



GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
500 E. Third Street, Room 200
Carson City, Nevada 89713
Telephone (775) 684-3911 * Fax (775) 684-3908

MEETING MINUTES

Governor's Workforce Investment Board (GWIB) Agriculture Sector Council Wednesday, May 21, 2014 2:00 p.m.

Some members of the Council may be attending the meeting and other persons may observe the meeting and provide testimony through a simultaneous videoconference and teleconference conducted at the following locations listed below:

Place of Meeting: **Department of Employment, Training & Rehabilitation**
2800 East St. Louis Avenue, Conference Room C
Las Vegas, NV

Nevada Job Connect
Reno Town Mall
4001 S. Virginia Street
Reno, NV

Council Members Present: Amber Smyer, Dave Coon, Jeff Sutich, Tracy Shane, Dr. Ron Pardini, Mike Catalano, Dr. Frederick Steinmann, Mike Pointer, Peter Wallish, Dr. Boyd Spratling, Jeff Brigger

Council Members Absent: Senator James Settelmeyer, Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams, Jim Snyder, Rob Hooper (excused), Dr. Boyd Spratling, Rod Adams, Jeff Bryant, Heston Johns

Ex-officio Members Present: Jim Kostecki, William Boster

Ex-officio Members Absent: Jeremy Hayes (excused), Melinda Lyons, John Collins, Ben Daseler, Kyle Casci

DETR WSU Staff Present: Earl McDowell, De Salazar, Coralie Peterson, Doug Van Aman

Others Present: Judith Turgiss (Workforce Connections), Jo Jo Myers

**Please note that all attendees may not be listed above.*

I. Welcome, Introduction of New ChairEarl McDowell, Deputy Administrator
Workforce Solutions Unit, Department of Employment, Training and Rehabilitation (DETR)

New Chair - Amber Smyer, Agriculture Literacy Coordinator, Nevada Department of Agriculture

Earl McDowell called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and explained that he would be introducing members to the new Chair of the Agriculture Sector Council. He then asked if there were any additional new members and Pete Wallish, Northern Regional Director for GOED, and Mike Pointer, Consultant, Washoe County School District, both commented that they were new members. Mr. McDowell welcomed both and invited them each to give a brief summary of their work backgrounds. When they concluded their comments, Mr. McDowell introduced Amber Smyer, as the new Chair of the Agriculture Sector Council and asked her to give a brief summary of her work background. When Ms. Smyer concluded her comments, she continued to agenda Item II.

II. Roll call and Establishment of a Quorum Coralie Peterson, Administrative Assistant
Workforce Solutions Unit, DETR

Coralie Peterson called roll and informed the Chair that a quorum was not present. Ms. Smyer then went on to agenda Item III.

III. Verification of Posting.....Coralie Peterson

Amber Smyer asked for Coralie Peterson to verify that the agenda for this meeting was pointed according to Nevada statute. Ms. Peterson verified that the agenda was posted according to NRS 241.020.

IV. **First Public Comment Session** Amber Smyer, Chair
Agriculture Sector Council

Members of the public will be invited to speak before; however, no action may be taken on a matter during public comment until the matter itself has been included on an agenda as an item for possible action. Public comment may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the chairperson.

Ms. Smyer announced the First Public Comment Session and invited members of the public to speak. Hearing none, she moved to agenda Item V.

V. **For Possible Action - Approval of March 19, 2014 Meeting Minutes**Amber Smyer

After concluding agenda Item VII, the Chair was notified by Ms. Peterson that a quorum was present and Ms. Smyer asked for approval of the March 19, 2014 Meeting Minutes. A motion was made by Dr. Ron Pardini and was seconded by Fred Simon. All were in favor, none were opposed. The motion was passed unanimously. Ms. Smyer then returned to address agenda Item VIII.

VI. **Presentation - Company Profile - Anderson Dairy**Dave Coon, Vice President of Sales
Anderson Dairy Incorporated

Amber Smyer asked Dave Coon to provide a company profile of Anderson Dairy. Mr. Coon greeted council members and proceeded to explain that Anderson Dairy was founded by Harry Anderson in 1907, and is one of the 5 oldest ongoing operating businesses in Las Vegas. He said that Anderson Dairy started with 15 cows on property close to where UMC (University Medical Center) is currently located, with their first bottling plant on Fremont Street and Las Vegas Boulevard.

