

WACCT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 5, 2025
NORTHWEST COLLEGE

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by WACCT President Don Erickson at 10:00 am.

Those present:

Don Erickson, LCCC
Bob Salazar, LCCC
Mark Wurzel, NWC
Larry Smith, GCCD
Elaine Henry, Sheridan
Tracy Swanson, Sheridan
Dr. Joe Schaffer, LCCC
Ellis Day, GCCD
Dr. Janelle Oberlander, GCCD
Tiffany Marshall, WWCC
Dr. Kirk Young, WWCC
Doug Mercer, EWC
Dr. Paige Fenton-Hughes, WCCC

Erin Taylor, WACCT
Craig Tolman, CWC
Dale Bohren, CC
Ernie Over, CWC
Katherine Patrick, EWC
Dr. Brandon Kosine, CC
Brad Cundy, CC
Dr. Laurel Ballard, WCCC
Dr. Lisa Watson, NWC
Dr. Walt Tribley, Sheridan College
Dr. Brad Tyndall CWC
Jim Jessen, WWCC

After introductions, a motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda for the June 5th meeting as amended.

There was no objection to the May 23, 2025, WACCT Executive Committee meeting minutes and April 16, 2024, WACCT Board meeting minutes, however it was mentioned that Dr. Brandon Kosine was listed twice in the attendance for the board meeting.

Financials:

Trustee Smith and Executive Director Taylor explained the year-to-date profit and loss and balance sheet and gave an update on the 2025/2026 proposed budget, which proposed \$22,000 in cuts from last year's budget. Items for consideration included the following: elimination of the Joint Interim Education Committee reception, reducing Executive Director travel and reducing the contract with Linden Marketing. After careful consideration, a motion was made and seconded to ask each of the college foundations for another \$3,000 (totaling \$24,000) to bridge the losses, giving the Executive Director the flexibility to use as needed, noting that Central Wyoming College would cover the gap if some college foundations were not able to do so. A

motion was made and seconded to approve the financial reports as presented and approve the 2005/2006 budget.

Finally, Trustee Salazar gave a summary of the WACCT Board self-evaluation. Conclusions from the submissions were similar in terms of how WACCT Board members are contributing:

- Engage in advocacy efforts.
- Taken on greater involvement within WACCT leadership and ad hoc committees.
- Helped with lobbying efforts.
- Attended most of the WACCT meetings.

Similarly, the survey highlighted areas where Board members felt they could improve:

- Encourage WACCT directors to involve their fellow trustees to develop relationships with legislators.
- Learn more about the community college operations and funding.
- Make sure to ask more questions.
- Engage more with trustees from other colleges.
- Report back to own college board on WACCT activities more.

Advocacy

The Executive Director Report referenced her report that was included in the board packet and added the following issues:

- Advocacy:
 - **Joint Education Committee** – focused on the Hathaway Scholarship Program, Wyoming Works, Wyoming's Tomorrow and the Wyoming Innovation Partnership. The Committee voted to send a letter to the Joint Appropriations Committee asking for more programmatic start up dollars for the Wyoming Works program, which highlights high demand, high wage programs across the state.
 - **Joint Revenue Committee** – still working on property tax relief vs. property tax reform and had a motion to do away with all property taxes by Senator Ide of Casper.
 - **Federal** – WACCT has been spearheading efforts to communicate concerns with the budget reconciliation bill that is now working its way through the Senate. Concerns include the college risk-sharing proposal for unpaid federal loans (liability on the institutions), and reductions in Pell, TRIO and GEARUP grants.

Other Business

The following topics were discussed under other business:

- WACCT submitted a presentation proposal to ACCT for the October Congress on the future of the Wyoming Innovation Partnership.
- WACCT Legislative Guiding Principles – the board approved the ad hoc committee's recommendations of four guiding principles by which the Board may evaluate position taking during the legislative session. The four areas include:
 - Funding & financial sustainability
 - Workforce development & economic growth
 - Local autonomy & governance
 - Student success & accessibility

Finally, the Board went into Executive Session at 11:40 am to discuss personnel, resumed at 11:54 am and adjourned the meeting.