



**MEETING OF THE
TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

DATE

OCTOBER 20, 2020

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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, good morning, all. This meeting is called to order. Mr. Trobman, has anyone signed up for public comment?

MR. TROBMAN: Good morning, Commissioners. No, we do not have [inaudible] registered for public comment this morning.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, thank you. Good morning, Ms. Miller.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. This brings us to the end of Agenda Items 3 through 7. Let's pause for a few minutes to reset for the rest of the meeting.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, we're back. On Agenda Item 8, staff does not have anything to present for this item. Agenda Item 9, discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding publication for public comment of proposed amendments to 40 TAC chapter 803, skills development fund. This item is being postponed to a future meeting so we can have a full discussion of our proposed edits to the rules.

COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, have we confirmed on a date for that meeting?

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's my understanding we have, but I don't know what that is. We were working that out with the general counsel's office.

1 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Okay. Perfect,
2 thank you, sir.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yes, sir. Let's move to
4 Agenda Item 10, statewide initiatives, although I'm told staff
5 does not have anything to present for this item. On item 11,
6 discussion, consideration, and possible action regarding
7 guidance on resource utilization and implementation of services
8 and strategies to target disaster relief efforts and public
9 health emergencies, including those funded with the Department
10 of Labor's disaster dislocated worker grant. And I think we
11 have a discussion [sounds like] paper on this item.

12 MR. SERNA: Yes, sir, and Travis Weaver's
13 gonna lay that out.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you.

15 TRAVIS WEAVER: Thank you. Good morning,
16 Chairman Daniel, Commissioners, Mr. Serna. For the record,
17 Travis Weaver, workforce development division. On April 16,
18 2020, the Department of Labor awarded \$12 million in disaster
19 dislocated worker grant funds to expedite disaster relief
20 services in Texas. And on September 29, TWC received an
21 additional \$27,685,179, for a total of \$39,685,179 to serve a
22 minimum of 2,042 Texans. Of the 28 workforce development
23 boards, 16 have been participating in this disaster dislocated
24 worker grant to serve individuals and communities impacted by
25 this pandemic. Disaster dislocated worker grants are

1 supplemental resources that provide [inaudible] in responding
2 and recovering from disasters, and DOL expects these grants to
3 be aligned with existing state and local priorities, resources,
4 and programs. Disaster dislocated worker grants provide
5 disaster relief and humanitarian assistance employment as well
6 as career and training services and support services, as
7 appropriate to minimize the employment and economic impact of
8 declared disasters in emergency situations and disaster-declared
9 areas. Participants served and original funding amounts have
10 been adjusted [inaudible] to reflect the additional funding from
11 DOL in the chart below. Today, staff seeks approval from the
12 commission on the use of the additional \$27,685,179, for a total
13 of \$39,685,179 to serve a minimum of 2,042 Texans through the
14 disaster dislocated worker grants, with 16 boards.
15 Commissioners, this concludes my comments. I'm happy to answer
16 any questions.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

18 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I have one
19 question for Mr. Weaver. Mr. Weaver, can high school kids be
20 eligible for this funding?

21 TRAVIS WEAVER: We are actually working
22 with DOL on that question. We have provided that answer, and
23 Commissioner, let me get back to you in your offices on that.

24 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I'd appreciate that,
25 thank you.

1 TRAVIS WEAVER: Yeah, absolutely.

2 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Other comments or
3 questions?

4 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I'd just like to
5 say we're excited about this opportunity, and the board's work
6 in getting this out to Texans is appreciated.

7 TRAVIS WEAVER: Thank you, sir.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, do we have a
9 motion?

10 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I move
11 that we approve the use of the additional \$27,685,179, for a
12 total of \$39,685,179, to serve a minimum of 2,042 Texans through
13 the disaster dislocated worker grants, with 16 boards, as
14 discussed.

15 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Yeah, second the
16 motion.

17 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: So moved and seconded,
18 we're unanimous.

19 TRAVIS WEAVER: Thank you, sir.

20 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thank you. Ed, do we
21 have anything else under item 11?

22 MR. SERNA: No, sir, we do not.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: All right, let's move to
24 item 12, discussion, consideration, and possible action
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1 regarding approval of the local workforce development board
2 nominees.

