

New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Area Consortium Board

MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 2015

A meeting of the NR/MR WIA Consortium Board was held on March 19, 2015 at the Wytheville Meeting Center in Wytheville, VA. Those in attendance were as follows:

Board Members

David Hutchins- Chair
Jay Williams - Giles
Bill Brown - Montgomery
Andy McCready - Pulaski
Howard Burton - Smyth
Catherine Brillhart – Bristol City
John Garner - Galax City

Staff

Marty Holliday
Ronnie Martin
Beverly Burke

Guest

Martha Samples – WIB Chair
Betty Rowe – People, Inc
Lee Williams – Goodwill Ind. of the Valleys
Karen Akers - Virginia Employment Commission

At 10:06 AM, Chairman Hutchins called the meeting to order. The meeting was opened with a prayer and all present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Hutchins asked Ms. Burke to call the roll. A quorum was present.

Chairman Hutchins asked for any changes or comments on the Consent Agenda. After reviewing the WIB Composition document, *Ms. Brillhart commented that technically Universal Fibers was not in the city limits of Bristol. Mr. Martin explained that although the Bristol City Council had nominated Mr. Bartholomay, he could represent Washington County Business or the City of Bristol as both had an open slot. Mr. McCready made the motion to approve all Consent Agenda items, with the correction requested by Ms. Brillhart. Ms. Brillhart seconded the motion. The vote was called:*

Bristol – yes, Carroll – yes, Galax - yes, Giles – yes, Montgomery – yes, Pulaski - yes, Smyth – yes

Chairman Hutchins opened the floor for public comment. Hearing none he proceed with the agenda.

Chairman Hutchins asked Ms. Samples, WIB Chair, to give an update on WIB activities. Ms. Samples brought the Board up-to-date on WIB activities that had taken place in recent months, noting her concern over the legislative approval HB 1986 and the 40% training expenditure rule. A brief discussion followed.

Chairman Hutchins asked Mr. Martin to give an Operational Summary. Mr. Martin gave an overview of program activities, budget and funding issues through February 28, 2015. A brief discussion followed.

Chairman Hutchins asked Ms. Holliday to give an Executive Summary. Ms. Holliday gave a brief update on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, upcoming new State laws and policies that affect the workforce system and an overview of staff activities since the Board met last. A lengthy discussion followed on the potential impact of House Bill 1986 that passed the House (and its companion bill that passed the Senate) with regards to the new 40% in Training Expenditure ruling.

Chairman Hutchins reminded the members that several years ago the Board had rotated meeting at business locations, allowing for the Board to learn more about the region's businesses. He asked members if they might like to start doing that again and that it would be discussed at the May meeting.

Chairman Hutchins brought the members attention to the informational items in their packet. Ms. Holliday asked the members to review the documents attached to a copy of a letter that Mr. Ronnie Martin sent to Delegate Israel O'Quinn. She reminded the members that at the January meeting they had requested that Mr. Martin send this letter to all of the Virginia Senators and Delegates that serve our area, to bring their attention to this very important issue. She then asked that they flip to the back of the packet and follow the email trail to the email response from Mr. George Taratsas, WIOA Administrator for the Virginia Community College System. Ms. Holliday noted that the important statement was that they would soon be issuing guidance to the WIB Directors that the "current competitively procured contracts could continue into the first year of WIOA." She reminded the members that at the December Joint Meeting both the WIB and the Consortium Board voted to extend the current contracts should we be allowed to do so.

Ms. Rowe gave an overview of the One-Stop Operator report and presented a success story on Mr. Sherman Hall. A brief discussion followed.

Ms. Williams to give an update on the Goodwill Adult Workplace Toolkit Project. She noted that Mr. Hall was a participant of this program.

Ms. Rowe and Ms. Williams gave an update on the beginning activities of the Just Hire One (Re-entry) Project.

Ms. Akers gave an overview of Wagner-Peyser and Veterans activities taking place at the Wytheville One-Stop Campus.

Mr. Martin gave a brief update on the NEG Grant activities. Ms. Holliday updated the members on the DEI and Roving Computer Lab grant funded projects.

Chairman Hutchins asked the staff and operators to document any and all changes that were caused by the 40% Expenditure Rule.

Chairman Hutchins allowed each Member to share information about their areas.

- Mr. Williams shared that for the Summer Youth Employment Program that was sponsored Giles County (in partnership with Goodwill) had 28 participants last year and that this year 48 had already signed up.
- Ms. Brillhart asked Ms. Holliday to send her more information on the 40% Rule
- Mr. Burton stated that in working with Utility Trailer, they had only one in every six applicants that could pass the drug test and that this continues to be a major issue in the region. He noted that he had, at one time, thought that this was just a problem with folks on some type of social assistance, but he has since changed his mind and realized that drug usage is happening in all walks of life.

Ms. Holliday reminded the members about the Travel Reimbursement request form to be completed and signed if members wanted to get reimbursed for their travel to the meeting.

Chairman Hutchins continued with the agenda noting that the next meeting will be on May 20, 2015 at the Wytheville Meeting Center beginning at 10:00AM.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 11:45AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marty Holliday", written in a cursive style.

Marty Holliday
Executive Director