

**Region 1 Conference Call Minutes**  
**Chief Elected Officials & Regional Workforce Development Board**  
Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)  
“Workforce Partners – Helping Iowa Work”  
[http://www.iowawdb.gov/r1\\_home](http://www.iowawdb.gov/r1_home)

**March 27, 2020**  
**3:00 p.m. CEO • 3:30 CEO/RWDB**

**1. Welcome – John Beard & Dave Baker**

John Beard, called the joint meeting of the CEO Board to order at 3:01 p.m. and welcomed CEO members. The RWDB members will join the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

**2. Roll Call/ Quorum – Sue Larson (Keystone AEA)**

**CEO Members Present Via Phone:**

John Beard, Jeff Madlom, Sharon Keehner, Dan Byrnes, Jerry Stevens, Dave Baker, David Tilkes

**CEO Members Absent:**

Marty Stanbrough, Roy Buol

**RWDB Present Via Phone:**

Les Askelson, Candance Drahn, Dan White, Donna Boss, Lisa Curtin, Ron Axtell, Marla Loecke, Larry Liefeld, Gissella Aitken-Shadle, Craig Allen

**RWDB Members Absent:**

James Vermazen, David Gaylor, Kathy Gunderson, Caroline Scheidel, Jayme Kluesner, Jeanne Helling, Jamie Phipps, Michael Myers, Jennalee Pedretti, Josh Pope, Joan Funke, Rhonda Kendrick,

**Others Present:**

Windy Mihm-Herold, Mike Witt, Rachele Howe, Linda Rouse, Sue Larson

**RWDB/CEO BOARD DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

**3. Consider Approval of Agenda – John Beard, CEO Chair & Les Askelson, RWDB Chair**

**4. Review and Discuss Documents**

John Beard: We are finalizing the required steps to become compliant with WIOA and join Regions 2 & 7. Documents have all been sent to members for review. Handouts show an outline of what we can do to meet the CEO Checklist of Key Tasks. Good work has been done by Region 11, so it is just a matter of editing their name out and substituting our name. Must be done by May 15, 2020.

**5. Discussion and Action on Proposed Merger with Existing Regions 2 & 7**

Dave Baker: Going forward, we should use the examples from Iowa. If we decide to merge, then the CEOs will meet next Friday, April 3 at 9:30 a.m. We will review documents that were provided to us from Region 11, as they are a few steps ahead of use. I am very comfortable following them and using their documents.

Comments from CEO members: To much vagueness moving ahead and not knowing, we should just join Regions 2 & 7. Concerns about offices closing is something we have to deal with. Overall cost is the way to go with having just one Region. Like smaller regions but it will be best if we join Regions 2 & 7; it's a cost factor.

Dave Baker: We have heard from Mike Witt and Linda Rouse that the State has no plans to close the Decorah satellite office. One-Stop Shops are not affected by the merger. It could change down the road with a new Administration. No matter what, we will not get any written guarantees on any of the centers. A twenty-county group may give us more clout to rally against closures, as there will be more counties contacting the Governor's office. Plus, we will have additional influence from twenty counties going forward.

Mike Witt: I will assure all of you that there is no closure of offices coming. IWD is not the sole voice in the center and where they are located and whether they close. All CEO's have an equal vote. They cannot arbitrarily come in and say we are closing centers. Aligning with a larger center has more to do with administrative dollars.

John Beard: Agrees with everything that has been said so far. We will develop good relationships with Regions 2 & 7. We have common interests and joining together makes a lot of sense geographically.

Dave Baker: As a Union Leader and Career Principal Officer, I am viewing this as we are pulling together with 20 counties. An injury to one, is an injury to all. We are better in larger numbers and will have more influence. This brings in people that are really dedicated and the potential for leadership for our group. I am comfortable with this course.

Motion Dave Baker that our current Region 1 Board will merge with Regions 2 and 7 to create the new 20 County Region. Seconded Jeff Madlom. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Next step: Meeting on Friday, April 3, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. with Regions 2 & 7. Will be using Mike's conference line again. Will review documents and actually start putting things into action. Mike Witt will have documents ready. Dave Baker and Corey Eberling could possibly be co-leads if everyone is in agreement. Bring concerns from your County Attorney's regarding 28E Agreements. Maybe one will volunteer to do the editing to suit our Region.

Dave Baker suggested bringing the 28E Agreement in DRAFT form that way everyone can review an actual document in their county. The 28E Agreement describes the process of selecting a CLEO and how long terms and hours should be. Everyone please look over the 28E Agreement in the handouts before next Friday's meeting. Region 11 has it done quite well.

## **6. Consultation with RWDB on Merger Decision**

3:31 p.m. Sue Larson (Keystone AEA) took roll call for RWDB members.

John Beard: Informed RWDB members that CEO members had discussion of merger between Region 1 and Regions 2 & 7. While we admit, we had some concerns originally, we will be keeping our service centers, so everyone that spoke today took the step to join with Regions 2 & 7 to form a new Region.

Dave Baker: CEOs discussed merging with Areas 2 & 7. Mike Witt gave us assurances that centers would not be closing. CEOs voted unanimously to merge with Areas 2 & 7, creating a new twenty-county group.

Mike Witt: Shared again with RWDB members, what he shared with CEOs that there are zero plans to close any IWD offices. Alignment is having enough administrative dollars to support local boards, CEOs and service providers. CEOs have just as much voice about where centers are located. IWD cannot arbitrarily close a center.

John Beard: One-Stop operators will need to be competitive and bid out every four years. This could lead to some changes, but nothing we can do about that. I think the people we represent in the field are to be recognized for their experience and ability.

Dave Baker: Current providers will have the same opportunity as others bidding, regardless of whether we merge or not. We have to bid out the RFP process and you can't guarantee who will get it.

Mike Witt: The new RWDB board will be a minimum of 19 members.

Dan White and Marla Loecke in attendance.

Ron Axtell: Thanked the CEOs for all the information from stake holders and making an informed decision. Much appreciated. Thank you for your time.

Comments: New county RFP provider for Youth and Adult Dislocated is not due until April 17. Marla Loecke will be reaching out to board members to be a part of a smaller board. Currently there are four providers however, there will only be one provider with the new board. This board stays in place until the new board with the twenty-county region is set up. Some action will be going on here in the short term. It is important to keep our current board in place. We may need to reconvene the board in the short term as we may need input and guidance. We would hope some of our current board members would consider joining the new board.

## **FLOOR ITEMS/CLOSURE**

### **7. Next Meeting Date**

John Beard and Les Askelson will make that call when needed.

### **8. Adjournment**

4:00 p.m.

Motion Dave Baker. Second Dan White. All ayes. Motion carried.

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Sue Larson  
Keystone AEA