

Executive Board Meeting
June 12, 2026 at 12:00 PM
Hilton Garden Inn, Watertown

In Attendance: Cheryl Mayforth, Anne Garno, Matt Cooper, Jody Pettit, and Rod Castillo.

Absent: Rob Aiken

The meeting focused on preparations for the June Workforce Development Board meeting scheduled in Lowville. That agenda will feature two guest speakers alongside regular business. Key business items will include membership renewals, officer nominations, and budget approvals. The Board noted the addition of new members Dylan Soper, Rob Kilmer, Shannon Parker, and Chris DiFulvio.

The program is facing an overall 17% cut in federal funding. To manage this shortfall, vacant positions in the Jefferson County office will remain unfilled. Additionally, the Lewis County office staffing will drop below one full-time equivalent. A new federal Office of Management and Budget regulation will also take effect. It requires advance federal approval for all memberships, journal subscriptions, and conference attendance for any group receiving federal funds.

Mr. Cooper reported on his attendance at the Lewis County Economic Conference. The event focused on supporting small businesses and promoting outdoor tourism. Finally, the Board reviewed legislative impacts on local social services. Due to the federal Big Beautiful Bill, counties must cover a larger share of SNAP costs. Furthermore, stricter rules for Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) have caused several hundred people to lose benefits in Jefferson County.

The full board meeting will be held at Lewis County DSS on June 18, 2026.

The meeting was adjourned.