



## WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD OF TULARE COUNTY

### MEETING

---

November 12, 2025, Minutes

**WIB Directors Present:** Colby Wells – Chair, Joe Hallmeyer – Vice Chair, Randy Baerg - /Secretary, Brandon Lovenburg, Gamaliel Aguilar, Miguel Mora, Rodney Wilson, Tricia Stever Blattler, Yolanda Valdez

**WIB Directors Absent:** Amy Shuklian, Brent Calvin, Jeff Hudson-Covolo, Robert Kleyn

1. **Call to Order:** Colby Wells - Chair called the meeting to order at 7:32 a.m.
2. **Public Comment:** Colby Wells - Chair called for public comments; there were no public comments.
3. **Success Story:** [Business Services - Dinuba Healthcare](#)
4. **Consent Items:**
  - a. Workforce Investment Board Meeting Minutes  
Approve September 10, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes and October 8, 2025, Annual Meeting Minutes.
  - b. WIB Directive TUL 25-06 Release of Confidential Unemployment Insurance (UI) Information  
Approve WIB Directive TUL 25-06 Release of Confidential UI Information.
  - c. Program Year (PY) 2025-2026 Student Training and Employment Program (STEP)  
Modify PY 2025-2026 WIOA Title I Youth Services Agreements to increase STEP performance goals through December 30, 2025, as follows:
    - i. Community Services Employment Training (CSET) for the West Region – Visalia Balance of County – STEP Exhibit B.
    - ii. Proteus Inc. for the East Region – Porterville Balance of County – STEP Exhibit B.
  - d. Fiscal Year 25-26 Infrastructure Funding Agreement with SER-Jobs for Progress, Inc. at the Employment Connection Centers in Visalia  
Approve the Fiscal Year 25-26 Infrastructure Funding Agreement, effective November 17, 2025, with SER-Jobs for Progress, Inc., with staff colocated at the comprehensive Employment Connection Centers in Visalia.
  - e. Employment Connection Committee Nominations  
Approve the following nominations for the Employment Connection Committee: Nuvia Varela for America Works of California, Inc., and Esbeydy Ruvalcaba for the State of California, Employment Development Department.

Motion was made by Tricia Stever Blattler, second by Randy Baerg to approve the consent items; carried by unanimous vote.

**5. Regular Items:**

- a. Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County Board of Directors Appointments  
Recommend three appointments to the WIB of Tulare County Board of Directors in noted categories, contingent upon Tulare County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approval.
- Jake Piland, IBEW Local #100 Business Manager – Labor (term expiration date June 30, 2028)
  - Thomas Geiger, Roofers and Waterproofers Local #27 Business Manager - Labor (term expiration date June 30, 2026)
  - Esbeydy Ruvalcaba, Employment Development Department (EDD) Employment Program Manager II – Wagner-Peyser/Employment Services (term expiration date June 30, 2028)

Motion was made by Joe Hallmeyer, second by Miguel Mora to approve WIB of Tulare County Board of Directors Appointments, carried by unanimous vote.

- b. Provision of the 2026 WIOA Title I In-School Youth Program—Leadership, Education, and Pathways to Employment (LEAP)  
Approve WIB Program and Evaluation Committee recommendations to award an agreement to provide WIOA Title I In-School Youth Services for one year with the option to renew for up to two additional years at the discretion of the WIB to:
- i. Proteus, Inc. an allocation up to \$693,000 to operate the WIOA Title I 2026 In-School Youth LEAP program at the following high schools:
- a. Dinuba High School
  - b. Orosi High School
  - c. Woodlake High School
  - d. Tulare Union High School

Carla D. Calhoun of CSET and Michelle Engel-Silva of Proteus, Inc. each provided public comments regarding this item. A full recording of their remarks is on file and available upon request.

Motion was made by Joe Hallmeyer, second by Rodney Wilson to approve, as revised from the agenda and presented in the PowerPoint presentation, an agreement with Proteus, Inc. for the provision of the 2026 WIOA Title I In-School Youth LEAP Program in the amount of up to \$693,000, with service sites at Dinuba High School, Orosi High School, Woodlake High School, and Tulare Union High School. A correction was made to reflect the accurate school name as Tulare Union High School, replacing the originally listed Tulare Western High School; carried by unanimous vote.

**6. Information/Discussion Items:**

- a. Agreements Executed by WIB Interim Executive Director Between \$5,000-\$20,000
- b. Engagement of Pine, Pedroncelli & Aguilar, Inc.
- c. 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tulare County Job Fair Update
- d. INNOVATORS by Design Conference Update

- e. Tulare-Kings Industrial Partnership Update
- f. Tulare-Kings Ag Skills Partnership Update
- g. Tulare-Kings Healthcare Partnership Update
- h. Federal Shutdown Update

## 7. WIB Committee Reports

- a. WIB Employment Connection Committee
- b. WIB Youth Committee
- c. WIB Program & Evaluation Committee

## 8. Closed Session

### NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

#### CLOSED SESSION

As provided in the Ralph M. Brown Act, Government Code sections 54950 et seq., the Workforce Investment Board may meet in closed session with members of its staff, county employees and its attorneys. These sessions are not open to the public and may not be attended by members of the public. The matters the Board will meet on in closed session are identified below or are those matters appropriately identified in open session as requiring immediate attention and arising after the posting of the agenda. Any public reports of action taken in the closed session will be made in accordance with Government Code sections 54957.1

- a. It is the intention of the Board to meet in closed session concerning:

#### CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR

(Government Code Section 54956.8)

Property Description: Workforce Investment Board of Tulare County

309 W. Main Street, Suites 120, 130 and 143-148, Visalia, CA

Agency Negotiator: Jennie C. Bautista

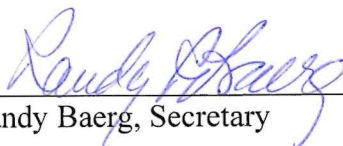
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

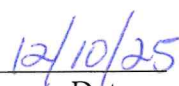
Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.1, the Board reconvened in open session and reported the following action.

Motion was made by Joe Hallmeyer, seconded by Rodney Wilson to authorize the signing of the Fifth Amendment to the lease agreement for the WIB offices located at 309 W. Main Street, Suites 120, 130, and 143-148, Visalia, CA; carried by unanimous vote.

- 9. **Good of the Order/Adjourn:** There being no further business; the meeting was adjourned by Colby Wells, Chair at 8:35 a.m.

Minutes submitted for approval by Randy Baerg, Secretary.

  
Randy Baerg, Secretary

  
Date

APPROVED BY  
WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD  
**MINUTES OF 12-10-2025**