

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF HYBRID MEETING

JANUARY 22, 2025

Chairman Doug Sprouse called to order the Board of Directors Meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at the John Paul Hammerschmidt Conference Center, North Arkansas Campus – South Campus, 1515 Pioneer Drive, Harrison, Arkansas.

Board Members present were:

Benton County

Mayor Stephanie Orman, Bentonville (Video)
Mayor Chris Moore, Lowell (Video)
Mayor Nathan See, Pea Ridge (Video)

Boone County

Judge Robert Hathaway, Boone County

Carroll County

Judge David Writer, Carroll County
Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville

Madison County

Judge Larry Garrett, Madison County
Mayor Travis Dotson, Huntsville

Marion County

Jason Stumph, Marion County
Mayor Shawn Lane, Yellville
Layton Lee, Yellville (Video)

Newton County

Judge Warren Campbell, Newton County
Neal Gibson, Western Grove

Searcy County

Judge Tony Horton, Searcy County
Mayor Kevin Elliott, Marshall
Woodie Methvin, St. Joe

Washington County

Chung Tan proxy for City of Fayetteville (Video)
Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale

Board Members absent were:

Judge Kevin Litty, Baxter County
Mayor Hillrey Adams, Mountain Home
Dani Pugsley, Mountain Home
Judge Barry Moehring, Benton County
Mayor Jerry Jackson, Harrison
Bill Witty, Boone County
Ronda Griffin, Carroll County
Brandi Holt, Huntsville
Mayor Mike Thomas, Jasper
Judge Patrick Deakins, Washington County

Guests present were:

Bruce Cross, Rose Law Firm (Video)
Brandon McCabe, Rose Law Firm (Video)
Elijah Snow, Field Representative for Crawford
Brittany Parker, Field Representative for Cotton
Latasha Born, Madison County Judge Assistant
Dr. Ricky Tompkins, Northark
Jeff Nielsen, Harrison Chamber of Commerce
Buddy Fry, City of Green Forest
Jackie Crabtree, Arkansas Municipal League
Darryl Treat, Searcy County Chamber of Commerce
Sandy Button, Pea Ridge

NWAEDD staff members present were:

Joe Willis
Jeremy Ragland
Libby Robinson
Tina Cole
Chelsey Weaver
Courtney Roberts
Karen Henry
April Turner
Michelle Ryan
Kindall Brewer
Amanda Simon
Shana King
Patty Methvin
Greg LaBonte
Victoria O'Brien
Gary Foster
James Moss
David Bell

A presentation was made by Bruce Cross and Brandon McCabe with Rose Law Firm. They addressed recent executive orders, challenges faced by employers in Arkansas, and ongoing lawsuits affecting minimum wage and non-compete clauses. The potential changes in government agency positions and policies under the new administration were also discussed.

The first order of business was the approval of minutes of the October 16, 2024, meeting which were presented and approved without dissent on a motion by Judge Larry Garrett and seconded by Mayor Travis Dotson.

Chairman Sprouse provided an Executive Committee Report stating that the executive committee of the NWAEDD Board of Directors met on January 22, 2025. The committee reviewed and approved to present to the full board for approval the NWAEDD November 30, 2024, Financial Statements, 2025 NWAEDD Budget and Resolution No. 3096 and compensation adjustment for the Executive Director.

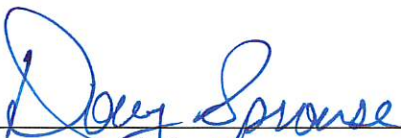
A review of the district financial report for November 30, 2024, was made. Director Joe Willis provided a summary of the report and answered questions. A motion to approve the financial report as presented was made by Mayor Tim McKinney and seconded by Mr. Neal Gibson and the motion carried unanimously.

Next was the approval of the NWAEDD 2025 Budget. A motion to approve the budget as presented was made by Mayor Jason Stumph and seconded by Mr. Gibson and the motion carried unanimously.

Next was the approval of Resolution No. 3096 – RESOLUTION TO TERMINATE THE NWAEDD TAX DEFERRED ANNUITY PLAN. Director Joe Willis provided a brief overview of the resolution. A motion to approve and submit to the board for approval was made by Judge Warren Campbell and a second by Mayor Lane. The motion was unanimous.

