

STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Sunset Advisory Commission Board and Commission Review

The Commission reviews every State board and commission and takes testimony regarding whether each board or commission should continue to operate or be eliminated and whether the powers and duties of any board or commission should be revised. Each board and commission has the burden of justifying its continued operation.

The Commission also reviews whether members of a board or commission should be entitled to a per diem and, if so, the amount of that per diem.

In testifying before the Commission, you should be able to provide the following information:

- 1. In general, how often does the board and commission meet? Provide specific information on how often the board or commission has met in the past two fiscal years. Provide information on where agendas and minutes of meetings can be found.**

While the board took a small hiatus during the pandemic, this year it has resumed a quarterly meeting schedule and met on November 6, 2021 (virtually) and will be meeting again December 10, 2021 (Virtually.)

Prior to the October 6th meeting, the dates of the meetings over the last two fiscal years are:

- July 9, 2020
- February 20, 2020
- December 5, 2019
- October 17, 2019
- April 18, 2019
- March 7, 2019
- December 6, 2018

The scheduling for the upcoming year is as follows:

- February 10, 2022
- May 12, 2022
- August 11, 2022
- October 14, 2022

All board meetings agenda, videos, and minutes can be found at: <https://vwdb.vermont.gov/meetings>

- 2. Provide the names of members of the board or commission, their term length and expiration, their appointing authority, and the amount of any per diem they receive.**

Currently the board members follow the general terms of three years expiring on the last day of February of the corresponding year.

Each of the below members have been approved for reappointment by the Governor's office, however a by-law change for the board will make the terms expire in staggered years and then three years after that. This is a requirement from the U.S. Department of Labor that we have been asked to change.

No per diems have been given this fiscal year.

Business Owners: - Gubernatorial Appointment:

Paul	Biebel	President	Biebel Builders, Inc.
Janette	Bombardier	Chief Engineering Officer	Chroma Technology Corporation
Kiersten	Bourgeois	Business Development & Communications Manager	St. Albans Cooperative Creamery
Steve	Bryant	Owner	Dorset Inn, Barrows House, Dorset Rising, Lake House, Publyk House, Mountain Top Inn, Old Gray Barn
Frank	Cioffi	President	Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation (GBIC)
Marguerite	Dibble	CEO	Game Theory
Don	George	CEO	Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont
Monica	Greene	President	Vermont Precision Tools
Adam	Grinold	President	Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation (BDCC)
Zach	Hatch	Vice President of Manufacturing	Weidmann Electrical Technology Inc.
Ellen	Kahler	Executive Director	Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund (VSJF)
Becky	Kapsalis	Manager of Talent Acquisition	University of Vermont Medical Center (UVMCMC)
Brian	Kerns	Vice President of Human Resources	Rutland Regional Medical Center (RRMC)
Chris	Loso	Vice President	Loso's Professional Janitorial Services, Inc.
Greg	Maguire	Director of Strategic Initiatives	Liquid Measurement Systems, Inc.
Jill	Olson	Executive Director	VNAs of Vermont

Carol	Paquette	Owner	Sarducci's Restaurant
Brenan	Riehl	President/CEO	GW Plastics
John	Russell	Owner	Russell Construction Services
Grant	Spates	Owner	Spates Construction, Inc.

Core Program Partners – Designee from Organization.

Diane	Dalmasse	Director	Vermont Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (VocRehab)
Dan	French	Secretary	Vermont Agency of Education (AOE)
Michael	Harrington	Commissioner	Vermont Department of Labor (VDOL)
Lindsay	Kurrle	Secretary	Vermont Agency of Commerce & Community Development (ACCD)
Mike	Smith	Secretary	Vermont Agency of Human Services (AHS)

Labor Force & Training Representatives – Designee from Organization

Jeff	Wimette	International Representative	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
Dennis	LaBounty	Political Director	Vermont AFL-CIO
Pat	Elmer	President/CEO	Associates for Training & Development (A4TD)
Dave	Wheel	Executive Director	Employer Support of the Guard & Reserve
Tom	Longstreth	Executive Director	ReSOURCE
Gerry	Ghazi	President	Institute for American Apprenticeships at Vermont HITEC
Eileen	Illuzzi	Director	North Country Career Center (NCCC)

Workforce & Education Members – Ex Officio

Suresh	Garimella	President	University of Vermont (UVM)
Scott	Giles	President	Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC)

Joyce	Judy	President	Community College of Vermont (CCV)
Sophia	Zdatny	Chancellor	Vermont State Colleges
Eileen	Illuzzi	Director	North Country Career Center (NCCC)
Steven	Dellinger-Pate	Principal	U-32 Middle/High School