Mr. Coon went on to explain that Anderson Dairy processes, packages, and distributes dairy products such as milk, cream, half-and-half, fat-free cottage cheese, and ice cream. Anderson Dairy has 140 employees, many long-term employees, and represented by Teamsters Local Union 14. He stressed that Anderson has a good relationship with the Teamsters Union, which has a good understanding of the recent economic challenges and difficulties.

Anderson Dairy's customer base includes: grocery stores, convenience stores, resorts, hotels, restaurants, school districts. Mr. Coon said that Anderson Dairy is unique in that it welcomes all to tour their facility,

and he extended the invitation to the sector council members. When he concluded, Amber Smyer thanked him for his comments and proceeded to agenda Item VII.

VII. **Presentation** - Overview of the UAS Minor Degree Program at UNR and Ongoing Research and Development Efforts at UNR and within NSHE.
.....Dr. Haris Doumanidis, Systems and Dynamics Professor
College of Engineering, Department of Mechanical Engineering, UNR

Dr. Doumanidis, by way of a PowerPoint presentation, explained that the NAASIC (Nevada Advanced Autonomous Systems Innovation Center) is a new center sponsored by GOED and funded by the Knowledge Fund, and has a goal of becoming a national and global leader in technology innovation related to advanced autonomous systems and to spur research, innovation and commercialization to advance innovation-based economic development in Nevada.

Dr. Doumanidis further mentioned that the NAASIC Center incorporates an integrated interdisciplinary approach and has much industry support from entities such as amazon.com, Hamilton, Ebara, General Electric, Moment Skis, as well as many others.

He went on to describe the purpose of the Center is to bridge the University with the Industry/Private Sector in accelerating economic development based on autonomous systems and at the same time connecting Nevada with the federal funding system, including the Federal Aviation Authority and the Department of Defense, Department of Energy and National Science Foundation.

Dr. Doumanidis cited UAS as having great potential for creating over 70,000 new jobs in the first 3 years, many being in the manufacturing sector, and also has the potential to drive economic growth in areas such as in the development of driverless roads, environmental and natural resources, training and workforce development.

He concluded by mentioning that the Downtown Innovation Center, located strategically downtown to interface with the corporate world as well as being close to the Discovery Museum, and which will hopefully raise the interest of young students to pursue careers in unmanned autonomous systems. He stated that the facility should be opening soon (end of August) and in the meantime, for more information he suggested contacting: Manos Maragakis, Dean of the College of Engineering at the University of Nevada Reno at 775-784-6925 or at maragaki@unr.edu or contacting Haris Doumanidis at haris@unr.edu.

To view his full presentation: [GWIB Ag Sector Council Presentation - Doumanidis 052114.pptx](#) (choose open hyperlink).

Upon conclusion of this agenda item, Ms. Peterson notified Ms. Smyer that a quorum was now present, and the Chair of this Council returned to address agenda Item II.

VIII. **Presentation** - UAS Development and Training at UNR and Potential Agriculture Applications and Natural Resource Management in Nevada.....
.....Frederick Steinmann, DPPD, Extension Educator, Assistant Professor
University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, UNR

Frederick Steinmann greeted the sector council members and mentioned that he appreciated following up on Dr. Doumanidis’ conversation about the efforts of Nevada System of Higher Education, including the University of Nevada, Reno, the Desert Research Institute and University of Nevada, Las Vegas in terms of exploring applications of unmanned autonomous systems, both in the agricultural sector as well as other sectors throughout the State’s economy. He commented further that this is a top priority for the Governor’s Office of Economic Development (GOED) and NSHE as a whole, and his presentation will

focus specifically on some of the efforts of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension to look at potential applications of unmanned autonomous systems.

Mr. Steinmann used a PowerPoint presentation to explain that UAS represents a growing industry, with a potential of providing 100,000 jobs and adding 82 billion dollars to the U.S. economy by the year 2025, and which has possibility of use far beyond aircraft applications, such as submersible and terrestrial applications and he listed several other areas of use for this applications, such as the following:

1. AGRICULTURE
2. Infrastructure Inspection
3. Storm Tracking/Forecasting
4. Emergency Response
5. Search and Rescue
6. Wildfire Research
7. Oil and Gas Exploration
8. Mining
9. Construction Sites

Dr. Steinmann stressed the importance of the use of unmanned autonomous systems in agriculture, and he gave the example of increasing crop productivity, which will be needed due to a dramatic world population growth expected in the near future. He mentioned other areas of benefit for UAS, in use of fertilizers and irrigation techniques, resulting in a reduction of costs, and also described “precision agriculture” made possible by using UAS *real time* data gathering and which has been implemented by other institutions such as Kansas State, UC Davis, Utah State and Michigan State.

