

**Nebraska Statewide Workforce & Educational Reporting System (NSWERS)
Executive Council Business Meeting Notification and Agenda**

January 28, 2026, 1:30 p.m.

University of Nebraska-Varner Hall, 3835 Holdrege Street, Lincoln, NE 68583

Publicized notice of the Executive Council meeting was given by posting the date, time, and location on the NSWERS.org website.

MINUTES

- 1. CALL TO ORDER** – President Leah Barrett called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Roll Call showed the following Executive Council members in **attendance**:

President Leah Barrett, NSWERS President
Dr. David Jackson, NSWERS Member
Commissioner Brian Maher, NSWERS Vice President

Jordan Johnson, NSWERS Legal Counsel via Zoom

Announcement of the placement of the Open Meetings Act information

Dr. Barrett announced that information regarding the Open Meetings Act is available at the meeting room entrance and on the NSWERS.org website.

- 2. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

- 2.1 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

No public comment.

Chancellor Paul Turman, NSWERS Secretary/Treasurer, arrived at 1:42 p.m.

- 2.2 APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

No agenda items were removed, added, or corrected; however, the order was adjusted. Items 3.2 and 3.4 were moved to the end of the Items for Discussion and/or Action.

Approval of the agenda as presented passed with a motion by Dr. Maher, seconded by Dr. Jackson.

Dr. Jackson	Yea
Dr. Turman	Yea
Dr. Barrett	Yea

Dr. Maher Yea

2.3 Approval of Minutes from NSWERS business meeting, October 27, 2025

Motion to approve the minutes of October 27, 2025, NSWERS Executive Council Business meeting passed with a motion by Dr. Maher, seconded by Dr. Jackson.

Dr. Turman Yea
Dr. Maher Yea
Dr. Jackson Abstain
Dr. Barrett Yea

3. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION

3.1 Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action with respect to the proposed partner contribution commitment agreement with NSWERS. (Support Document-Draft Contribution Commitment Agreement)

- Dr. Matt Hastings explained that as NSWERS was going through their public audit, one of the questions they asked was about the budget and projected budgets for the future. The Executive Council discussed the contributions the partners suggested they would make to NSWERS; however, there is no written commitment.
- At the Auditors' recommendation, a draft MOU Agreement was created by Dr. Hastings and Jordan Johnson, legal counsel. The goal is to execute the MOUs with the partners before the fiscal year-end and then invoice for the current fiscal year's resources.
- It was proposed that the draft agreement be circulated for review by partner legal and business officers for additional input.

No Action was taken.

3.2 Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action with respect to the fiscal year 2025 independent auditor report. (Support Document-Forvis Mazars Report)

- Dr. Hastings briefly summarized the 2025 independent audit report since it has already been given to the board along with the financial audit. The audit was clean, with no issues. The audit was submitted electronically to the Nebraska State Auditor's Office on November 4, 2025, to meet the required deadline.

Motion to accept the fiscal year 2025 independent auditor's report. passed with a motion by Dr. Maher and seconded by Dr. Jackson.

Dr. Turman Yea
Dr. Barrett Yea
Dr. Maher Yea
Dr. Jackson Yea

3.3 Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action with respect to the NSWERS 2030 Strategic Plan. (Support Document-NSWERS 2030 Strategic Plan & Community Engagement Workshops)

- Special guest, Langdon Morris, serves as our technical lead and consultant, shared what he saw, and the processes that we went through to establish the Goals & Objectives. The world is changing at an accelerated pace, and that affects Nebraska and NSWERS as much as everyone else.
- NSWERS conducted three Community Workshops: Scottsbluff, Kearney, and Omaha. All were well received. People were enthusiastic about participating; they contributed and engaged very well at both global and very local levels, voicing their concerns.
- The Executive Council and the Partners participated in a day-long workshop to guide NSWERS planning, helping to prioritize and understand what they think is the most important going forward from a strategic perspective.
- The NSWERS staff participated in a half-day workshop to translate the Goals and Objectives into Strategies and Tactics. It's internal thinking around: if these are the Goals and Objectives, what does this mean for us in terms of work over the next five years?
- The goal of the strategic plan is to balance two very different perspectives, which are important and complementary. One is a global process that accelerates change, and Nebraska has its own specific concerns and objectives at the educational level and as an employer. NSWERS must serve immediate needs and be prepared to serve a broader perspective of change.
- Dr. Matt Hastings presented the Engagement Process, Plan Development, and the Alignment with Stakeholder Feedback that led to the Strategic Goals and Objectives of the NSWERS 2030 Strategic Plan.
- The Strategic Goals and Objectives:
 - Organizational Sustainability
 - 1.1 Stability & Resilience
 - 1.2 Funding Resilience
 - 1.3 Brand & Awareness
 - System Intelligence
 - 2.1 Evaluation & Learning
 - 2.2 Predictive & Foresight Analytics
 - 2.3 Decision Alignment
 - 2.4 Analytic Trust
 - Pathway Visibility
 - 3.1 Data Expansion
 - 3.2 Pathway Connectivity
 - 3.3 Governance & Quality
 - 3.4 Technical Adaptability
 - Activation and Use
 - 4.1 Actionable Partner Insights

- 4.2 Capacity Building
- 4.3 System Efficiency
- 4.4 Trust, Transparency, and Public Understanding

Motion to adopt the NSWERS 2030 Strategic Plan passed, with a motion by Dr. Turman and a second by Dr. Maher.

