



Greater Roanoke Workforce Development Board & Chief Local Elected Officials Consortium

Joint Meeting

September 26, 2024 – 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center

110 Shenandoah Avenue NE, Shenandoah Room

Roanoke, VA 24011

Chief Local Elected Officials Consortium			
Alleghany County		Franklin County	
The Honorable Stephen Bennett		The Honorable Ronnie Thompson	
Reid Walters		Christopher Whitlow	X
Botetourt County		Roanoke City	
The Honorable Amy White	X	The Honorable Mayor Sherman Lea	
Gary Larrowe	X	The Honorable Joseph Cobb	
City of Covington		Roanoke County	
The Honorable Mayor Tom Sibold	X	The Honorable Martha Hooker	X
Allen Dressler		Richard Caywood	
Craig County		Salem City	
The Honorable Jason Matyas		The Honorable Hunter Holliday	X
Dan Collins		VACANT	

Board Members <i>Private Sector</i>	Present	Board Members <i>Public Sector</i>	Present
Jasmine Gallitan		Joseph Brinley	X
Ruth Caul		Chuck Simpson	X
Casey Nicely		Karen Michalski	Virtual
Kristina Repass		Abby Hamilton	X
Maiya Ashby	X	Cynthia Lawrence	
Richard Mansell	X	Stephanie Hoer	X
David Oliver		Heather Fay	X
Jeremy Adkins	X	Susan Goad	
Sonya Charlow	X	Kimberly Dameron	X
Michael Gardner	X	Dr. John Rainone	
Carter Hardesty	X	Marilyn Herbert-Ashton	X
Sharon Pandolfini		Susan Watkins	
Tiffany Worstell	X	Ken McFadyen	X
Jeff Hamley	X	Jeremy Holmes	Virtual
Shane Rucker		John Hull	
Kevin Price			

GRWDB Staff	Present
Morgan Romeo	X
Leah Gibson	X



Bobby Welch	X
Danielle Hart	X
Emma Howard-Woods	X

Guests	Present
Chris Pope	X
Traci Blido	X

Welcome

Michael Gardner called the meeting to order at 9:15am and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Public Comment

Traci Blido, Executive Director of Virginia Career Works – Central Region, provided public comment during the meeting. Traci informed the attendees that the Virginia Association of Workforce Directors has been meeting and advocated on behalf of the 14 local workforce development boards in Virginia and wanted to publicly commend Morgan Romeo for serving as Chair of the group and all of the ongoing work on behalf of the boards.

Consent Agenda

Michael Gardner introduced the consent agenda items and asked if the group would like to review any of the items individually.

GRWDB Action: Joe Brinley made a motion to accept the consent agenda as presented. Karen Michalski seconded the motion. The motion was carried by a voice vote.

GRWDB Member Appointments

Michael Gardner turned the conversation over to Martha Hooker, who welcomed everyone, thanked everyone for breakfast, and let the local elected officials in attendance know that there were vacancies on the Greater Roanoke Workforce Development Board that needed to be voted on and filled.

Morgan Romeo presented the list of potential Board members up for discussion. This included some members for re-appointment and others for new appointments. The two positions with new appointments were (1) member representing Title II Adult Education programming and (1) member representing Career and Technical Education at the K-12 level. No discussion occurred over the re-appointments or the adult education nominee. There were two nominations for (1) representative of Career and Technical Education, Jason Suhr from Roanoke County Public Schools and Mike Ketron of Botetourt County Public Schools. Both serve as the Director of Career and Technical Education for their respective school divisions. All discussion remained positive about the two candidates. After lengthy discussion, Morgan Romeo noted that while staff would not typically advise for expansion of the board, there would be an opportunity to add both to the Board and adjusting the membership to accommodate these appointments and ensure compliance. The CLEO Consortium was in favor of this idea and noted that they would like for staff to bring a revised composition to reflect the addition of both nominees to the Board representing Career and Technical Education businesses.



