



**MADERA COUNTY
WORKFORCE
INVESTMENT CORPORATION**

MINUTES

April 23, 2026

Convened at:

**Workforce Assistance Center
2037 W. Cleveland Ave., Madera Ca, 93637**

PRESENT: Aaron Chambers, Debi Bray, Gabriel Mejia, Mattie Mendez, Ramona Davie (7.2), Roger Leach, Tim Riche

ABSENT:

GUEST:

STAFF: Bertha Vega, Maiknue Vang, Nicki Martin, Nuvia Moreno

1.0 Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Chair Debi Bray.

1.1 Pledge of Allegiance

2.0 Additions to the Agenda

None.

3.0 Public Comment

None.

4.0 Introductions and Recognitions

Roundtable introductions were done by everyone in attendance. Nuvia Moreno was introduced. Nuvia was hired as the MCWIC Deputy Director effective April 1, 2026. She worked formerly for the Fresno Workforce Development Board (WDB) and has 23 years of experience in workforce.

5.0 Adoption of Board Agenda

Mattie Mendez moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Gabriel Mejia.

Vote: Approved – unanimous

Yes: Aaron Chambers, Debi Bray, Gabriel Mejia, Mattie Mendez, Roger Leach, Tim Riche

6.0 Consent Calendar

6.1 Consideration of approval of the February 26, 2026, Madera County Workforce Investment Corporation (MCWIC) meeting minutes.

Roger Leach moved to approve, seconded by Tim Riche.

Vote: Approved – unanimous

Yes: Aaron Chambers, Debi Bray, Gabriel Mejia, Mattie Mendez, Roger Leach, Tim Riche

7.0 Action Items

7.1 Review of Form 990 199 2024 tax returns by the MCWIC Board of Directors in preparation for submittal to the IRS.

The Form 990 199 was presented to the Board. The attached checklist confirms that the form was reviewed by the Executive Director and Controller and was acceptable. The Notes on the checklist stated an increase in revenue. Expenditures are increasing primarily due to revenue from the James Irvine Foundation grant. Section part 2 shows expenditures over the years and demonstrates the increases. Under Mission and Programs on the Checklist – the 2nd question regarding significant changes to programs, staff confirmed that program information is reviewed from one year's form to the next and any difference is noted in Schedule O of the Form.

Roger Leach moved to approve, seconded by Aaron Chambers.

Vote: Approved – unanimous

Yes: Aaron Chambers, Debi Bray, Gabriel Mejia, Mattie Mendez, Roger Leach, Tim Riche

7.2 Consideration of approval of the MCWIC year-to-date financial reports for period ending March 31, 2026.

The financial reports were presented to the Board. We are lower on direct client expenditures, but there are currently several training cohorts that have started with 2 more planned. Everything looks good. The Incumbrances figures don't reflect the current cohorts, which will be reflected in the next quarter financial reports under actual expenses. Jessica Roche, Controller, pointed out that there were some overdue items in the account receivable report. Staff are working with partner agencies to bring them to current. The funds from the Irvine Foundation grant are not broken out on its own. Those funds are broken down throughout the financial reports. The Board requested that staff provide a statement of activities report by grants which demonstrates each grant's financial activities.

Mattie Mendez moved to approve, seconded by Tim Riche.

Vote: Approved – unanimous

Yes: Aaron Chambers, Debi Bray, Gabriel Mejia, Mattie Mendez, Ramona Davie, Roger Leach, Tim Riche

7.3 Consideration of approval of a Resolution to add Nuvia Moreno, Deputy Director, as an authorized signer on all Bank of America business accounts.

A Bank Resolution is required to add the Deputy Director, Nuvia Moreno, as an authorized signatory authority on the Bank Account. Previously, the MCWIC Board had discussed adding the Chair as an authorized signor but elected not to proceed. The Board would like to consider bringing the Chair as a signor back to the Board for consideration.

Tim Riche moved to approve, seconded by Ramona Davie.

Vote: Approved – unanimous

Yes: Aaron Chambers, Debi Bray, Gabriel Mejia, Mattie Mendez, Ramona Davie, Roger Leach, Tim Riche

8.0 Information Items

8.1 Success Stories

Information provided within the agenda packet.

