



SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Minutes

Thursday, April 2, 2026

10:00 AM

Cochise College – Benson Center

1025 State Route 90

Benson, AZ 85602

Zoom Online Virtual Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/2048227879?pwd=NG51ZTgrK29wRkVhRWwN6UwXUzgwUT09>

Meeting ID: 204 822 7879

Passcode: 1Tzf0K

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**Members Present**

Ron Curtis  
Kathleen Bullock  
Sam Curtis  
Tony Boone  
Steven Garate  
Rebekah Kimmel  
Maryann Hockstad  
Elizabeth Kinder  
Mary Merino  
Kevin Peck  
Cullen Scarborough

**Members Absent**

Joshua De Spain  
Doris Tolbert  
Matt Bolinger  
Cara Elkins  
Desiree Galaz  
Elaine Rodriguez  
Martha Lujan

**Staff Present**

Vada Phelps  
Vickie Simmons  
Michelle Huff  
Eric Grisham  
Bobbie Reed  
Lori Baron  
Robert Archer  
Marina Morales

**Guests Present**

Jim Mize  
Dominica Dominguez  
Toby Scott  
Krista McGarvey  
Adam Begody  
Lisa Verdugo  
Mary Holland  
Norma Galindo  
Betsy Nelson  
Danny Smith

**A. Call to Order**

The ARIZONA@WORK Local Workforce Board meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM on April 2, 2026.

**B. Roll Call**

Lori Baron conducted roll call. The names of present and absent members, as well as guests and staff are listed above. A quorum was established.

*"If such a conflict does arise, I will declare that conflict before the board and refrain from discussing and voting on matters in which I have conflict."*

**C. Call to the Public**

No comments

**D. Action Item: To Approve/Disapprove April 2, 2026 Agenda**

**Motion to Approve:** Tony Boone

**Seconded:** Maryann Hockstad

**Approved**

Ayes: R. Curtis, Bullock, S. Curtis, Boone, Garate, Kimmel, Hockstad, Kinder, Merino, Peck, Scarborough

Nays: 0 Abstain: 0

**E. Action Item: To Approve/Disapprove December 18, 2025 Minutes**

**Motion to Approve:** Kathleen Bullock

**Seconded:** Tony Boone

**Approved**

Ayes: : R. Curtis, Bullock, S. Curtis, Boone, Garate, Kimmel, Hockstad, Kinder, Merino, Peck, Scarborough

Nays: 0 Abstain: 0

**F. Action Item: To Approve/Disapprove the MOU with Earn to Learn**

**Motion to Approve:** Cullen Scarborough

**Seconded:** Tony Boone

**Approved**

Ayes: : R. Curtis, Bullock, S. Curtis, Boone, Garate, Kimmel, Hockstad, Kinder, Merino, Peck, Scarborough

Nays: 0 Abstain: 0

**G. Action Item: To Ratify the Executive Board's decision to appoint Sam Curtis to the vacated Treasurer position.**

**Motion to Approve:** Maryann Hockstad

**Seconded:** Tony Boone

**Approved**

Ayes: : R. Curtis, Bullock, S. Curtis, Boone, Garate, Kimmel, Hockstad, Kinder, Merino, Peck, Scarborough

Nays: 0 Abstain: 0

**H. Action Item: Vote for the Executive Board**

**President:** Ron Curtis

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Kathleen Bullock

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Josh DeSpain

**Secretary:** Doris Tolbert

**Treasurer:** Sam Curtis

Unanimous: R. Curtis, Bullock, S. Curtis, Boone, Garate, Kimmel, Hockstad, Kinder, Merino, Peck, Scarborough

**I. Report on the NAWB Conference**

- Vickie Simmons: Make America ready for AI
- Kathleen Bullock: AZ@Work Boards should collaborate
- Ron Curtis: Reskill current workers for Tech and AI NOW. Workers need to be adaptable to changes.

**J. Review Audit for CPIC/AZ Work for the Year Ended 6/30/2026**

It was a clean audit.

**K. Financial Report: Budget and Expenditures**

The report is in the packet.

Sam Curtis stated the Budget looks good and there are no concerns.

**L. One-Stop Operator Report**

Jim Mize's report is in the Packet.

**M. Core Partner Reports**

One-Stop Employment and Training Reports was presented by Vickie Simmons.

Vickie's report is in the Board packet.

- March 6 we had a hiring fair in Willcox.
- March 12 Read a success story regarding a CDL to the Workforce AZ Council.
- Eric became President of the Sky Island Regional Partnership.

Rehabilitation Services report  
Elizabeth's report is in the packet.

Employment Services  
Desiree Galaz's report is in the packet.

Adult Education report - Cochise  
Cullen Scarborough commented on Cara Elkins' report in the Packet.

- Adult Education is focusing on 'What's next' (jobs and career paths) for students, graduates and those acquiring certificates.
- 2026 Recognition Ceremonies will be in May.

#### **N. Executive Director's Report – Vada Phelps**

**There was a discussion regarding the venues for the Strategic Planning Conference.**

**Motion to Approve the Sheraton:** Maryann Hockstad

**Seconded:** Steve Garate

**Approved**

**Ayes:** : R. Curtis, Bullock, S. Curtis, Boone, Garate, Kimmel, Hockstad, Kinder, Merino, Peck, Scarborough

#### **L. President's Report – Ron Curtis**

- Building relationships with political representatives and the Board of Supervisors will inform them of what we do, who we are and what we need.
- We change lives.
- We have a great staff.

#### **Board Announcements**

No announcements

#### **Next Board Meeting**

Thursday, June 17 @ 1:00 p.m.  
Sheraton Tucson Hotel & Suites  
5151 East Great Road, Tucson

#### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

**ARIZONA@WORK is an Equal Opportunity employer/program.**

**Funded by WIOA federal dollars serving Adults, Youth, and Dislocated Workers**

Report Submitted by: *Lori Baron*