3 SHUNTA WILLIAMS: Good morning, Chairman
4 Daniel, Commissioner Alvarez, Commissioner Demerson, and Mr.
5 Serna.

6 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Good morning.

7 SHUNTA WILLIAMS: For the record, Shunta
8 Williams with the workforce development division. And before
9 you for consideration we have workforce board nominees for
10 Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas, Golden Crescent,
11 Middle Rio Grande, Permian Basin, Rural Capital Area, and
12 Texhoma. This concludes my request, and I'm here to answer any
13 questions you may have.

14 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Comments or questions?

15 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I do have
16 comments. Regarding the nominees for the Middle Rio Grande, I
17 would like to start off by thanking both nominees for their
18 interest in serving as board members. Both nominees represent
19 entities that do not have any active employees. While this may
20 be a worthwhile perspective within a board, this board already
21 has similarly situated members to provide such a perspective.
22 In general, it would be my preference to see private sector
23 representatives actively engaged in supervision, hiring, firing,
24 promoting, and other managing employees within the workforce
25 area. This board is already well above the minimum board member

1 size, so minimum board size is not a concern here. We should
2 not at this time approve the nominees for Middle Rio Grande.

3 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Additional comments or
4 questions?

5 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Based on what I'm
6 hearing, it's [inaudible] the private sector individuals, and so
7 I'd like to take a look at what Commissioner Alvarez has raised.
8 It's coming forth from the board and so I respect what they're
9 putting forward, but I wanna go ahead and take a look at this,
10 and then take action on it as fast as possible after
11 [inaudible]. So if it comes back up next week, then we'll get
12 that [inaudible] about those private sector individuals. Again,
13 respecting the board's submission of those names, it's something
14 that I respect, but based on the comments [inaudible] look into
15 that, especially from the private sector standpoint.

16 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Is anybody in any danger
17 of a compliance issue if we just delay consideration of this
18 entire item to next week?

19 SHUNTA WILLIAMS: No, sir.

20 MR. SERNA: No, sir, I don't believe that
21 we are. Shunta?

22 SHUNTA WILLIAMS: I'm sorry--no, sir.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Commissioners, would you
24 agree to delay consideration of this item for one week, so that
25 everyone can do their proper due diligence?

1 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I would here,
2 Chairman.

3 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Yeah, I agree,
4 based on your comments [inaudible] compliance--

5 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Okay.

6 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: --in that regard.
7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: We'll push on this one.
9 We'll pick this back up next week.

10 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Okay.

11 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Thank you, Chairman.
12 And we did check with staff to make sure that they would not be-
13 -that this would not hurt them at a future board meeting. So,
14 thank you for that.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: No, thank you. Let's
16 see--that was item 12. Was [inaudible]--

17 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: That's correct, sir.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yeah, item 13, there's
19 not a legislative report today. Ed, do we have an executive
20 director's report today?

21 MR. SERNA: I don't have anything to report
22 this morning, sir.

23 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Are there any other--
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1 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Chairman, I'm sorry,
2 but could I go back on item 12? Could we approve the other
3 board nominees, with the exception of Middle Rio at this time?

4 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Well, I asked if anybody
5 was in any kind of jeopardy for compliance issues, and the
6 answer was no.

7 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I know for the
8 Middle Rio Grande was the only board that I checked to see if we
9 were in compliance. I didn't check with the others.

10 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Yeah, Ms. Williams
11 confirmed that there was no issues if we just delayed the whole
12 item [inaudible].

13 SHUNTA WILLIAMS: [inaudible] correct.

14 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: Okay.

15 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: It's probably more
16 orderly [inaudible] Commissioner.

17 COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: Agree.

18 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Okay. Any other order of
19 business to come before the commission?

20 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: None here, Chairman.

21 CHAIRMAN DANIEL: [Inaudible] Do we have a
22 motion to adjourn?

23 COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: I move that we
24 adjourn, Chairman.

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COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: I second the
motion.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: I could get behind that,
so we're unanimous [inaudible].

COMMISSIONER DEMERSON: All right.

CHAIRMAN DANIEL: Thanks, guys. Y'all have
a great week.

COMMISSIONER ALVAREZ: You too, sir.