Local Leaders: - Gubernatorial

- David Allaire, Mayor of Rutland

House Members: - Speaker

- Tristan Toleno

Senate Members: - Committee on Committees

- Alison Clarkson

3. Provide an overview of the board or commission’s purpose.

The Board is a federally mandated piece of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). At its base, the Board is supposed to oversee the “one-stop system” that is funded by WIOA Monday. More broadly, the board is to Conduct an ongoing public engagement process throughout the State that brings together employers and potential employees, including students, the unemployed, and incumbent employees seeking further training, to provide feedback and information concerning their workforce education and training needs. Maintain familiarity with the federal Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and other economic development planning processes, and ordinate workforce and education activities in the State.

4. Is that purpose still needed? What would happen if the board or commission no longer fulfilled that purpose?

Yes, in fact the board has never been more important. We face a workforce shortage in our state that has been exacerbated by the pandemic and it will take all strategic partners being in the room to solve it.

Given that the board is required by federal law, if it were not to be fulfilling its obligations it would be under the purview of the U.S. DOL to make necessary changes.

5. How well is the board or commission performing in executing that purpose? What evidence can you provide to substantiate that performance?

As mentioned above, the work of the board took a back burner during the heat of the pandemic. However, a renewed focus on the board has emerged with the Appointment of a new executive Director, Tori Biondolillo and Assistant Abigail Rhim to oversee the board.

The partners have begun negotiations of the MOU and infrastructure Funding agreement for the one-stop. In addition, the board is working with U.S. DOL to ensure a smooth process for the new contract of the one-stop system.

At a mission level, the board meetings have so far been productive. The first meeting back being an “introduction to the workforce development problems in Vermont” was well-received. Further, each meeting will continue to convene important stakeholders to address the most pressing issues that relate to workforce Development. For example, the next meeting is focused on the recruitment and retention of workers into Vermont. The February Meeting will be focused on re-engagement with our current workforce.

Finally, the board is working to establish clearly defined roles for committees with direct focuses on policy, training and engagement, recruitment and retention, communications and marketing.

6. If the purpose is still needed, can State government be more effective and efficient if the purpose was executed in a different manner?

Yes. The board could be shrunk significantly. Right now, the Vermont statute makes the board substantially larger than the federal regulations. While it is always intended to be a comprehensive board, each additional member added by our statute adds at least one more businesses owner. Therefore, each added member by the Vermont statute is actually adding two people to the board.

While it’s important to engage with all different voices, it does make the board less efficient when we have over 50 individuals attending a meeting.

7. If the purpose is still needed, do any of your board or commission’s functions overlap or duplicate those of another State board or commission or federal or State agency? If so, is your board or commission still the best entity to fulfill the purpose?

While the work of the board is related to the Workforce Division at the Department of Labor, the duties of each are very different. The board is a convening of stakeholders to manage over a system that each interacts with daily, while using on-the-ground experience to inform policy proposals. Department of Labor are the executors of many workforce policies. The two work in tandem in many ways, but both are essential to fulfill the needs of the system.

8. Does the board or commission’s enabling law continue to correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board or commission?

While the majority of the enabling law does correctly reflect the purpose and activities of the board, legislative change codifying the by-law change to the terms would be useful in ensuring we never are out of federal compliance again with our terms.

9. Provide a list of the board and commission’s last fiscal year expenditures including staffing costs. How are these funded?

SWDB funding is part of the Department of Labor’s annual appropriation request of General Funds from the Legislature. We have received \$282,404 in General Funds for the past 5+ years. Last fiscal year (July 2020 – June 2021) our spending totals were as follows:

Salaries	81,942.88
Fringe	34,123.31
Total Personnel/Benefits	116,066.19
Supplies	85.82
Communications	235.06
Postage	5.33
Travel	157.87
Equipment Rent	4.53
Equipment Expense	881.82
Premises Rent	92.84
Premises Expenses	26,426.17
Services	465.74
Other Expenditures	10,394.64
Capital Purchase	0.00
Total Non-Personnel Services	38,749.82
Total Operating	154,816.01
Adjustments	-929.80
Total Other	-929.80
Total Actual Spent	153,886.21

Caveat: The total spend for Fiscal year '21 is not the typical given the pandemic. For a portion of the year the Executive Director and assistant positions were vacant and the board had not met for quite some time.

10. Is the board or commission required by law to prepare any reports or studies for the Legislature, the Governor, or any State agency or officer? If so, have those reports or studies been produced? Does the board or commission have ongoing reporting obligations?

Act 189 Report – 2019 (Attached)

And the S. 135 Report – 2018 (Attached)