

Nebraska Workforce Development Board
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2024, 9a – 12p
NET Center, 1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68503

Agenda item 1. Call to Order

Chair Mark Moravec called to order the meeting of the Nebraska Workforce Development Board (Board) on September 13, 2024 at approximately 9a at the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center, 1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68503.

Agenda item 2. Roll Call

Chair Moravec asked Nicole Schaefer to call role for purposes of establishing quorum.¹ Nicole called roll and advised Chair Moravec that quorum was established (20 of 24 Governor-appointed members attending).

Governor-appointed members *attending*

1. KC Belitz
2. Jim Bulkley
3. Gary Dixon, Jr.
4. Michael Geary
5. Mark Moravec, Chair
6. Don Nordell
7. Sherla Post
8. Terri Ridder
9. Sara Riffel
10. Bradley Schroeder, Vice-Chair
11. Jennifer Sedlacek
12. Bryan Slone
13. Becky Stitt
14. Keisha Thomas
15. Paul Turman
16. Kevin Wetuski
17. Lisa Wilson
18. Courtney Wittstruck
19. Mark Wright

Non-Governor-appointed members *attending*

1. John Albin
2. Steve Corsi
3. Lindy Foley
4. Tate Lauer

Non-Governor-appointed members *absent*

1. Governor Jim Pillen
2. Senator Merv Riepe

Governor-appointed members *absent*

1. Elizabeth Babcock
2. Joanna Estrada
3. Jim Hansen
4. Susan Martin
5. Kyle Nixon

¹ Section 4.7 of the [Board's bylaws](#) defines quorum as a majority of Governor-appointed voting members.

Nebraska Department of Labor (NDOL) administrative Board support staff in attendance

1. Derek Ahrens, State Monitoring Unit Supervisor, Division of Reemployment Services
2. Erick Carrillo, Administrator, Division of Reemployment Services
3. Kelly Flanagan, Administrator, Division of Reemployment Services
4. Joel Green, Attorney III, General Counsel Division
5. Kyle McConnell, Administrator, Division of Reemployment Services
6. John O'Keefe, Director, Division of Reemployment Services
7. Nicole Schaefer, Administrative Programs Officer, Department of Labor

Agenda item 3. Notice of Publication

Nicole Schaefer announced that public meeting notices were published, in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act, in the Beatrice Daily Sun, Columbus Telegram, Grand Island Independent, Hastings Tribune, Kearney Hub, Lincoln Journal Star, Norfolk Daily News, North Platte Telegraph, Omaha World-Herald, and Scottsbluff Star-Herald. Nicole announced that public notice was posted also published on the State of Nebraska Public Meeting Calendar.

Agenda item 4. Approval of Minutes

Chair Moravec called the next order of business, which was the approval of the draft meeting minutes from the March 15, 2024 meeting of the Board. The draft minutes from the March meeting were emailed to Board Members on September 10, 2024. The meeting minutes were included in Board Member packets as Handout 1.

Chair Moravec opened the floor to Board Members for discussion on the draft minutes. Board Members did not comment on the draft minutes. Chair Moravec opened the floor for public comment on the draft minutes. No public comments were made.

Michael Geary motioned to approve the March minutes as provided and Bradley Schroeder seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Agenda item 5. Old Business

Chair Moravec advised the Board that there were no items of old business before the Board for consideration.

Agenda item 6. New Business

a. Proposed methods for enhancing Board effectiveness

Chair Moravec advised the Board that following the March 15 meeting of the Board he met on May 2, 2024 with Brad Schroeder (Vice-Chair of the Board) and Michael Geary (Chair of the Board's Strategy and Innovation Subcommittee) to discuss methods for enhancing Board effectiveness. Chair Moravec stated they discussed four proposed methods for enhancing Board effectiveness (outlined in Handout 2 in Board Member packets and listed below):

1. establishing training for new and current Board members, including training on Board responsibilities and local workforce development board roles and responsibilities;
2. surveying Board members to determine:
 - a. topics of interest;
 - b. how to take advantage of Board membership diversity to help Nebraska businesses, including forward thinking concerning disruptive technology; and
 - c. how to take advantage of information shared by Board members during the *Member Updates* portion of Board meetings;
3. creation of a portal accessible only by Board members that provides information about:
 - a. Board responsibilities and other relevant/current information relating to Board; and
 - b. workforce system performance;
4. setting up tours of Nebraska's American Job Centers for interested Board members (subject to limitations relating to the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and the possibility of establishing Board quorum during tours).

