

Monthly Capital Region Leadership Council Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM | via Zoom

Leadership Council Attendees:

A	Adam Wilson	E	Jason Buckingham	E	Suzanne Dizon
P	Adelita Serena	A	Jeneba Lahai	P	Tex Ritter
P	Anthony Taula-Lieras	A	Jenny Hatch	P	Theresa Milan
A	Cameron Law	P	Kimberly Parker	P	Todd Cutler
P	Crystal Bethke	P	Lindsey Nitta	E	Troels Adrian
P	Denzell (Fedrequake) Nunsuch	P	Malaki Amen	P	Volma Volcy
A	Daurice Smith	P	Michael Jasso	A	Wayne Mitchum Jr.
A	Dawnte Early	P	Nkiruka Catherine Ohaegbu	E	William Walker
A	Devin Middlebrook	A	Orville Thomas		
P	Elisa Herrera	E	Paul Bancroft		
A	Eliza Tudor	P	Paul Towers		
E	Gabe Ross	A	Robert Bendorf		
P	Gloria Stearns	A	Robert Heidt, Jr.		
A	Ivory Watts	P	Sam Greenlee		
A	James Corless	P	Spencer Bowen		

"P" = present, "A" = absent, "E" = excused

Additional Attendees:

- Evan Schmidt, *Valley Vision*
- Renee John, *Valley Vision*
- Gretchen James, *Valley Vision*
- Chester Draculan, *Valley Vision*
- Sam Bayless, *Valley Vision*
- Richard Dana, *Community Strong Strategies*
- Isa Avancena, *Community Strong Strategies*
- Christina Craner, *Community Strong Strategies*
- Marco Gonzalez, *City of Sacramento*

I. Welcome

- Presented by Renee John, Managing Director, *Valley Vision*
- R. John provided an overview of the meeting goals and agenda.

II. Action: Approve March 2025 Meeting Minutes

- Presented by Gretchen James, *Project Manager, Valley Vision*
- An amendment was needed to correct the name of the person who asked a question in the March Leadership Council meeting minutes. That version is now reflected on our website.
- Oppose - 0
- Can Live With - 0
- Support - 10
- Abstain - 6
- The meeting minutes were approved.

III. State and Regional Updates

- Presented by Gretchen James, Project Manager, *Valley Vision*
- Regional Updates
 - Sam Bayless, the new Sector Investment Coordinator for We Prosper Together, was introduced.
 - Success metrics for We Prosper Together are in the process of being finalized.
 - The second round Catalyst RFP application is open until June 15, 2025.
 - Valley Vision is hosting a series of grant-writing workshops.
- Free Grant Writing Workshop Series
 - Two virtual workshops were held on April 28 and 29. Participants must participate in a virtual session (live or recorded) before attending an in-person workshop.
 - To view the recordings, visit www.weprosperitogether.org/the-latest/
- State Updates: Implementation Fund
 - The Capital Region is included in 14 projects submitted to the Regional Investment Initiative Implementation RFP.
 - Valley Vision is supporting the submission of a coalition of projects in the Semiconductor & Microelectronics sector.
- E. Herrera asked when organizations not funded in the first round would receive constructive feedback for their applications.
 - R. John answered that all applicants should have now received an email detailing the areas that scored the lowest in their application, and to let them know if there are any organizations that did not receive the email.

IV. Leadership Council 2.0 Restructure

- Presented by Renee John, Managing Director, *Valley Vision*

- R. John first reiterated the role, representation, functions, and structure of the Leadership Council from the Planning phase to now.
- R. John then introduced the Leadership Council 2.0 structure and the elements of the Leadership Council would shift in the Catalyst and Implementation phases.
 - The Leadership Council would transition from a decision-making body to an advisory body.
 - For Representation, the Leadership Council will continue to reflect the diverse geographies, perspectives and sectors of the Capital Region, but will orient more towards supporting WPT's ongoing work.
 - For Function, the LC's focus will be to keep our region accountable to the priorities identified in the Regional Plan and ensuring the sustainability of WPT by identifying funding opportunities and partnerships.
 - In terms of Structure, there would be standing industry-based committees, an Accountability and Evaluation Committee and an Investment and Sustainability Committee.
- An integral part of the restructure will be to align with existing regional bodies such as the Sacramento K-16 Collaborative to ensure that efforts across the region are aligned.
- The Leadership Council will continue under this new framework following the award and approval of the Catalyst RFP Round 2 projects.
- G. Stearns asked if it was okay to serve on one of the industry clusters and maybe dabble in investments or vice versa.
 - R. John answered that yes, it is allowed.
- M. Amen asked how would the Accountability and Evaluation committee work in carrying a weight in an advisory role.
 - R. John answered that we will want the committees to provide guidance along with providing information and expertise.
- T. Ritter asked since we are moving into the third phase, shouldn't we be more concerned with more advocacy and legislative pursuits?
 - R. John thinks that it is a very good thought and something that would need to be figured out.
- N. Ohaegbu asked if it would be possible to receive an email with the full details of the restructure.
 - R. John states that they will send out the slides and other resources regarding the LC restructure.
- G. Stearns asked on who else we can rope into these committee efforts.
 - R. John states that the idea is not to be within the current Leadership Council Members, and is open to provide names or nominations.

V. Second Round Catalyst RFP

- Presented by Gretchen James, Project Manager, *Valley Vision*

- G. James went over details of the Second Round RFP such as the release date, close date and the \$4 million in available funds.
- Catalyst Round 2 RFP: Summary of Changes
 - While the funding purpose and content remain the same, the language has been strengthened to clearly define eligibility requirements, as well as encourage collaboration and community engagement.
 - The definition of disinvested communities was also refined to a more inclusive definition that aligns with We Prosper Together.
 - The application now has point values and word counts for each section listed directly on the RFP PDF.
- G. James also let the Leadership Council members know that if they are interested in scoring for the second round, to let the WPT staff know and an interest form will be shared with the meeting's follow-up materials.
- E. Herrera asked if the awarded amount of the round one projects can be shared.
 - G. James answered that yes it can be added onto the Catalyst Projects page on the website under each project.
- M. Amen asked if the grant writing workshops were designed specifically to support Catalyst RFP applications.
 - G. James answered that the virtual workshops were more broad on grant writing tips and tricks, how to effectively read a grant proposal and tips on how to communicate project ideas effectively. The in-person workshops are going to be a more hands-on workshop opportunity to come and bring their draft Catalyst proposals.
- M. Amen asked where the locations of the in-person grant writing workshops will be held.
 - G. James answered that the two workshops will be held in Roseville at the Maidu Community Center and in Colusa at Granzella's Inn.
- A discussion was held on future venue locations for future We Prosper Together events.

VI. Next Steps

- Presented by Gretchen James, Project Manager, *Valley Vision*
- The next Leadership Council meeting will be held in person on July 24, 2025 from 12:00pm to 5:00pm with the venue still to be determined.

VII. [Meeting Adjourned at 3:24 PM]