8.2 Workforce Development Board (WDB) of Madera County Update

Information provided within the agenda packet.

8.3 One Stop Operator (OSO) Quarterly Report for the Period of January 1, 2026, through March 31, 2026

Information provided within the agenda packet.

8.4 Addendum to Lease Agreement

Information provided within the agenda packet. Staff requested an extension to the current lease via a clause in the contract. MCWIC has 1 more option to extend the lease before they must enter into negotiations for a new lease in 2036. The current lease has an annual cost of \$240,00. The building has 2 lease holders – MCWIC and the Madera Adult School (MAS). MAS renegotiated their lease approximately 2 or 3 years ago.

8.5 National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) 2026 Conference

Information provided within the agenda packet.

8.6 California Workforce Association (CWA) WORKCON 2026 Conference

Information provided within the agenda packet. The White House released their fiscal year (FY) 2027 overview. This is just the first step in the appropriations budget. This budget is similar in its proposal to remove some programs like Job Corps and the senior program. New in this budget, is the transfer of Adult Education from the Department of Education to the Department of Labor. Staff believe that this change may likely hold things up as the Democrats are in opposition. On April 6, 2026, the House Education and Workforce Committee released A Stronger Workforce for America Act (ASWA). The 2026 ASWA is similar to the 2024 ASWA which came close to passing, however, ASWA 2026 also includes the transfer of Adult Education. Also concerning is the 50% training requirement. This would require that areas allocate 50% of their allocations toward training – the idea being that they want more individuals to be trained. However, this makes it difficult for smaller areas who have less funding to be able to pay for staffing and operations to support individuals through trainings. Staff have been diligent in trying to diversify funds by applying for and securing grant funds which will decrease the program's dependence on WIOA funding. ASWA also adds an additional 10% to the Governor's Reserve funding which further reduces area's WIOA funding. The Single State Redesignation authority also proposes that states with a population below 5.1 million or fewer than 5 local areas to be designated as a single state local area, subject to state legislature approval. While California would not be affected, local areas are concerned that this could set a precedent for consolidating local workforce governance into state-level control. Workforce areas are working with the California Workforce Association (CWA) to provide letters to area's local elected officials.

8.7 Transfer of funds from the Dislocated Worker Funding Stream to the Adult Funding Stream

Information provided within the agenda packet.

8.8 Information on Federal and Legislative Updates

Information provided within the agenda packet.

8.9 Update on James Irvine Foundation Better Careers Retreat

Information provided within the agenda packet. The Better Careers team from the Irvine Foundation visited Madera. A portion of their day was dedicated to meeting our Partners where most were in attendance. The Irvine team was very impressed with the van and were finally able to connect the dots in understanding how its usage would allow for Workforce services to reach individuals who may not be able to come to Madera for services.

8.10 Update on Mountain Community and Madera County Job Fairs

Information provided within the agenda packet.

8.11 Update on Business Closures

Information provided within the agenda packet.

8.12 Weekly Unemployment Insurance (UI) Initial Claims for Madera County

Information provided within the agenda packet. The UI numbers have decreased, however, the recent closures in Madera have yet to be reflected in the current UI data.

9.0 Written Communication

None.

10.0 Open Discussion/Reports/Information

11.1 Board Members

- *Roger Leach shared information on the Prayer Breakfast happening on My 7, 2026, starting at 7:00 a.m. The Senior luncheon starts at 12:00 p.m.*
- *Debi Bray shared information on the Fellowship of Christian Athletes dinner taking place on April 26, 2026, starting at 6:00 p.m. Tables are still available to purchase. 350 – 400 people usually attend the event.*
- *Mattie Mendez shared that their site worked with the VITA program for volunteer tax preparation and processed approximately 500 tax returns and generated \$872,000 in returns using an allocation of \$4,400 from CSBG. IRS did a site visit, and they received 100% compliance mark.*

11.2 Staff

- *Maiknue and Nichole Mosqueda, WDB, attended the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) conference. There were many good workshops on AI and Apprenticeships. This conference highlighted the importance of telling our story and the value of our system and its impact. Staff will be looking at how to better market and expand our services.*

11.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on June 25, 2026, at the Workforce Assistance Center.

12.0 Adjournment

Roger Leach moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:10 p.m., seconded by Gabriel Mejia.