He concluded his presentation by stating that the application of UAS will give greater opportunity to provide protection of natural resources, and he gave the example of the use of UAS for mapping encroaching pinion and juniper pine trees in eastern Nevada, which will direct the efforts of the participants “Bootstraps” program to cut down the undesirable trees. Ms. Smyer thanked Mr. Steinmann and Dr. Doumanidis for their presentations, and asked what in particular the Agriculture Sector could do to help them. Mr. Steinmann responded stating that the big gap in a trained workforce in autonomous systems, and looks forward to DETR helping to develop that skilled workforce to allow firms to grow within the State of Nevada, and discussion continued amongst sector council members about the development of workforce to fill a growing gap. She then moved to agenda Item IX.

- IX. **Presentation** - Data on How Agriculture Compares to the Other Industry Sectors
.....Jeremey Hayes, Economist
Research and Analysis Bureau, DETR

Earl McDowell, Deputy Administrator of DETR’s Workforce Solutions Unit, commented that due to a scheduling conflict, Jeremey Hayes was unable to attend this meeting, and had asked if he could give his presentation at the next sector council meeting. Ms. Smyer agreed to do this and then moved to agenda Item X.

- X. **Presentation** – The Nevada Agriculture Report.....
.....Tatjana Vukovic, Education and Information Officer
Nevada Department of Agriculture

Ms. Smyer introduced and welcomed Tatjana Vukovic, who greeted the sector council members and commented that she wanted to share some of highlights of information contained in the report “Economic Contribution of Nevada Agriculture,” which was completed in the end of March. She went on to state that the reason for this (annual) report is to provide an overview/inventory of the agriculture for the State of Nevada, and stressed agriculture’s importance not only in farms and ranches, but in food processing

and manufacturing and agriculture sciences, which touches every part of life from consumer's life and safety.

Ms. Vukovic mentioned that agriculture is impacted by many factors, which the report categorizes, such as:

- Human Capital (Farmers and Ranchers with specialized knowledge and ability)
- Physical Capital (some examples are Land, Machinery, Seed, and Livestock Inventory)
- Fertilizer, Energy, Livestock Health Care Costs
- Financial Capital (Use of investments, government programs, crop/livestock contracts)

She noted that the report indicates that the core of the Nevada agriculture value chain is defined as Agriculture and Food Production, which comprises all establishments engaged in growing crops and raising animals, farms, ranches, dairies, greenhouses, nurseries, orchards or hatcheries, and the report provides details regarding trends and will allow determination for future growth.

She stated that the report is basically an inventory of the current agriculture industry for the State of Nevada, and attempts to assign a dollar amount to output. As Ms. Vukovic concluded her comments, a question was raised about information in the report not being broken down by county and Ms. Smyer responded that she would check further on this for possible further discussion in an upcoming meeting. She thanked Ms. Vukovic for her work on the report and then moved on to agenda Item XI.

To view the full report [Agriculture Report 2012-2013 Final Tatjana Vukovic.pdf](#) (choose open hyperlink).

XI. For Possible Action - Update on the GWIB Agriculture Sector Council Pilot Project.....Amber Smyer

Ms. Smyer asked Earl McDowell, Deputy Administrator for DETR's Workforce Solutions Unit, to provide updates on the pilot project. Mr. McDowell then explained that the 2 pilot programs for the Agriculture Sector have been approved and they are: 1) Agriculture Internship Program (10 students) and 2) Rapid response Program (15 students), and these are in the final internal processing stages. Irene Bustamante asked how the programs impact southern Nevada. McDowell said the program is a pilot which is designed to be state-wide, although initially it involved students in northern Nevada, since the companies in that region responded favorably. He asked that Ms. Bustamante let him know of any companies in southern Nevada who would wish to be included in the pilot program in future. Tracy Shane asked questions about the details of pilot proposals and Mr. McDowell advised that he would forward copies of the pilot proposals to the sector council members. Ms. Smyer thanked Mr. McDowell for his comments and moved to agenda Item XII.

