



**ROGUE WORKFORCE  
PARTNERSHIP**



**MINUTES**

*Joint Meeting of:*

**ROGUE WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP - CORPORATE DIRECTORS &  
ROGUE VALLEY WORKFORCE CONSORTIUM**

March 11, 2021 ♦ Zoom Video Conference

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Vice-Chair Mike Donnelly  
Commissioner Bob Strosser – *RVWC Member*  
Commissioner Dave Dotterrer – *RVWC Member*  
Shawn Hogan  
Nikki Jones  
Robert Begg

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Chair Jessica Gomez

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Jim Fong, Executive Director, Rogue Workforce Partnership  
Sherri Emitte, Chief Finance and Administrative Officer, Rogue Workforce Partnership  
Jill teVelde, Workforce Development Director, Rogue Workforce Partnership  
Ida Saito, Program Engagement Manager, Rogue Workforce Partnership  
Haylee Ulrey, Program Manager, Rogue Workforce Partnership  
Greg Thweatt, Data and Program Analyst, Rogue Workforce Partnership  
Nicole Srijunyanont, Social-Media & CX Specialist, Rogue Workforce Partnership  
Tami Allison, Senior Project Manager, Rogue Workforce Partnership

**Quorum Present:** Yes

**Call to Order**

Mike Donnelly called the Rogue Workforce Partnership meeting to order at 11:42 a.m.  
The Rogue Valley Consortium meeting was called to order by Commissioner Darin Fowler at 12:04 p.m.

**Consent Agenda**

**Robert Begg moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the December 17, 2020 Joint Corporate Director & RVWC Meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Dotterrer. The motion passed unanimously.**

**Commissioner Dotterrer moved to approve the consent agenda (RVWC minutes are within the Joint Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2020). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fowler. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.**

## RWP Budget

### RWP Budget / Actual at 12/31/2020

The year ended different than expected which had an impact on both revenues and expenditures. Significantly fewer people have been served. No discussion took place.

### RWP Budget Modification

Budget modifications were necessary due to the change in the actual revenues and expenditures and because service providers were unable to serve the number of people expected. The bottom-line effect of all these increased revenues and decreased expenditures is the very large increase in Rollout Funds in the amount of \$9,131,888. Clarification was made that while the state is on a biennium budget cycle and the federal government runs on a federal fiscal year (October through September), RWP's budget runs on an annual July through June fiscal year. A portion of the funds allocated to us from federal and state sources are frequently carried over annually in our budget until their availability ultimately expires. The COVID-19 economic shutdown increased this carryover significantly due to the extremely low number of job/career-seekers being served by our service providers.

**Robert Begg moved to approve the RWP Budget / Actual at 12/31/20, as well as the Budget Modification. The motion was seconded by Nikki Jones. The motion passed unanimously.**

## Local Plan

### **Additional Verbiage Related to WIOA Title 1B Youth Services**

Each Workforce Board in the State (9 in total) is required to submit their local plan to the state every two years. The State then combines the nine plans into one Statewide plan. The RWP Workforce Board conditionally approved our Local Plan at its January 15, 2021 meeting, contingent upon receiving any additional public comments through our website during the 30-day comment period. The Workforce Board also authorized the RWP Corporate Directors to make any final changes to the Local Plan if needed, prior to its submission to the state.

Although there were no additional public comments, all the Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDBs) in the state were recently notified by the state that additional language and a policy needed to be added to our Local Plan. Our state oversight agency – the Higher Education Coordinating Commission – had inadvertently left this off their original Local Plan template provided to all the local Workforce Boards.

This verbiage and policy needs to be inserted into our Local Plan prior to submission. The verbiage is needed to ensure future WIOA Title 1B Youth can receive services under that eligibility element “serving youth who need additional assistance” per CFR 681.300 and CFR 681.310, and the policy to be included is on “Needs Additional Assistance.”

The RWP Corporate Directors is being asked to approve this Local Plan Revision today.

**Commissioner Dotterrer moved to approve the Local Plan Revision as presented. The motion was seconded by Robert Begg. The motion passed unanimously.**

## Local Plan Statement of Concurrence

The action requested is to authorize Rogue Valley Workforce Consortium Chair, Darin Fowler, to sign the Local Plan Statement of Concurrence as the Chief Local Elected Official.

**Commissioner Dotterrer moved to authorize Commissioner Fowler to sign the Local Plan Statement of Concurrence as the Chief Local Elected Official. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fowler. The motion was passed unanimously by the Rogue Valley Workforce Consortium** (Commissioner Fowler and Commissioner Dotterrer).

## Updates

### **RWP Membership**

Commissioner Fowler announced that Kelsy Ausland of Ausland Group has agreed to join the RWP - Workforce Board. Conversations are also being held with Brian and Mike Wheelock of Grayback Forestry to gauge their interest in joining the Board as well.

