



**LWDB 20 – Geaux Jobs  
August 19, 2025**

The Local Workforce Development Board met on August 19, 2025, at 11:00 am. at Duke's Seafood and Steakhouse located at 2591 S. Range Road, Denham Springs, LA

**WELCOME**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Roderick Matthews. He welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mrs. Chappell called roll. Upon taking roll call, a quorum was reached.

Mrs. Chappell introduced to the board Mr. Darryl McGaha and Mr. William Sims, two newly appointed board members. She also shared that LWDA 20 now has a fulfilled LWDB board.

Vice-Chairperson Mr. Roderick Matthews resumed the meeting.

**MEMBERS' PRESENT**

Eric Baldwin, Terri Cook, Jason Dedon, Lisa Dugas, Karen Fontenot, Carissa LeBeouf, Roderick Matthews, Ismary McLemore, Penni Saul, William Sims, Sandy Summers, Chad Williams, Lisa Williams, Darryl McGaha

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Sadie Mannino-Bennett, Jaye Collura, Mike DiVicenti, Anthony Howell, Craig Kaiser, Jayson Purdy, William Sims, Sandy Summers, Michael Thornhill

**GUEST: None**

**WIOA STAFF:** Tina Roper, Shalonda Chappell, Shalanda Hill

**PUBLIC INPUT: None**

**MINUTES OF June 10, 2025, BOARD MEETING**

A motion was made by Mr. Jason Dedon and seconded by Ms. Sandy Summers to approve June minutes as presented. Votes were as follows:

Yeah: Eric Baldwin, Terri Cook, Jason Dedon, Lisa Dugas, Karen Fontenot, Carissa LeBeouf, Roderick Matthews, Ismary McLemore, Penni Saul, William Sims, Sandy Summers, Chad Williams, Lisa Williams

Absent: Sadie Mannino-Bennett, Annette Beuchler, Jaye Collura, Mike DiVicenti, Daryl Ferrara, Craig Kaiser, Jayson Purdy, Ronnie Rosser, Michael Thornhill

Nays: None

Abstained: Darryl McGaha

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Roper presented the Director's Report as follows:

### **Financial:**

- o Allocations/Expenditures -Ms. Roper provided updates on the WIOA federal budget outlook and reviewed allocations for the operating budget funding of FY24/FY25.
- o The overall budget for operations is 3.6 million dollars
- o Ms. Roper noted that approximately \$1 million is designated directly for direct participant costs. She has allocated \$511,000 of those training dollars to the 5 field offices for the first half of the fiscal year, which does not include the \$190,000 allocated for the work experience program.
- o The remainder of the training funds is being held to ensure funds are available for new training needs after January and to cover the costs of those who are already in training.
- o Ms. Roper shared that all monitoring findings had been cleared, and the Regional Local Plan has been approved by LWC.
- o Ms. Roper is working to establish a shared operational cost agreement with DCFS and LWC.

### **Policy Changes:**

- Ms. Roper and her counterparts are encouraging OWD to modify the definition of unlikely to return to former occupation to reflect the change in the UI benefits program. There is a need to adjust this to allow for eligibility as a dislocated worker earlier for those on UI due to the allowable weeks for benefits being changed from 26 weeks to 12 weeks.

### **LAWASS Task Force Pilot:**

- The LAWASS Task Force integrated pilot program between Geaux Jobs, LWC, and DCFS has begun with the implementation of staff representation of the agencies within the Geaux Jobs local one-stop centers.
- The pilot process has been complicated by legislative actions, including SNAP and FiTAP eligibility moving to Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), while SNAP Employment and Training and the STEP program have been moved to the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC). We are awaiting more clarification from Louisiana Works on the integration efforts.
- Ms. Roper is working along with Bryan Taylor (Operations Manager) and Bryan Moore (One-Stop Operator) to establish a shared cost agreement with LDH and LW for the co-location of all staff.

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- Ms. Roper shared a success story highlighting how important it is and beneficial to have these agencies share the same space. Geaux Jobs Staff and DCFS staff were able to provide resources to a homeless man. The different agencies were able to provide information onsite, securing SNAP benefits, resources, and he graduated from a CDL truck driving program. He is employed and thankful for the opportunity.

### **BY-LAWS**

Ms. Roper went over the by-laws that were given out at the June 10th, 4th Quarter meeting, highlighting the changes for the board. There was a discussion by the board on the bylaws, and the following specifics were discussed:

- Clarification was made to **Article VI 6.2.1.1. Executive Committee Membership** regarding election and terms of the Executive Committee..
- Proxies: There is a section on board member proxies; however, Ms. Roper also noted that at this time, we are not allowed to use proxies until it is changed by the state WIC. In the event they are approved, it has been added to **Article V 5.8.1. Proxy Vote**.
- **Article V 5.12. Virtual Meetings** have been added stating that The Geaux Jobs-LWDB 20 shall have authority, subject to changes in current state sunshine laws, provisions, and policy pertaining thereto, to conduct, annually, up to two (2) regular meetings of the Board via an electronic, virtual platform.

The updated By-Laws were reviewed by the Board members, and a vote for adoption was made..

A motion was made by Mr. Jason Dedon and seconded by Mr. Errick Baldwin to approve the updated By-Laws as presented. Votes were as follows:

Yeah: Eric Baldwin, Terri Cook, Jason Dedon, Lisa Dugas, Karen Fontenot, Carissa LeBeouf, Roderick Matthews, Ismary McLemore, Penni Saul, William Sims, Sandy Summers, Chad Williams, Lisa Williams

Absent: Sadie Mannino.Bennett, Annette Beuchler, Jaye Collura, Mike DiVicenti, Daryl Ferrara, Craig Kaiser, Jayson Purdy, Ronnie Rosser, Michael Thornhill

Nays: None

Abstained: Darryl McGaha

### **BOARD INPUT/DISCUSSION**

- Ms. Roper thanked Mr. Darryl McGaha and Mr. William Sims and welcomed them again as newly appointed board members.
- Ms. Chappell set the tentative 2nd quarter board meeting for November 18, 2025.

**CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS**

Mr. Roderick Matthews thanked everyone and appreciated their attendance.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Jason Dedon and seconded by Ms. Lisa Williams to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:

  
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Roderick Matthews                      Board Chairperson

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