



**Governmental Relations Committee  
Conference Call**

Thursday, April 3rd  
2:00 pm

**MINUTES**

- I. Welcome and Introductions  
Committee Chair, Scott Koch called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and asked for a roll call. Participating were Bob Craft, Bob Schroth, Commissioner Chuck Hurliman, Fernando Gutierrez, Commissioner Larry Givens, Commissioner Nikki Whitty, Pat Davis, Commissioner Nellie Hibbert and Kris Latimer.
- II. Discussion of next steps: - Committee Charter - Work Plan / Goals  
Scott reviewed that the Committee has been tasked with completing its charter for presentation at the TOC/OWA meetings on April 17 and therefore today's meeting agenda was focused on those items.  
  
Bob Craft asked for clarification of the word principals as it was presented in the responsibilities section of the Charter. The group agreed that the intent was for PRINCIPLES not PRINCIPALS and that principles are the basic assumptions that TOC/OWA can agree upon in relation to advocacy, legislation and/or policy.
- III. Committee Charter – members discussed the following. Draft language based on conversation and notes have been *inserted below* for review and discussion:
  - a. Mission  
*The mission of the Governmental Relations Committee is to assure that legislators and policy makers understand clearly the strengths and unique assets of our rural counties and the impacts of their legislative or policy actions on the same.*  
  
*The committee may offer policy recommendations to both or either boards as it sees fit and supporting the TOC/OWA vision – further assuring that legislators and policy makers understand the need for innovation and evolution of the workforce system to meet the*

*demands of today and tomorrow and support strong rural economies.*

b. Responsibilities

- *Refinement and recommendation of legislative principles to TOC/OWA;*
- *Advocate for appropriate and responsive representation at all levels, on behalf of rural Oregon;*
- *Work with State Legislators and our Congressional Delegation by reviewing legislative proposals on issues pertaining to the workforce system and TOC/OWA principle areas of concern;*
- *Communicate and coordinate advocacy for the organization's issues and principles at local, state and national levels;*
- *Communication of TOC/OWA positions on policy when necessary to varying audiences and constituencies;*
- *Assure the continued understanding of legislators and policy makers regarding the need for innovation and evolution of the workforce system to meet the demands of today and tomorrow;*
- *Recommend Board positions and/or action in relation to all of the above.*

c. Goals

Goals will be defined as responsibilities are clarified.

d. Work Plan is to be developed and frequency of meetings will follow the same.

Suggested language for meetings:

The Governmental Relations Committee meets at minimum in conjunction with the regularly scheduled TOC and OWA meetings and will hold additional meetings as necessary in order to accomplish the goals and work plan.

IV. Next Steps

Committee members agreed to review and provide feedback on the mission and responsibilities as outlined in this document. A committee meeting will be scheduled on April 7<sup>th</sup> at noon or April 8<sup>th</sup> from 4-5pm in order to finalize these sections of the charter.