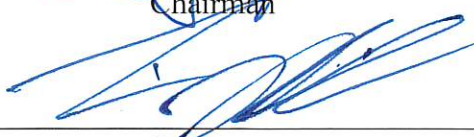
The next item was the Executive Director’s Report. Director Willis provided the members with an update on various matters, including the organization’s Walmart stock holdings, the Berryville Industrial Park announcement from Messer, and the effort in the legislature to eliminate the grocery tax with its potential effects on cities and counties. He also referenced NWAEDD’s IRP application with USDA awaiting approval. Agency officials have indicated a possible March decision.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:53 a.m. on a motion by Judge Campbell and seconded by Mr. Gibson. The motion carried unanimously.



Chairman

Date: 4-23-25



Secretary

Date: 4-23-25

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF HYBRID MEETING

APRIL 23, 2025

Chairman Doug Sprouse called to order the Board of Directors Meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., at 10:39 a.m., Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at the John Paul Hammerschmidt Conference Center, North Arkansas Campus – South Campus, 1515 Pioneer Drive, Harrison, Arkansas.

Board Members present were:

Baxter County

Mayor Hillrey Adams, Mountain Home
Dani Pugsley, Mountain Home (Video)

Benton County

Judge Barry Moehring, Benton County (Video)
Mayor Stephanie Orman, Bentonville

Boone County

Mayor Jerry Jackson, Harrison

Carroll County

Judge David Writer, Carroll County
Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville

Madison County

Judge Larry Garrett, Madison County
Mayor Travis Dotson, Huntsville
Brandi Holt, Huntsville (Video)

Marion County

Jason Stumph, Marion County
Layton Lee, Yellville (Video)

Newton County

Mayor Mike Thomas, Jasper (Video)

Searcy County

Judge Tony Horton, Searcy County
Mayor Kevin Elliott, Marshall
Woodie Methvin, St. Joe

Washington County

Chung Tan proxy for City of Fayetteville (Video)
Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale
Wayne Mays, Fayetteville

Board Members absent were:

Judge Kevin Litty, Baxter County
Mayor Chris Moore, Lowell (Video)
Mayor Nathan See, Pea Ridge (Video)
Judge Robert Hathaway, Boone County
Bill Witty, Boone County
Ronda Griffin, Carroll County
Judge Warren Campbell, Newton County
Neal Gibson, Western Grove
Judge Patrick Deakins, Washington County

Guests present were:

Rex Nelson, Arkansas Democrat Gazette
Bryan King, Senator
Ron McNair, State Representative
Elijah Snow, Field Representative for Crawford
Latasha Born, Madison County Judge Assistant
Dr. Ricky Tompkins, Northark
Jackie Crabtree, Arkansas Municipal League
Scott Miller, Anstaff
Spree Ragland, Arvest
Scott Tennyson, Arvest
Susan Dumas, Cruz & Associates
Steve Shields, Carty, Harding & Hearn

NWAEDD staff members present were:

Joe Willis
Jeremy Ragland
Libby Robinson
Tina Cole
Chelsey Weaver
Courtney Roberts
April Turner
Michelle Ryan
Amanda Simon
Shana King
Jack Chisum
Greg LaBonte
Becky Ray
David Bell

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Patty Methvin (Video)
Kindall Brewer (Video)

The first order of business was the approval of minutes of the January 22, 2025, meeting which were presented and approved without dissent on a motion by Judge Larry Garrett and seconded by Mayor Hillrey Adams.

Chairman Sprouse stated that the executive committee met on April 23, 2025.

Approval of a new executive committee member and vice chairman of board was made by the executive committee to present to the full board proposing Mr. Woodie Methvin as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors and Mayor Hillrey Adams as the new executive committee member. A motion to approve was made by Judge Garrett and seconded by Mayor Travis Dotson and the motion carried unanimously.

Next item on the agenda was introduction of guest speaker Mr. Rex Nelson, Senior Editor, Arkansas Democrat Gazette, who shared stories and insights on his many years of public service.

