

WAWDB Meeting minutes 3/19/24

7811 Euper Lane, Fort Smith, AR

John called the meeting to order.

Members in attendance Greg Aleshire, Karen Breashears, Dana Byrum, Vanessa Caldwell, John Craig, Cathy Creekmore, Melissa Curry, Brandon Fisher, Tonya Fletcher, Jeremy Hughes, Larry Davidson proxy for Debbie Faubus-Kendrick, Rachel Mize, Zach Sloan, Erick Wiggins. Ashlie Ross, Dennis Williamson.

John stated the minutes of the December 12, 2023, meeting was sent electronically for review. He asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes and there were none. He said as there are no corrections the minutes are approved as distributed.

Rachel presented the One Stop Operator report for the committee meeting of 3/12/24. The committee determined to continue the OSO agreement and asked for the board to ratify the decision. The board approved unanimously.

John stated the board was tasked to review applications of Adult Education programs responding to a state issued RFP to receive funds for Title II programming as required by WIOA. The team reviewed the applications for alignment to the local plan using a state created rubric. Members of the executive committee performed this review of the following applicants: ATU-Ozark Adult Education, Crawford County Adult Education, Fort Smith Adult Education, and UA Rich Mountain Adult Education. The consensus reports for each were submitted to the Arkansas Adult Education.

John asked if there were questions or comments about the Center report and Title I reports they were sent. There was no discussion.

Dennis informed the board a follow-up response has been submitted to ADWS for PY22 and the staff was continuing to work with state monitoring to address PY23 concerns.

John stated the ITA policy was sent via email for review. Melissa Curry made a motion to approve the policy as written and Zach Sloan seconded. John asked for discussion and there was none. The board approved the motion unanimously.

John stated the Western local plan was sent to you for review and is out for public comment. Melissa Curry made a motion to approve the plan as written and Rachel Mize seconded the motion. John asked for discussion and there was none. The board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Dennis was asked to share the progress of certifying the region as ACT Work Ready. He shared that Crawford, Scott, and Franklin County are certified, Polk County is close, Logan and Sebastian County are in progress. We expect Polk and Logan County to complete certification before the ACT Summit in October.

John told the board the career connect fair at UA Rich Mountain on February 20th went well and there is another at UA Rich Mountain on the 27th. Dennis gave the dates for the rest of the upcoming fairs.

John asked for other board business. He stated hearing no further business the meeting is adjourned.