



**Green Country Workforce Development Board
Special Local Elected Officials Meeting Minutes**

**March 5, 2026 – 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Connors State College – Port Campus
Nursing & Allied Health Building – Auditorium
2501 N 41st St East – Muskogee, OK 74403**

All voting members of the body must attend in person at the physical location

Quorum was established through roll call.

Local Elected Officials Attended in Person: CLEO Charles Boecher, Vice CLEO Ken Doke, David Beck, Joe Higgins, Lowell Walker, Loyal Dean Taylor, Mike Furnas, Mitch Antle, Ray Watts, Tim Kelley, Troy Friddle, Zac Moore

Local Elected Officials Absent: Alva Martin, Chris Jenkins, Dan Delozier, Ernie Ferriera, Stan Sallee, Steve Talburt

Guest Present: Tom Summar

Board Staff Present: Michael Branan, Ashley Arenivar, Cathy Spencer

	Activity / Item	Who
1.	Call Meeting to Order CLEO Charles Boecher called the GCWDB Special Local Elected Officials Meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.	Charles Boecher, CLEO
2.	Compliance with Open Meetings Act: Declaration of Quorum through Roll Call of GCWDB Local Elected Officials. Roll call was done by Cathy Spencer. Quorum was established. <i>The agenda was posted at least 24 hours prior to the date and time of this meeting and filed in accordance with the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act.</i> <i>The LEO Special Meeting Agenda was posted at the GCWDB Board Office on 2/27/2026 at 9:22 a.m.</i> Local Elected Officials Attending in Person: CLEO Charles Boecher, Vice CLEO Ken Doke, David Beck, Joe Higgins, Lowell Walker, Loyal Dean Taylor, Mike Furnas, Mitch Antle, Ray Watts, Tim Kelley, Troy Friddle, Zac	Charles Boecher, CLEO Quorum Established

	Moore Absent Local Elected Officials: Alva Martin, Chris Jenkins, Dan Delozier, Ernie Ferriera, Stan Sallee, Steve Talburt Guest Present: Tom Summar Board Staff Present: Mike Branan, Ashley Areniver, Cathy Spencer	
3.	Discussion and Possible Action: Approval of December 16, 2025 Local Elected Officials Meeting Minutes A motion was made to accept the December 16, 2025 Local Elected Officials Meeting Minutes as written.	Charles Boecher, CLEO Motion: Tim Kelley Second: Ray Watts Vote: Motion Carried Unanimously
4.	Discussion and Possible Action: GCWDB PY 25 Budget Modification Michael Branan, GCWDB CEO, reported on the February, 2026 budget modifications. The Adult carryover and board admin was reduced. The Adult board program, service provision, and training services all increased. The Adult OJT, WEX, and Supportive Services was reduced. The Incumbent Worker Funding was eliminated due to lack of utilization. The DLW planning was reduced \$18,770.87 from the original estimate. The DLW carryover and board admin was reduced. The DLW training services and WEX was increased. The DLW OJT and supportive services was reduced. The Youth carryover, board admin, supportive services and system costs were reduced. The board program youth, service provision, work related, training services and WEX increased. \$1.3 million of the annual budget has been spent. 53% of this amount has been spent on training. Administrative expenses have been reduced to allow more participants to be served in the WEX, OJT and Internship programs. There is no risk of overspending the administrative dollars. A motion was made to approve the GCWDB PY 25 Budget Modification as presented.	Charles Boecher, CLEO Michael Branan, GCWDB CEO Vote: Mitch Antle Second: Troy Friddle Vote: Motion Carried Unanimously
5.	Discussion and Possible Action: Governor Stitt's Letter	Charles Boecher, CLEO