A review of the district financial report for February 28, 2025, was made. A motion to approve the financial report as presented was made by Mayor Dotson and seconded by Judge Garrett and the motion carried unanimously.

Next was the approval of the NWAEDD Financial Management and Internal Control Policy Manual. A motion to approve the manual as presented was made by Mayor Stephanie Orman and seconded by Judge Jason Stumph and the motion carried unanimously.

Next was the approval of the NWAEDD Employee Handbook update. A motion to approve the handbook as presented was made by Mr. Woodie Methvin and seconded by Mayor Kevin Elliott and the motion carried unanimously.

Next was the approval of prior Finance Director travel reimbursement. A motion to approve the travel reimbursement as presented was made by Mr. Methvin and seconded by Mayor Tim McKinney and the motion carried unanimously.

The next item was the Executive Director's Report. Director Willis provided the members with an update on various matters, including the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) 2025-2028. The audit is scheduled for May 5-16, completion by June 30th and finalized with submission for board approval at its July meeting. Senate President Pro Tempore Bart Hester will be the keynote speaker in July and will provide the board with legislative updates.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. on a motion by Judge Garrett and seconded by Mr. Methvin. The motion carried unanimously.



Chairman

Date: 8-6-25



Secretary

Date: 12-3-25

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF HYBRID MEETING

AUGUST 6, 2025

Chairman Doug Sprouse called to order the Board of Directors Meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., at 10:44 a.m., Wednesday, August 6, 2025, at the John Paul Hammerschmidt Conference Center, North Arkansas Campus – South Campus, 1515 Pioneer Drive, Harrison, Arkansas.

Board Members present were:

Baxter County

Mayor Hillrey Adams, Mountain Home
Dani Pugsley, Mountain Home

Benton County

Judge Barry Moehring, Benton County
Mayor Stephanie Orman, Bentonville (Video)
Mayor Chris Moore, Lowell (Video)
Mayor Nathan See, Pea Ridge (Video)

Boone County

Mayor Jerry Jackson, Harrison

Carroll County

Judge David Writer, Carroll County

Madison County

Judge Larry Garrett, Madison County
Mayor Travis Dotson, Huntsville
Brandi Holt, Huntsville (Video)

Marion County

Judge Jason Stumph, Marion County
Mayor Hunter Duren, Yellville

Newton County

Judge Warren Campbell, Newton County

Searcy County

Judge Tony Horton, Searcy County
Mayor Kevin Elliott, Marshall
Woodie Methvin, St. Joe

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Washington County

Chung Tan proxy for City of Fayetteville (Video)

Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale

Jennifer Irwin, Fayetteville (Video)

Board Members absent were:

Judge Kevin Litty, Baxter County

Judge Robert Hathaway, Boone County

Bill Witty, Boone County

Ronda Griffin, Carroll County

Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville

Layton Lee, Yellville

Mayor Mike Thomas, Jasper

Neal Gibson, Western Grove

Judge Patrick Deakins, Washington County

Guests present were:

Senator Bart Hester, Senate President Pro Tempore, Senate District 33

County Judge Dale James, Arkansas 250

Ebony Mitchell, Arkansas 250

Mayor Jeffrey Van Sickler, Little Flock

Latasha Born, Madison County Judge Assistant

Jackie Crabtree, Arkansas Municipal League

Spree & JR Ragland, Arvest

Susan Dumas, Cruz & Associates

Steve Shields, Carty, Harding & Hearn

Tom Ginn, AEDC

Cade Miller, Perimeter Group

Amanda Woodworth, Signature Bank

Ashley Farrar, Landmark CPAs

Toliver Myers, Boozman's Office

Jeff Nielsen, Harrison Chamber of Commerce

NWAEDD staff members present were:

Joe Willis

Jeremy Ragland

Libby Robinson

Tina Cole

Chelsey Weaver

Courtney Roberts

April Turner

Michelle Ryan

Amanda Simon

Shana King

Jack Chisum

Greg LaBonte
Victoria O'Brien
David Bell
Patty Methvin
James Moss
Katie Causey
Kindall Brewer (Video)

The first order of business was the approval of minutes of April 23, 2025, meeting which were presented and approved without dissent on a motion by Judge Jason Stumph and seconded by Mayor Kevin Elliott

The next item on the agenda was guest speaker Senator Bart Hester, Senate President Pro Tempore, District 33. Senator Hester discussed Arkansas's strong financial position and recent legislative efforts, including infrastructure investments and bond proposals. The discussion then covered various state policies and initiatives, including education reforms, government process improvements, and economic development projects across different regions of Arkansas.