GRWDB Action: Gary Larrowe made a motion to appoint all members seeking re-appointment to the Board, to appoint Jessica Chenoweth to represent Title II Adult Education, and appoint both Mike Ketron and Jason Suhr to represent Career and Technical Education for K-12 programming. The motion was seconded by Hunter Holliday. The motion was carried by a voice vote.

Martha reminded staff that on the agenda for January, a revised composition of the Board would need to be approved and discussed.

Talent Attraction in the Roanoke Region

Michael Gardner introduced Julia Boas, with Roanoke Regional Partnership (RRP) to discuss their work with talent attraction for the area. Julia shared a presentation on the work that the RRP does, as well as some of the projects that they have worked on with the GRWDB as part of their 18-month GO Virginia Grant, including the new regional talent attraction website. Discussion was had amongst the Board and CLEO Consortium members regarding their activities.

Director's Report

Morgan thanked staff and partners for their hard work through the last year, and shared that our region is leading the state in workforce board funded work-based learning opportunities. She also shared that despite funding cuts, the federal WIOA program alone served 350 individuals and spoke to the tireless work of frontline staff in being creative to meet the needs of jobseekers. Morgan also thanked the staff at Virginia Works (formerly the VEC) for their efforts over the last year as they faced an organization overhaul from the state level. Morgan specifically thanked Kim Dameron, local manager for Virginia Works, for her team's work and noted that they were second in the state for number of people served, serving over 2,000 people with a reduced staff of five.

Morgan also showed the new promotional video for GRWDB and the services they offer. The GRWDB staff hope that this will be an attractive marketing piece that they can use to draw individuals, particularly youth, into their programming with.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Michale Gardner shared that the Executive Committee met earlier in September and discussed various projects on the table and funding diversification. The GRWDB has a new AmeriCorps planning grant with other workforce boards in VA to help them develop the framework to submit planning grant next spring. He also shared that today will start new strategic plan process for the GRWDB as well.

Program Oversight

Abby Hamilton shared that the Program Oversight Committee met in August where they discussed the ongoing Roanoke Center move, as well as updates to grants such as unexpected end of YouthBuild grant in December 2024. Abby also noted that the JobsPlus grant RHHA will be ending earlier than anticipated due to date errors in documents, that the GRWDB was looking at extension of Transportation to Learn grant, and that the Youth Outreach grant was nearly fully expended. The Committee also reviewed the ETPL payment plan and changes to that, discussing the new concept around program services to look at grouping industries into career clusters, shifting to 'academies' to focus on career pathways and in-demand jobs for program participants. They also looked at basic skills deficiency & how there is



discussion at state level to improve state mandated tools to measure this. The Committee also looked at WIOA program operations and early data is showing improvement to credential attainment. Abby concluded by asking for full board vote on the renewal of the 3rd and final year of the One Stop Operator Contract.

GRWDB Action: The Program Oversight Committee brought a motion to the full Board to renew the One Stop Operator Contract with Project Now LLC for the third, and final year of the contract terms. Stephanie Hoer seconded the motion for the Board. Martha Hooker seconded the motion for the CLEO Consortium. The motion was carried by a voice vote.

Finance Committee

Karen Michalski shared that the yearly audit had been completed, and commended Bobby for his work on this. She also said that the Finance Committee could use more members in case anyone in attendance was interested in joining.

GRWDB Action: The Finance Committee brought a motion to the full Board to approve the Single Audit report from Robinson, Farmer, and Cox, as presented. Joseph Brinley seconded the motion for the Board. Maratha Hooker seconded the motion for the CLEO Consortium. The motion was carried by a voice vote.

Strategic Planning Preparation

Morgan shared that GRWDB staff are beginning to work on strategic planning for 2024 through 2028 and asked board and CLEO members to help out with a SWOT analysis activity. Members were given the opportunity to identify any strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that the GRWDB faced in the coming years so that staff can take and incorporate these ideas into their plans.

Other Business

No other business was raised at this meeting.

Adjournment

Michael Gardner adjourned the meeting at 10:45am.