC.

Meeting of the Minds Conference: The FRWDB had seven (7) presentations selected for the California Workforce Association's 2022 Meeting of the Minds Conference. The proposals selected were: That's Women's Work – Building a Foundation for Gender Equity; Courage Practice – Coordinating Equitable Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) Training; Who's Your Data – Measuring the Effectiveness of Your Targeted Outreach Efforts; Seizing Unprecedented Opportunities in Underserved Geographies; Construction, Infrastructure, MC3 and the Future; Human Centered Design; and The Hardest Working Generation. The presentation sessions were well-attended and the good work being done at the FRWDB was shared.

Ribbon Cutting at Parlier: September 28<sup>th</sup> was the Ribbon Cutting ceremony for the new Workforce Connection site in Parlier. There was great support for the event from the small community, including the attendance of Parlier's Mayor Beltran and Superintendent Guerrero. Ms. Espinosa showed the news story aired by ABC30 about the event.

ValleyBuild Graduation: The first all women ValleyBuild cohort had their graduation ceremony on September 30<sup>th</sup>. Senator Anna Caballero sent a video message for the event.

Ms. Espinosa reported that the FRWDB recently submitted two (2) grant applications: A CalFire grant for \$1.9 million and a High Road Training Partnership grant for \$2.5 million. FRWDB staff were waiting to hear on the outcome of those applications.

Upcoming events Ms. Espinosa shared with the Board were: A \$3 million check presentation by Assembly Member Joaquin Arambula's office on October 12<sup>th</sup>, a Partner Alliance Meeting on October 12<sup>th</sup>, Open House for the AJCC at Winepress on October 20<sup>th</sup>, California State Representative Devon Mathis' visit to the Forestry Program on November 4<sup>th</sup>, Open House for the Parlier center on November 9<sup>th</sup>, and a National Apprenticeship Week event on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Konczal pointed out that the \$3 million the FRWDB received was directly from the state budget through the Governor's office for the FRWDB's construction programs across 15 counties.

Director Blunt congratulated Ms. Espinosa on a job well done concerning marketing efforts for the FRWDB brand.

Chair Hensley indicated that the FRWDB's vision and the implementation of that vision over the last number of years has really helped communicate to the community what the FRWDB is doing. He also noted the cohesive look at the various sites throughout the community is great to see.

Director Metters asked Ms. Espinosa if she, herself, managed the FRWDB's social media accounts. Ms. Espinosa explained that she used Hootsuite to manage the FRWDB's multiple social media pages on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn. She stated that she can create one post via Hootsuite and it can be shared across multiple social media sites. Director Metters congratulated Ms. Espinosa on a good job with managing the FRWDB's social media presence.

This was an information item.

**15. Recognition of Board Members**

Chair Hensley recognized Directors for their years of service on the FRWDB with a presentation of certificates. He recognized Directors whose service anniversaries occurred in the months of July through September: Scott Miller – Eight (8) years; Joe Olivares – 17 years; and Dennis Montalbano – 18 years. Mr. Konczal presented Chair Hensley with a certificate, recognizing his 18 years with the FRWDB.

This was an information item.

**16. Information Sharing**

Director Quintero apologized for arriving late to the meeting, explaining that he had been a part of the opening event at the Big Fresno Fair.

Director Metters shared about his very positive experience in serving on a FRWDB Scholarship Panel and he encouraged other members to sign up to participate on future Panels.

This was an information item.

**17. Agenda Items for December 7, 2022, Meeting**

There were no items recommended for the December 7, 2022, FRWDB meeting agenda.

**18. Meeting Feedback**

There was no meeting feedback.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.