	Michael Branan, GCWDB CEO, reported there has been no change in the status of the State Plan.	Michael Branan, GCWDB CEO No Action Taken
7.	Discussion and Possible Action: Quorum requirements and adjustment to By-Laws and Consortium Agreements to reflect change if necessary. Michael Branan, GCWDB CEO, discussed the possibility of changing the quorum requirements for the LEO Meetings. If changes are made, that will require the By-Laws and Consortium Agreements to be amended. This would require new signatures from each county represented in the GCWDB Area. A motion was made to table this agenda item and discuss at a later time.	Michael Branan, GCWDB CEO Motion: Mitch Antle Second: Zac Moore Vote: Motion Carried Unanimously
8.	Discussion: Financial Report Ashley Sellers was not in attendance. Michael Branan, GCWDB CEO, provided information available. We have spent 58% of funding for the program year. The OESC narrative is GCWDB spends a lot on leases. We sublease from OESC in 5 of the AJC's, Port of Catoosa Office is \$1,200 per month, Eufaula is \$400 per month, Wagoner space is free and provided by the County, Stilwell and Sallisaw are \$100 per month each and provided by Cherokee Nation, and the Board Office is \$2,000 per month and is leased from a Tahlequah businessman. OESC complaint in regard to the Service Provider is they are located out of state. That is not the case with GCWDB Area. They have 30 employees and ALL live in Oklahoma. Governor has changed the 2026 Budget to call for Block Grants which is outside the boards. It is expected for dollars left on 6/30/2026 to go back to the state. Rural communities do not have the money to fight.	Ashley Sellers, COWIB Executive Director/CEO Fiscal Agent No Action Taken
9.	Discussion: GCWDB CEO Report Michael Branan, GCWDB CEO, reported on his board activities. He and Ashley Arenivar, GCWDB COO, attended the NORA Legislative Reception. Jeremy Frutchey, GCWDB Director of Center Operations/Programs/Finance/Performance, CLEO Charles	Michael Branan, GCWDB CEO No Action Taken

	of Consultation Michael Brananh, GCWDB CEO, gave an overview of Governor Stitt's Letter of Consultation Notice dated January 27, 2026. Michel reported Green Country has taken action to cut costs in the past and present. Tulsa and Eastern combined 4 years ago and became GCWDB. July 1, 2025, GCWDB merged with the NEWDB, adding their 7 counties, to make the GCWDB Delivery Area have a total of 18 counties. Office space has been closed, moved and combined to cut administrative costs. This has been moved to be used as client dollars. Services have been streamlined to better serve our employers and participants. Becoming a "one board state" could cause the small rural counties to get lost in the system. The Governor intends to take all of the \$3.9 million to one board from the current four boards. This money is designed to be spent on the "under-served and under-educated". Michael reported Executive Directors Kerry Manning, Southern Workforce Board, and Ashley Sellers, Executive Director/CEO Oklahoma's Workforce Board, virtually attended the GCWDB Special Board Meeting on March 4, 2026. They gave an overview on what has been done in their area. They have met with their Board of Directors and their Local Workforce Boards. Signatures have been obtained to request technical assistance from the USDOL. Documents have been sent to Governor Stitt plus their Chief Local Elected Officials and Vice Chief Local Elected Officials. A motion was made to request technical assistance regarding the Governor's January 27, 2026 Notice and Local Workforce Governance Under WIOA and submit Resolution No. ____-2026 Affirming the Statutory Authority of the Green Country Workforce Development Board and Opposing and Unilateral Action to Eliminate or Consolidate Local Workforce Governance in a Manner Inconsistent with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.	Michael Branan, GCWDB CEO Motion: Mitch Antle Second: Loyal Dean Taylor Vote: Motion Approved Unanimously
6.	Discussion and Possible Action: State Plan Update	

	Boecher, Board Chair Jennifer Bentley, and Michael Branan, GCWDB CEO, will be attending the NAWB Conference March 23-26, 2026 in Las Vegas.	
10.	Adjourn: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:49 a.m.	Charles Boecher – CLEO Motion: Ken Doke Second: Lowell Walker Vote: Motion Carried Unanimously

Local Elected Officials: CLEO Charles Boecher, Vice CLEO Ken Doke, Alva Martin, Chris Jenkins, Curt Mullin, Dan Delozier, David Beck, Ernie Ferreira, Lowell Walker, Loyal Dean Taylor, Mike Furnas, Mitch Antle, Ray Watts, Stan Sallee, Steve Talburt, Tim Kelley, Troy Friddle, Zac Moore

Approved by: _____

Charles Boecher, CLEO

Date: _____

6/23/2026

Green Country Workforce Development Board is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. TDD/TTY: 1-800-722-0353. Green Country Workforce Development Board's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Title I programs are 100 percent funded by the United States Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (USDOLETA) through awards totaling \$ 5,002,637.84