### **Layoffs**

A layoff that is taking place currently is Performant Financial in Grants Pass who recently announced the layoff of approximately 60-90 people. The Rapid Response Team is reaching out to the employer to help the impacted workers.

### **Additional Layoff Aversion Funds**

During the early stages of the COVID pandemic and economic shutdown in 2020, RWP received \$187,698 in Layoff Aversion funds from the state's Rapid Response reserve pool. We were able to award these funds to 38 companies in the Rogue Valley, averting layoffs for a total of 427 employees. Recently, the state identified more Layoff Aversion funds in the coffers, and our region was allocated an additional \$76,000.

Given that we are at a very different stage in the pandemic, focusing on restaurants as businesses still being significantly impacted by COVID-19 restrictions seemed the most prudent use of these funds. The following allocations and outreach have been made:

- \$30,000 was set aside for individual restaurants (15 applications have been received to date)
- \$46,000 is allocated to Rogue Food Unites who is working with local restaurants and farms to do prepared meals and food boxes for wildfire survivors. The additional funds received by Rogue Food Unites will be used to expand the food distribution to those who are experiencing food insecurity due to COVID-19. All funds are to be disbursed no later than June 30, 2021. Performance will be reported on the number of people benefitting from the program and the number of layoffs averted.

### **Dislocated Worker Grants**

Due to the Rogue Valley being the most wildfire impacted region of the state, RWP asked for and received a grant for \$7,504,224 in additional grants to help wildfire recovery and serve dislocated workers. These grants consist of Disaster Relief Employment – Humanitarian Assistance (working with public works for debris cleanup and removal), and Employment and Training funds. Support services such as childcare and housing will also be available for those engaged in training. There are eligibility requirements for these funds that include people who are directly impacted by the disaster, or laid-off, or long-term unemployed. Others, outside of these eligibility requirements, could be served by other funds. [Click on the link](#) to see an update of organizations interested and positions proposed for humanitarian assistance to date.

## RWP Objectives & Key Results

Update provided on the status of our OKRs and the priorities RWP staff and partners are focused on as we continue to respond to the unique workforce challenges brought on by the COVID-19 economic shutdown and wildfires.

- [RWP's Strategic Roadmap](#), was shared with the group.
- We are still laser focused on filling the talent pipeline for our targeted industry sectors.
- The enhanced and extended Unemployment Insurance benefits of the extra \$300 per week will run through September, and continues to disincentivize UI claimants in returning to work.
- RWP and partners are working hard to creatively to communication, engage and incentivize potential workers to look for jobs and / or connect to training services.
- RWP staff and partners continue to make progress in our communications campaign to job/career-seekers, built around the [Rogue Careers website](#).
- In partnership with RCC, Talent Maker City, Medford School District and others, we're creating new capacity to recruit, engage, train and place workers – through bite-sized and hands-on “Career Appetizer” exploration events, that also includes labor market and career pathways information. The focus is on attracting both older high school students just entering the workforce and adults looking for career options and opportunities, especially if they've been impacted by the COVID-19 economic shutdown.
- RWP and partners are working to Reimagine WorkSource Rogue Valley services to provide more virtual-based services, build-in “Career Appetizer” events, and create “Earn & Learn” career advancement opportunities.
- RWP staff has also started exploratory work on creating a broader Youth Apprenticeship program (*similar to what Switzerland and Colorado have implemented*), and have been in conversation with Representative Lily Morgan and Legislative Council to explore what legislative or policy realignments are needed to pilot this work at the high schools in our region. This fiscal/program year, we are using some of the state training funds to partner with Medford School District and Talent Maker City to create paid internships for high school youth as they exit school to create those bridges. Targeting both high school students and adults for these kinds of career ladder programs will be critical for us to fill the talent pipeline.

## Agenda Prep - Next Workforce Board Meeting

- Equity & Holistic Focus - this would be the predominant focus of the meeting. Provide updates and allow for a more in-depth conversation on the work we have underway to develop greater Personal Effectiveness Skills and Essential Employability Skills for all workers, and especially those who have experience intergenerational poverty, Adverse Childhood Experiences, etc. This would include:
  - SOHOPE - *Lessons Learned from RCC Healthcare Occupations grant to serve low-income people*
  - Empower - *1-on-1 Life Coaching, experiential/applied learning webinars & staff development*
  - Wings - *Seminars / webinars with proven results in developing Personal Effectiveness Skills*

## Legislative & Policy Alignment Advocacy

- Updates were given on the legislative and policy alignment advocacy work being done at both the state and federal levels. An update will be brought to the full board at the April Workforce Board meeting.

## Adjourn

With no further business, the RWP Corporate Directors and Rogue Valley Workforce Consortium meetings were adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tami Allison  
Senior Project Manager

---

Approved  
Jessica Gomez, RWP Chair

Date

---

Approved  
Commissioner Darin Fowler, RVWC Chair

Date