

New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Area Consortium Board

MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2014

A meeting of the NR/MR WIA Consortium Board was held on September 17, 2014 at Elizabeth Brown Park in Wytheville, VA. Those in attendance were as follows:

Board Members

David Hutchins- Chair
Dan Campbell - Floyd
Jay Williams – Giles
Bill Brown – Montgomery
Andy McCready – Pulaski
Howard Burton - Smyth
Steve Willis- Wythe
Catherine Brillhart – Bristol City

Staff

Ronnie Martin
Marty Holliday
Beverly Burke
Kimber Simmons
Renee Sturgill
Della Meadows

Guest

Martha Samples – WIB Chair
Lynn White – WIB 1st Vice-Chair
Linda Matthews - Goodwill Ind. of the Valleys
Betty Rowe – People, Inc
Mary Ann Gilmer – Goodwill Ind. of the Valleys
Dorothy Owsley - Goodwill Ind. of the Valleys
Patrick O'Brien – VT Office of Eco. Development
De Hutchins

At 10:05AM, 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. Holliday to call the roll. A quorum was present.

Mr. Martin introduced the Board's staff. Mr. Brown thanked them, on behalf of the Consortium Board and the local jurisdictions for their hard work and dedication.

Mr. McCready made the motion to approve the Consent Items. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion and a called vote was taken:

Bristol – yes, Carroll – yes, Floyd – yes, Giles – yes, Montgomery – yes, Pulaski – yes, Smyth – yes, Wythe - yes

Chairman Hutchins opened the floor for public comment. Ms. Gilmer introduced Dorothy Owsley, Goodwill Industry of the Valley's Re-entry Specialist.

Chairman Hutchins asked Ms. Samples to give a WIB update. Ms. Samples thanked the staff for their hard work. She introduced Lynn White, the WIB's 1st Vice-Chair. Ms. Samples brought the Board up-to-date on WIB activities that had taken place in recent months. A brief discussion followed.

Chairman Hutchins asked Mr. Martin to give an Executive Summary. Mr. Martin gave an overview of two new reports showing raw data for service levels and performance, noting that it was too early for these to have any real meaning, but that in January trends should become more apparent. After a brief discussion, he asked if the Board would like to continue to see these reports and the consensus of the members present was yes. Mr. Martin gave an overview of program activities, budget and funding issues. A brief discussion followed.

Mr. Martin continued with an update on the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). He reviewed Frequently Asked Questions document that was in the member's packets, highlighting some key areas and especially noting the change in the Youth Program (moving to a 75% Older Youth expenditure requirement). A brief discussion followed.

Chair Hutchins made a change to the Agenda and moved up PY'14 Adult Unobligated Funds Discussion and Action. He gave an overview of the discussions that took place at the August 27, 2014 Joint Executive Committees Meeting on the \$97,432 of unobligated Adult funds and a Re-Entry Program that had been discussed. Chair Hutchins stated that this was of particular interest to the local jurisdictions due to the cost of keeping someone in the jail system. Mr. Martin explained how the funding system worked for all three funding streams and noted that the amount being discussed was not going to be available to spend until October 1, 2014. Ms. Owsley discussed Goodwill Industry of the Valley's Re-entry Program and highlighted their "behind the wall" component. She also stated that this particular population needs an active advocate in order to gain employment. A lengthy discussion followed on the potential cost, number of participants and the intent to cover the region with the program. Mr. Campbell requested that they determine the validity of the program and bring the program back to both Boards in December for approval. Ms. Gilmer stated that they would need a letter of support for the "behind the wall" component from the various jail systems. Mr. Brown made the motion that the local elected officials get Ms. Gilmer a letter of support for the project, so that they can offer services "behind the wall." Mr. McCready seconded the motion. A called vote was taken:

Bristol – yes, Carroll – yes, Floyd – yes, Giles – yes, Montgomery – yes, Pulaski – yes, Smyth – yes, Wythe - yes

Chairman Hutchins brought the members attention to the informational items in their packet.

Ms. Rowe gave an overview of the One-Stop Operator report and Ms. Gilmer presented a success story, who for this month was an ex-offender.

Mr. Martin updated the Board on the current WIB vacancies: two business representatives from Wythe County, one business representative from Giles County and one Adult Education representative. Letters have been sent out to all sources requesting nominations to fill current WIB vacancies.

Ms. Gilmer gave a brief update on the Workplace Tool Kit Project.

The meeting was briefly stopped for the attendees to get their lunch.

Mr. O'Brien presented to the Board the final Skills Gap Analysis Report. He explained that Ms. Whitney Bonham was unable to attend due to being in another state. Mr. O'Brien thanked the Board, on behalf of Virginia Tech's Office of Economic Development, stating that it was a great learning opportunity for them to partner with the Board on this project. Ms. Holliday reminded the members that VT OED was still under contract to assist with special reports and she had access to EMSI, one of the tools VT OED had used to complete the Skills Gap Analysis, until December 31, 2014. A discussion followed on how to fund another 12 month contract. Chair Hutchins had suggested going to the jurisdictions for assistance (it would only cost each one about \$750). No official action was taken.

Mr. Martin gave a brief update on the NEG-OJT grant. Ms. Holliday gave a brief update on the DEI grant.

Mr. Martin 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 allowed each Member to share information about their areas.

- Mr. Williams noted the success of their summer work program and thanked Ms. Gilmer for her help

Chairman Hutchins continued with the agenda noting that the next meeting will be a joint meeting with the WIB on December 3, 2014 at the Wytheville Meeting Center beginning at 10:00AM with a buffet lunch after the meeting.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 12:40PM.
Respectfully Submitted,



Marty Holliday
Deputy Executive Director