Next was the introduction of guest speakers Ms. Ebony Mitchell and Van Buren County Judge Dale James, with Arkansas 250. Discussion centered on the upcoming 250th anniversary of America in 2026, including community engagement and storytelling initiatives. Judge James highlighted the importance of local participation and shared a video explaining the semiquincentennial celebration.

Chairman Sprouse stated that the executive committee met on August 6, 2025, and provided an overview of the committee's actions.

A presentation of the 2024 NWAEDD Audit was made by Ashley Farrar, Landmark CPAs. A motion to approve the 2024 audit as presented was made by Judge Larry Garrett and second by Mayor Travis Dotson and the motion carried unanimously.

A review of the district financial report for May 31, 2025, was next on the agenda. A motion to approve the financial report as presented was made by Judge Garrett and seconded by Judge David Writer and the motion carried unanimously.

Next was review of Act 505 of the 95th General Assembly, which requires in-person voting for elected officials and public access to meetings, leading to a decision to discontinue hybrid meetings and hold all future board meetings in person. A motion to discontinue hybrid meetings was made by Judge Barry Moerhing and seconded by Mayor Hillrey Adams and the motion carried unanimously.

The next item was the Executive Director's Report. Director Willis provided the members with an update on IRP, federal budget/appropriation cycle – potential shutdown, and the 2024 NWAEDD Annual Report. He also thanked Signature Bank for providing lunch.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:21 p.m. on a motion by Judge Garrett and seconded by Mr. Woodie Methvin. The motion carried unanimously.



Chairman

Date: 12-3-25



Secretary

Date: 12-3-25

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF MEETING

DECEMBER 3, 2025

Chairman Doug Sprouse called to order the Board of Directors Meeting of the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., at 10:59 a.m., Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at the John Paul Hammerschmidt Conference Center, North Arkansas Campus – South Campus, 1515 Pioneer Drive, Harrison, Arkansas.

Board Members present were:

Baxter County

Mayor Hillrey Adams, Mountain Home
Dani Pugsley, Mountain Home

Benton County

Tyler Overstreet proxy for Bentonville

Boone County

Mayor Jerry Jackson, Harrison

Carroll County

Judge David Writer, Carroll County
Mayor Tim McKinney, Berryville
Ronda Griffin, Carroll County

Madison County

Judge Larry Garrett, Madison County
Mayor Travis Dotson, Huntsville
Brandi Holt, Huntsville

Marion County

Judge Jason Stumph, Marion County
Mayor Hunter Duren, Yellville
Layton Lee, Yellville

Newton County

Judge Warren Campbell, Newton County
Neal Gibson, Western Grove

Searcy County

Judge Tony Horton, Searcy County
Mayor Kevin Elliott, Marshall
Woodie Methvin, St. Joe

Washington County

Chung Tan proxy for City of Fayetteville
Mayor Doug Sprouse, Springdale
Wayne Mays proxy for Jennifer Irwin, Fayetteville

Board Members absent were:

Judge Kevin Litty, Baxter County
Judge Barry Moehring, Benton County
Mayor Stephanie Orman, Bentonville
Mayor Chris Moore, Lowell
Mayor Nathan See, Pea Ridge
Judge Robert Hathaway, Boone County
Bill Witty, Boone County
Mayor Mike Thomas, Jasper
Judge Patrick Deakins, Washington County

Guests present were:

Bryan King, Senator
Ron McNair, State Representative
Cristian Rath, Abacus
John West, Gallagher
Will Fawcett, Gallagher
Jim Moore, Moore & Associates
Scott Miller, Anstaff Bank
Tasha Born, Madison County Judge Assistant
Jackie Crabtree, Arkansas Municipal League
Toliver Myers, Boozman's Office
Darryl Treat, Searcy County Chamber

NWAEDD staff members present were:

Joe Willis
Jeremy Ragland
Libby Robinson
Tina Cole
Chelsey Weaver
Courtney Roberts
April Turner
Michelle Ryan
Katie Causey
Shana King
Patty Methvin
Jack Chisum
Roxanne Marcum
Becky Smith

The first order of business was the approval of minutes of August 6, 2025, meeting which were presented and approved without dissent on a motion by Judge Larry Garrett and seconded by Judge Warren Campbell.

The next item on the agenda was guest speaker Cristian Rath with Abacus CPA. Mr. Rath presented and discussed Navigating the One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025.

Next was the introduction of guest speaker Senator Bryan King, who discussed the concern about the court case regarding the \$18 fee and the need to prepare for potential repayment to bondholders. He warned that state spending problems and reduced turnback dollars to counties could lead to tougher times ahead, urging local officials to advocate for maintaining the 5% turnback and senior center funding issues.

Next was the review of the NATS VI Program. Director Willis provided a brief overview of the program. After the discussion, a motion to approve was made by Judge Campbell and a second by Judge Jason Stumph. The motion was unanimous.

Mr. Jack Chisum, NATS Director, introduced Mr. Jim Moore, Managing Partner, Moore & Associates, to provide a brief review of the NATS Transit Study. Mr. Moore, a consultant with 35 years of public transit experience, presented a comprehensive report on NATS to the board. He outlined three key recommendations: increasing service productivity, implementing an annual marketing plan, and updating driver training policies. Mr. Moore also proposed several supporting initiatives, including introducing an annual report card, improving group trips, and simplifying the fare structure. The board discussed transitioning to a new automated dispatch system and potentially partnering with other EDD departments to provide stored value cards for clients. Mr. Moore emphasized the importance of finalizing the project report, implementing the recommendations, and measuring the impact of changes to ensure continued success.

Chairman Sprouse stated that the executive committee met on August 6, 2025, and provided an overview of the committee's actions.

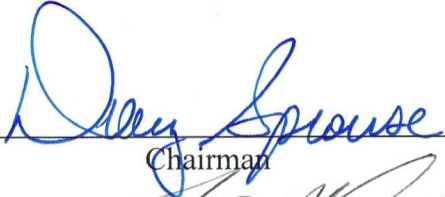
Next was the review of EDA Resolution No. 3097 authorizing the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District, Inc., to use local funds to match with the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration for funding of the EDA Planning Grant for 2026-2028. After the discussion a motion to approve the resolution was made by Mayor Travis Dotson and a second by Mayor Tim McKinney. The motion was unanimous.

Next was the review of the 2026 NWAEDD Budget. Director Joe Willis provided an overview of the budget. A motion to approve the budget was made by Judge Campbell and a second by Judge Garrett. The motion was unanimous.

A review of the district's financial report for September 30, 2025, was next on the agenda. A motion to approve the financial report as presented was made by Judge Garrett and seconded by Mr. Neal Gibson and the motion carried unanimously.

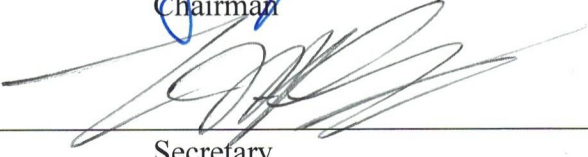
Lastly, Director Willis provided the members with updates on several items including: NATS Transit Study, ARDOT awarding NATS as the Agency of the Year, NAPHE, NWAEDD health insurance, Finance Director position, 2024 locality dues, AI Training - January 22, 2025, and IRT – Searcy County June 2026. He also thanked Gallagher for providing lunch

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:14 p.m. on a motion by Judge Campbell and seconded by Judge Tony Horton. The motion carried unanimously.



Chairman

Date: 4/16/26



Secretary

Date: 4/16/28