XII. For Possible Action - Review of the GWIB Agriculture Sector Council 2013-2014 Strategic Plan.....Amber Smyer

Ms. Smyer asked Mr. McDowell to comment on the status of the Agriculture Sector's Strategic Plan. Mr. McDowell explained that the Strategic Plan had been approved previously, and can serve as a road map for the sector council for their future actions, although the council can make changes in future if this is decided by the council. Mr. McDowell mentioned that an inventory of certification programs offered in the area of agriculture is being formulated by DETR and will be forwarded to the council members for their feedback. Ms. Smyer thanked him for his comments and then moved to the next agenda item.

XIII. **For Possible Action** - New Business and Future Agenda Items..... Amber Smyer

Listed below are the suggestions, recommendations, requests and comments made for the future meeting agenda:

- Data on How Agriculture Compares to the Other Industry Sectors—Jeremy Hayes
- Presentation on the Nevada Leadership Institute—Dr. Frederick Steinmann
- Updates to the UNR College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources (CABNR)—Dr. Ron Pardini

XIV. **Discussion**—Next scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 16, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.....Amber Smyer

XV. **Second Public Comment Session**Amber Smyer
Members of the public may now comment on any matter or topic, which is relevant to or within the authority or jurisdiction of the Board. You may comment now even if you commented earlier; however, please do not simply repeat the same comment you previously made. Please clearly state and spell your name. Public comment may be limited to three minutes per person at the discretion of the chairperson.

Amber Smyer then announced the Second Public Comment Session and asked members of the public to speak. Dr. Ron Pardini announced that Saturday, September 20, 2014, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. there will be a Field Day and Open House at the Main Station Field Lab, Nevada Wines and Vines, with admission at \$5.00 per person, which includes tri-tip barbeque and wine tasting. Mr. Pardini welcomed students and the general public to attend.

XVI. **Adjournment**Amber Smyer

After the Chair closed the Second Public Comment Session, she adjourned the meeting at 3:44 p.m.

Agenda items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration by the public body, and/or pulled or removed from the agenda at any time. The Chair may continue this meeting from day-to-day. Pursuant to NRS 241.020, no action may be taken upon a matter raised during a period devoted to comments by the general public until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken.

GOVERNOR’S WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
AGRICULTURE SECTOR COUNCIL

Amber Smyer (Chair), Dave Coon (Vice Chair), Senator James Settelmeyer, Assemblywoman Irene Bustamante Adams, Jeff Sutich, Tracy Shane, Dr. Ron Pardini, Jeff Brigger, Mike Catalano, Jim Snyder, Rob Hooper, Dr. Boyd Spratling, Dr. Frederick Steinmann, Rod Adams, Jeff Bryant, Mike Pointer, Heston Johns

***Notice:** Persons with disabilities who require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting should notify Coralie Peterson, DETR, Workforce Solutions Unit, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m., in writing at 2800 E. St. Louis., Las Vegas, Nevada 89104; or call (702) 486-0523; or fax (702) 486-6426 on or before the close of business Tuesday, May 20, 2014.*

Notice of this meeting was posted at the following locations on or before 9:00 a.m. on the third working day before the meeting: DETR, 2800 E. St. Louis, Las Vegas, NV; DETR, 500 East Third St., Carson City, NV; DETR, 1325 Corporate Blvd., Reno NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 3405 S. Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 119 Water St., Henderson, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 2827 N. Las Vegas Blvd., North Las Vegas, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 1929 N. Carson St., Carson City, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 172 Sixth St., Elko, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 480 Campton St., Ely, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 121 Industrial Way, Fallon, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 475 W. Haskell, #1, Winnemucca, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 4001 S. Virginia St., Suite G, Reno, NV; NEVADA JOBCONNECT, 1675 E. Prater Way, Suite 103, Sparks, NV; GRANT SAWYER OFFICE BUILDING, 555 E. Washington Ave., Las Vegas, NV; LEGISLATIVE BUILDING, 401 S. Carson St., Carson City, NV; NEVADAWORKS 6490 S. McCarran Blvd., Building A, Unit 1., Reno, NV; WORKFORCE CONNECTIONS, 7251 W. Lake Mead Blvd., Las Vegas, NV. This agenda was also posted on DETR’s Web site at www.nvdetr.org. In addition, the agenda was mailed or e-mailed to groups and individuals as requested.