Dr. Maher	Yea
Dr. Turman	Yea
Dr. Barrett	Yea
Dr. Jackson	Yea

3.4 Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action with respect to procurement of public officials, cyber liability, and other insurance products.

Motion to direct the Executive Director of NSWERS, in consultation with the President of NSWERS and Legal Counsel, and based on market conditions and organizational needs, to procure public officials’ cyber liability and other insurance coverage determined essential for operation. There’s been a motion to approve by Dr. Turman and seconded by Dr. Maher.

Dr. Jackson	Yea
Dr. Maher	Yea
Dr. Barrett	Yea
Dr. Turman	Yea

3.5 Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action with respect to a data request from Metropolitan Community College. (Support Document-Memo Supporting Metropolitan Community College Data Sharing Request)

- Metropolitan Community College is doing an analysis of its data in support of compliance with the U.S. Department of Education’s value transparency and gainful employment regulations, which are coming online.
- Dr. Alex Brodersen reviewed and explained Metro’s application request to the NSWERS Management Committee earlier this month. They are fully supportive of granting Metro’s data request.

Motion to approve the data request from Metropolitan Community College passed with a motion by Dr. Jackson and seconded by Dr. Turman.

Dr. Maher	Yea
Dr. Barrett	Yea
Dr. Turman	Yea
Dr. Jackson	Yea

3.6 Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action with respect to legislative activity in the Nebraska Unicameral, LB 1247-Career Scholarship Act.

- Dr. Matt Hastings informed the Council that this is a revision to the bill dealing with the Career Scholarship Act. The purpose of this bill is to ensure that all Nebraska postsecondary institutions participating in the Career Scholarship Program contribute data to NSWERS to support transparency, accountability, and informed decision-making.
- The NSWERS Executive Council discussed the implications of this bill.

No Action was taken.

3.7 Discuss, consider, and take all necessary action with respect to the proposed revisions to NSWERS Business and Finance Policies: 6002, 6400, 6401, 6006, 6016, 6101, 6103, 6104, 6105, 6801, and 6800. (Support Document-NSWERS Business & Finance)

- Dr. Matt Hastings recalled how back in July 2025, the NSWERS Executive Council put into place the first round of business and finance policies & procedures with the expectation they would need to be edited and refined as new use cases presented themselves. Thus, the reason for these changes is to clarify and streamline.
- The main issue is the signature authority for the processing of payments. The policy requires two signatures for every payment. Authorized to sign are the Executive Director, the NSWERS Executive Council President, and the Treasurer.

Motion to lay on the table the proposed revisions to NSWERS Business and Finance Policies: 6002, 6400, 6401, 6006, 6016, 6101, 6103, 6104, 6105, 6801, and 6800 was moved by Dr. Turman and seconded by Dr. Jackson.

Dr. Maher	Yea
Dr. Barrett	Yea
Dr. Jackson	Yea
Dr. Turman	Yea

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

4.1 Dr. Matt Hastings, Executive Director of NSWERS, provided a brief report to the NSWERS Executive Council.

- Staffing update: Jennifer Schrodtt and Michael Grantham have joined our team. We are currently looking to hire a Project Manager, Assistant Director for Education & Training, Database Administrator, and Web Developer.

- The Education Data Fellowship with Harvard is in motion; the Workforce Pell project is coming soon, and a couple of great evaluations are happening with the Nebraska Department of Education related to CTE.
- Discussions have taken place with the Governor’s Office and Health Human Services regarding data expansion to include state licensure data and with the IRS to include employment outcomes outside Nebraska.
- NSWERS Executive Council Officer Election will take place at the April 29, 2026, meeting.

5. INFORMATION ITEMS AND REPORT

In the interest of time, President Barret requested that NSWERS provide an electronic update to the Executive Council following the meeting for the following information items and/or reports.

- 5.1 Treasurer’s Report – Dr. Paul Turman and Dr. Matt Hastings
- 5.2 NSWERS organizational structure discussions – Dr. Leah Barrett and Dr. Paul Turman
- 5.3 Updates regarding NSWERS Data Specifications and NSWERS Information and Research Agenda – Dr. Alex Brodersen
- 5.4 Proposed Study: Landscape Scan of “Some College, No Degree” - Dr. Paul Turman
- 5.5 Nebraska Children & Families Foundation: Sixpence Longitudinal Evaluation – Dr. Alex Brodersen

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the NSWERS Executive Council Business Meeting passed with a motion from Dr. Turman and seconded by Dr. Jackson.

Dr. Turman	Yea
Dr. Barrett	Yea
Dr. Maher	Yea
Dr. Jackson	Yea

President Barrett adjourned the meeting at 3:47 p.m.

The next NSWERS Executive Council Meeting is scheduled for April 29, 2026, 1:30 PM, The Nebraska Department of Education, Room 204, 500 S 84th Street, Lincoln, NE 68510