

NEW RIVER/MOUNT ROGERS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

August 26, 2015

A meeting of the New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board was held on August 26, 2015 at the Wytheville Meeting Center. Those in attendance were as follows:

Board Members

Lynn White, Chair
Greg Adkins
Karen Akers
Shirley Carlson
Jeff Dunnack
Wilma Faulkner
William Fields
Mary Ann Gilmer
Michael Jennings
Melinda Leland
Ken McFayden
Timothy McVey
Robin Meadows
Michael Miller
Patricia Moore
Michael Rouse
Martha Samples
Terry Smusz
Rick Weaver
David Wright

Robbie Wyrick
Betty Segal (alternate)

Guest

Secretary Maurice Jones
Senator Bill Carico
Catherine Brillhart
David Manley
Beckie Cox
Sarah Lyon-Hill
Kevin Byrd
Stan Barringer
Dean Sprinkle
Angie Lawson
Phyllis Conner
Tyler Lester
Ali Sutherland
Laura Blevins
Gerald Smith
Tommy Casteel

Tabitha Hodge
Mike Steele
Jennifer Atwell
John Matthews
Lynn Hammond
Yolanda Crewe
Andrew Trivette
Brenda Rigney
Joanie McCleary
Michelle Jenkins
Lee Williams

Staff

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

Chair White called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed all WDB members and guests to the meeting. A moment of silence was observed for the WSLS News Crew which were killed during a live broadcast at Smith Mountain Lake earlier in the morning.

Chair White introduced the special guests who were in attendance at the meeting.

The roll was then called and it was established that a quorum was present.

Chair White asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Samples made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Leland seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Chair White asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2015 meeting which had been previously distributed to WDB members. Ms. Leland made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Akers seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

Chair White introduced the Honorable Maurice Jones, Secretary of Commerce and Trade of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Mr. Jones addressed the Board and Guests, noting that the most important thing that is needed for current businesses and to attract new ones is the quality of our workforce.

Chair White asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board during the public comment period. There was none.

Chair White welcomed the new WDB member Rick Weaver, CTE Representative. Ms. Holliday announced the new Youth Committee who will be guiding the decisions of the Youth Program in place of the former Youth Council.

Moving on with the agenda, Chair White called for Committee reports:

- Budget & Administration – In the absence of Mr. Overton, Committee Chair, Mr. Martin gave an update on the final financials (through June 30, 2015). Funds not spent have been carried over into the Final Budget. All funds are under contract, except for the Administrative Funds. Mr. Martin also presented the Final Budget for PY15. The only changes between the Final Budget and the Draft Budget are the carryover funds. There has been a \$51,000 increase overall in the carryover amount. Mr. Martin informed the Board that the Youth and One-Stop Committees will be meeting about the non-designated funds. Mr. Wright made a motion to approve the PY15 Final Budget as presented. Mr. Dunnack seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.
- Executive – no report.
- Outreach & Marketing – no report.
- One-Stop Operations & Delivery System – no report.
- Policy & Procedures - No report at this time.
- Strategic Planning – No report at this time.
- Training Provider & individual Training Account – no report at this time.
- Youth Committee – No report at this time.

Continuing with the agenda, Chair White asked Ms. Brillhart of Bristol to give the Consortium Board Update in the absence of Mr. David Hutchins, Consortium Board Chair. Ms. Brillhart thanked the Board members for their time and dedication to the region. She started she was excited for Secretary Jones to be at this meeting and for making several previous trips to Southwest Virginia. Ms. Brillhart told the Board that there had been several meetings with WDB staff concerning new guidelines moving forward with WIOA. She noted how important the Operators are in the success of WIOA programs. Ms. Brillhart invited the Board members to attend the next Consortium Board Meeting in September at Elizabeth Brown Park in Wytheville.

Chair White asked Ms. Holliday to give the Executive Summary. Ms. Holliday updated the Board on Staff activities since their last meeting, in the three key areas: Backbone Organization Work, System Building Work and Staff Training.

Chair White asked the Workforce System Representatives to give a brief update on activities happening around the region.

- Adult Education and Literacy – Ms. Carlson shared a Success Story about a participant who was enrolled in the Welding Program at VHCC with the assistance of WIOA staff from People Incorporated.
- Career & Technical Education – Mr. Weaver shared that local school districts are developing areas of interest and needs.

- Community Based Organizations – Ms. Smusz serving the New River Valley area focused on the VA Cares Programs. VA Cares assists with basic needs, job preparedness, job search, job readiness skills. They are currently serving 120 ex-offenders with whatever is needed to assist in training so they will not become repeat offenders.
- Institute for Higher Education – Ms. Leland shared that each of the Community Colleges in the area is working with the Center of Excellence and have received some funds for different programs; VHCC – Welding and WCC – Machining. The Chancellor of the Community College System is working on tripling credentials that come out of the community college system as well as asking for additional credentials that are needed after the student graduates.
- TANF – Mr. Jennings stated that the budget expires on the last day of September at midnight. None of the eight bills are ready for congress to vote on. Everything is status quo until bills are decided.
- Economic & Community Development – Mr. McFadyen stated his job is about removing barriers for business to create jobs. A Quantity and Quality Workforce is needed. He stated that we have the tools, but how do we present what is available.
- Virginia Apprenticeship Programs – Ms. Moore stated that apprenticeships helps to provide a trained workforce to replace a workforce which is retiring.
- Virginia’s Employment Services – Ms. Holliday and Ms. McCleary talked about customized job fairs that are being conducted. Currently two of those specialized job fairs are operating at the Wytheville One-Stop Center. Sec. Jones and a group were heading to the One-Stop Center to tour the Wytheville Facilities.
- WIA Title I Programs –
 - Ms. Segal gave the One-Stop Operator Report highlighting the two Success Stories of Teresa Richardson and Geneva Garrett.
 - Ms. Williams updated the members on the activities of the Workplace Toolkit Project which has just completed.
 - Ms Williams & Ms. Segal updated the members on the activities of the Just Hire One Re-entry Project.
- Special Grants - Ms. Holliday gave a brief update on recent activities.

Chair White asked if any member had anything that they would like to share during member time. Mr. McFadyen talked about the value of the CRCs and the need to generate the value to business in the New River/Mt Rogers area stating that there is not a good percentage of businesses who use this certificate. Mr. Martin stated that we as a Board have CRCs in our performance standards. Ms. Leland state they the community colleges conduct the CRC testing. Mr. Fields discussed the need for work readiness and branding.

The 2015 WDB meeting schedule was reviewed with Board members noting that the next WDB meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2015 at the Wytheville Meeting Center beginning at 10:00 AM.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by Chair White at 11:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Burke,
Workforce Operations Coordinator