

**Workforce Development Board (WDB)  
Executive Committee  
Worknet Merced County  
1900 Airdrome Entry,  
Atwater, CA 95301  
March 17, 2025, 7:30 a.m.**



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**Members Present:**

Daron McDaniel                      Vinton Thengvall  
Jack Mobley

**Members Absent:** Leslie Abasta-Cummings, Tim O'Neill

**Others Present:**

Erick Serrato, Linda Gutierrez, Patricia Hinson, Stacie Tury

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1. **Call to Order/ Roll Call** – Due to the WDB Chair being absent, the First Vice-Chair, Mr. Vinton Thengvall, called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.
2. **Public Opportunity to Speak** – None
3. **Approval of Minutes** – Mobley/McDaniel approved WDB Executive meeting minutes from November 18, 2024.
4. **Chair Comments:** None
5. **Director's Comments:** Erick shared with members the pros and cons about the WIOA Act verses the ASWA Act. And how it may impact on our services.
6. **Grants Update:** Staff informed members that we assisted ReStore Merced in applying for their first-ever annual grant. If they don't secure it this year, they will be well positioned for success next year. The Grant was submitted last week, and it was for \$650,000.

Additionally, DWI staff is scheduled to apply for another grant this Friday. This grant supports the continuation of the County Internship program and is worth \$2 million. The funds will provide young individuals with valuable work experience at County offices and various non-profits. The first phase of this grant was successful.

7. **Fiscal and Monitoring Update:** Staff shared with members an update on the FY 2025 – 2026 Proposed Budget Summary.
8. **Bylaws Revise:** Staff informed members that during our last WDB meeting, we invited volunteers to be part of the ad-hoc Bylaws Revision committee. WDB members Jorge de Nava and Steve Hobbs volunteered. The committee is currently focusing on three main areas:
  - 1) Composition of the WDB Executive committee: Currently, the WDB Executive Committee is composed entirely of business representatives. There is an interest in diversifying the membership by including one or

two members who do not represent the business sector.

2) **Membership Diversity:** There is a desire to make the business representation within the membership more reflective of our various sectors. While it won't be mandatory, it would be beneficial to include representatives from areas such as Logistics, Agricultural, and other sectors in our economy, to ensure a broader perspective.

3) **Representation for UC Merced:** The ad-hoc committee is also considering the inclusion of a seat for UC Merced.

For now, there is no decision to make. It will come to the next WDB meeting in June 2025.

**9. Facilities/AJCC Update:** Staff shared the following information

Worknet AJCC-Merced Mall – The facility is scheduled to open in November 2025. It's currently under construction.

Worknet Castle Commerce Center: Continues to be remodeled and expected to have an open house in June 2025.

Worknet Los Banos Merced College Campus: The Los Banos office will be located at the LB College Campus. It is scheduled to open in May 2025.

Worknet @ Breaking Barriers: It is scheduled to open in June 2025.

**10. Regional/Local Plan Update:** The Regional and Local plans must be updated and submitted to the State every four years. The Local Plan will be posted today on our department's website for 30-day public comment.

**11. Board Member, Membership, resignations, Recruitments:** Staff informed members that Mr. Michael Altomare, Agrecom and Mr. Jeff Segars, Foster Farms have resigned from the Board.

Furthermore, Mr. Greg Vincelet has retired and will no longer be able to serve as a board member.

Mr. Steve Stevenson has expressed his interest in joining the WDB. He is the coordinator that oversees the day-day operations of the apprenticeship program and enforcement of its apprenticeship standards, rules and regulations. Additionally, he is the elected President of UA Local 442, representing its members. His application will be presented at the next WDB meeting scheduled for March 27, 2025.

**12. Marketing Update:** JPW Communications came to Merced to conduct several focus group meetings. They are currently in the process of gathering data from interviews with board members as well as business and industry leaders. JPW is scheduled to present a summary of the collected data to the Board at the June 2025 meeting.

**13. Adjournment:**

Adjourned at 8:33AM