Chair Toya Speckman called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

Approval of Agenda
Jim Neubecker made the motion to approve the agenda, Roni Wisdom seconded. Without discussion, the agenda was approved.

Old Business
Jim Neubecker made the motion to adopt the October meeting minutes and Karla Grazier seconded. Without discussion, the October meeting minutes were adopted.

New Business
CWDC Project/Executive Assistant
New staff member Eric Mergens introduced himself.

Policy and Legislation Update
Committee Chair Don McClure and Stephanie Steffens spoke about several current topics at the federal and state levels.

- Federal:
  - President Obama’s focus on hiring the long-term unemployed and Vice President Biden’s charge to lead reform of job training programs to better meet needs of business. Staff will send out a template for a letter of support and talking points that Council members can use to communicate CWDC’s position.
  - Long-term Unemployed H-1B Ready to Work Partnerships Grant: Neither the CWDC nor the Colorado Department of Labor & Employment will lead on a grant application, but will offer support to the regions and partners interested in pursuing it.

- State:
  - There will be a more detailed legislative update during the April pre-work session, as there are several bills that are related to education and training that will have an impact on CWDC and its partners.
The Policy and Legislation Committee is working with partners and legislative liaisons from the Colorado Department of Higher Education, the Office of Economic Development & International Trade, and the Colorado Department of Labor & Employment to establish a long-term strategy.

Program Year 2014 Strategic Priorities for Local Workforce Boards
Toya led a discussion about the strategic priorities for the local workforce boards as they prepare for Program Year 2014 (which starts July 1). Staff recommended the Council carry forth the same strategic priorities from 2013, with increased focus on specific services. Industry engagement through Sector Partnerships to inform Career Pathways, effective outreach, and active local workforce investment board and youth council engagement are the critical overarching strategies to implement in each service area.

- Sector Strategies/Sector Partnerships
- Career Pathways
- Local Workforce Investment Board and Local Youth Council Engagement
- Business Services Standardization
- Outreach
- Service Areas of Focus:
  - Business Services
  - Re-employment of unemployed and under-employed adults
  - Youth

Josh Davies motioned for approval, Karla Grazier seconded. Without further discussion, the strategic priorities were approved.

The Council will be approving the local plans in June. At the May meeting, staff will ask for task group members to help review the narrative portion. Local board re-certification, which occurs every two years, will happen in tandem.

Looking Forward
Board Development
Five members will be up for re-appointment in September and Toya will reach out to them to see if they are interested in re-applying for a second three-year term. Three members’ terms will end in September and are not eligible to re-apply because they are term-limited. July will be their last meeting, where we will send them off with our gratitude. More information will be provided on this topic at the May board meeting.

National Governors Association Chair’s Initiative
A Colorado team, including Stephanie, is traveling to Oklahoma City at the end of March. The team will continue to work on strategies for Colorado and to set the groundwork for applying for the NGA Policy Academy, which will be very competitive. The Chair’s Initiative of “America Works: Education and Training for Tomorrow’s Jobs” is aligned with what we do in Colorado with sector partnerships, career pathways, and public-private partnerships.

Sector Partnerships
Committee Chair Jay Hardy updated the Council on the recent and upcoming manufacturing micro-summits. They were/will be hosted by six sector partnerships across the state to inform the development of a manufacturing career pathway in the community college system. There were 17 manufacturers in attendance at the sector partnership micro-summit in Montrose on March 4. Denver is having its micro-summit later today and the Northern Colorado manufacturing partnership is hosting its micro-summit on March 27.

Region 5 is exploring launching an energy sector partnership with a dozen employers signed up for a meeting next week, and Region 13 is launching a healthcare sector partnership in April.
The next Sectors Steering Committee meeting will be on April 7 from 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, so please join if you’re interested. The committee will be updating on sector partnerships in Colorado, providing input on the Sectors Summit II, discussing the H-1B grant, and covering the legislative session. Please email cwdc@state.co.us if you’d like to participate.

**Sectors Summit II**
The final dates for the *Sectors Summit II: Growing the Talent Pipeline* are May 19-May 21 at the Denver Marriott Tech Center. The event will kick off with an evening reception on Monday the 19th featuring Dr. Joseph Fuller of Harvard Business School speaking about increasing America’s competitiveness and closing the skills gap. Please help spread the word by encouraging colleagues and local partners from workforce, education, and economic development to attend and get involved. Direct people to [www.sectorssummit.com](http://www.sectorssummit.com) and even consider launching a sector partnership in your region and/or industry.

**July In-Person Meeting**
If you are interested in hosting the July 17-18 board meeting in your region, please send a proposal to Amy Hodson by April 11, as the Council will be voting on a location during the April pre-work session.

**Open Requests from Council Members on Pre-Work Content**
There were no other items submitted for the April pre-work.

Toya adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.