Board members did not comment on the proposed methods.

b. Board subcommittee structure

Chair Moravec informed that the Board that he, Brad Schroeder, and Michael Geary during their meeting [on May 2, 2024] discussed the possibility of restructuring the Board's subcommittees. Michael presented to the Board on this agenda item by:

- welcoming the new Board Members
- reminding all Board Members that according to Section 2.8 of the [Board's bylaws](#) are required to actively participate in the work of the Board and that all members of the Board are or will be appointed to at least one committee, subcommittee, special committee, ad hoc committee, task force, or similarly designated group of the Board; and
- providing background information on subcommittee formation and structure (outlined in Handout 3 in Board Member packets).

Michael asked the Board if it feels the current subcommittee structure works for the purposes of the Board. Keisha Thomas asked if there are issues with the current subcommittee structure. Michael responded saying there are no issues with the current structure, however, there is no clear guidance on what the Board or its subcommittees should be targeting its focus and it's difficult to get subcommittee members together for meetings. Michael also mentioned the impact of the pandemic and the resulting acceleration of economic instability and compression of business cycles on the effectiveness of that Board. Michael stated that the Board can learn a lot from its subcommittees when they are not working in silos.

Michael asked Board Members to submit target-area ideas after the meeting to Mark Moravec and Deb Andersen.

c. Cultural and Historical Considerations and Native American Workforce Development

Grace Johnson, the Liaison for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons with the Nebraska Attorney General's Office presented to the Board on cultural and historical considerations relating to Native American Workforce Development. Grace's presentation was included as Handout 4 in Board Member packets.

d. National Farmworker Jobs Program: Empowering Farmworkers

Jody Stutzman, the Regional Director for Central Western Nebraska with Proteus presented to the Board on the National Farmworker Jobs Program. Jody's presentation was included as Handout 5 in Board Member packets.

e. SNAP Next Step

Melissa Zeiler, the SNAP Employment and Training Program Manager with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services presented to the Board on the SNAP Next Step program. Melissa's presentation was included in Board Member packets as Handout 6.

f. Proposed dates for 2025 Board meetings

Chair Moravec presented the proposed dates for the 2025 meetings of the Board, which are listed below and were outlined in Handout 7 in the Board Member packets:

- March 14, 2025, 9a – 12p
- June 13, 2025, 9a – 12p
- September 12, 2025, 9a – 12p

The proposed location for 2025 meetings was the NET Center at 1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68503, which is subject to NET Center availability for those dates.

Board Members had no comment on the proposed dates. Chair Moravec opened the floor for public comment. Public comments were not made.

Chair Moravec requested a motion from a Board Member on the proposed dates listed in Handout 7 of the Board Member packets. Becky Stitt motioned to approve the proposed meeting dates, times, and locations as listed. Brad Schroeder seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

Chair Moravec stated that invitations for the meetings will be sent to Members of the Board following the meeting.

Agenda item 7. Member Updates

Chair Moravec asked Members of the Board for updates on their respective industries or organizations and local workforce development area activities for the Members who also serve on local workforce development boards. Members of the Board provided updates as requested.

Agenda item 8. Next meeting date, time, and location

Chair Moravec reminded the Members of the Board that the next meeting of the Board is scheduled for March 14, 2025 from 9a to 12p and will most likely be held at the Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Center, 1800 North 33rd Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68503. If the date, time or location of the meeting changes, Chair Moravec advised Board Members that they will be notified by email.

Agenda item 9. Public comment

Chair Moravec opened the floor for public comment. No public comments were made.

Agenda item 10. Adjournment

Chair Moravec asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Board. Jennifer Sedlacek motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Lisa Wilson seconded the motion. Members of the Board in attendance voted on the motion by roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30a.