

## Workforce Development Board Meeting Minutes



**Thursday – April 3, 2025**

**In-person Meeting: Junior Achievement- Rocky Mountain - 6500 Greenwood Plaza Blvd, 80111**

11:00 a.m. **Welcome/Call to Order**

Peter Hancock, **PEG**

Action Items:

- o February 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes – motion carried to approve the last meeting's minutes.

11:05 a.m. **JA Finance Park and Dream Accelerator Tour**

Leadership, **Junior Achievement**

12:10 p.m. **Lunch Break** (food provided for working lunch)

- Todd Nielsen – NAWB Forum 2025 was mostly policy, with a dash of partnership. [NAWB's 2025 Legislative Agenda](#) includes a reminder that every dollar counts. A/D Works! ROI – \$8 for every dollar invested. The agenda also includes support to reauthorize WIOA, reject a one-size-fits-all federal WIOA training mandate, and reject state-level set asides. The work we do is a convergence of workforce and education. It was an eye-opener to some legislators that WIOA is the funding of last resort.
- Andrew Bercich – NAWB is working to strengthen partnerships. Last year, NAWB signed a MOU with the SBA to strengthen workforce development. This year, NAWB signed a MOU with the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives to start training workforce practitioners and economic development. NAWB has 4 [legislative priorities](#) this year. March ROI Report - \$7.97 return for every \$1 invested. Other big topics at NAWB Forum 2025 were how workforce affects military space, quantum computing/AI, and a new workforce led sector partnership for AI.

12:15 p.m. **County Updates**

Arapahoe County - Commissioner Warren-Gully

- I went to D.C. a few weeks ago to discuss and advocate for human services programs. There was an employer panel on how to fix the economic system. \$1.2 billion was cut from the budget.

Douglas County - Ruby Richards

- The Douglas County Homeless Initiative continues to meet monthly.

12:25 p.m. **Task Force Updates**

Task Force Representatives

Young Adult Engagement Task Force – Sydney Golditch

- The task force is exploring the role and duties of a potential youth ambassador to support outreach and spread awareness.

Marketing/Outreach/Engagement Task Force - Todd Nielsen

- We had a social media content planning session that helped identify key audiences. We are hoping to increase board member engagement. The Next meeting is May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Data & Labor Market Information Task Force – Sydney Golditch

- Connect with [Sydney](#) if you are interested in supporting the task force.

12:35 p.m. **Director's Report**

Sasha Easton, **A/D Works!**

Action Items:

- ADWDB-XX-2025 Universal Stipend Payments
  - Peter Hancock moved to approve the Universal Stipend Payments policy. It was seconded by Commissioner Carrie Warren-Gully. The motion was approved. James Neby abstained.
- ADWDB Board Bylaws & Operating Procedures
  - Andrew Bercich moved to approve the update to the ADWDB Board Bylaws & Operating Procedures. Todd Nielsen seconded. The motion was approved.

Arapahoe/Douglas Works! partnered with Douglas County School District for a [Career & Hiring Fair](#).

12:55 p.m. **Member Announcements**

- Shelby Scheuffele – Beehive Industries just won its first big [contract](#).
- Naomi Colwell – Aurora Chamber of Commerce was awarded a grant. Legislation was passed to designate April as the “Month of the Military Child.”
- Robert Newbold – Manufacturer’s Edge received funding and was able to hire new staff. There is no Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) program funding in some areas; we are anticipating reallocation of funding after June.
- Jonathan Woodward – [Southwest Airlines University](#) opened this month; the ribbon cutting was yesterday. [Galen College of Nursing's](#) first session is happening now; the building will open later this year in Aurora.
- Todd Nielsen – Connecting Colorado is retiring on May 8<sup>th</sup>. The new Connecting Colorado will go live starting May 12<sup>th</sup> in a tiered release. Staff training will occur at the end of April/beginning of May.

1:00 p.m. **Meeting Adjournment**

Peter Hancock, **PEG**

**Next WDB Meeting: June 5, 2025 • 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
Location Information Coming Soon

**OUR MISSION** is to create a best-in-class regional system that is responsive to business/industry that results in a skilled workforce equipped with a work ethic, academic proficiency, and occupational specific talent that rivals our competition.