

# NEW RIVER/MOUNT ROGERS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

## MEETING MINUTES

February 24, 2016

A meeting of the New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board was held on February 24, 2016 at the Wytheville Meeting Center. Those in attendance were as follows:

### **Board Members**

Lynn White, Chair  
Greg Adkins  
Karen Akers  
Carol Blankenship  
Joe Ferrell  
MaryAnn Gilmer  
Rob Goldsmith  
David Hutchins  
Melinda Leland  
Timothy McVey  
Robin Meadows  
Michael Miller

Patricia Moore  
Robert Pierce  
Michael Rouse  
Martha Samples  
Kevin Semones  
Jimmy Smith (alternate)

### **Staff**

Marty Holliday  
Ronnie Martin  
Beverly Burke  
Renee McDavid

### **Guest**

Catherine Brillhart,  
Consortium Board Chair  
Beckie Cox  
Michael Lawrence  
Brenda Rigney  
John Metcalf  
Stan Barringer  
Ron Williams  
Betty Segal  
Kathy Malone

Chair White called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed all WDB members and guests to the meeting and had the guests stand to introduce themselves to the Board.

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. Gilmer 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 December 9, 2015 meeting which had been previously distributed to WDB members. Mr. Ferrell made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Akers seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

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

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

- **Budget & Administration** – In the absence of Mr. Overton, Committee Chair, Mr. Martin stated that all program dollars were under contract. Projected funding is looking good. Although it looks as if the DLW Program has a significant amount of unspent funds, Area II is experiencing a high number of layoffs which will utilize the remaining funds.

Overall, Program Operators expenditures are good for this time in the program year. Mr. Martin thanked the Program Operators for a job well done.

- One-Stop Operations & Delivery System – Mr. Martin informed the board that the planned service levels look good considering the Program Operators are only into the 1<sup>st</sup> month of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter of this program year.

Mr. Martin reviewed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Performance results. Area II met one standard and exceeding all other standards. The State met five standards and exceeded the rest. Area II's performance exceeded that of the State. Mr. Martin thanked the Program Operators for a job well done.

RFP proposals are due back by March 11 at 4:30 pm. Evaluators will be contacted the week after the proposals have been received. Evaluators will be given instructions individually on the evaluation process. Funding recommendations will be presented to the Board at the April 27 meeting for approval.

Continuing with the agenda, Chair White asked Ms. Brillhart, Consortium Board Chair, to give the Consortium Board update. Ms. Brillhart thanked Mr. Hutchins for his work on the Consortium Board as Chair from its inception. She was glad to see he would be able to continue to serve on the WDB. Ms. Brillhart invited the WDB to attend the Consortium Board meeting and stated she looked forward to working with everyone.

Chair White asked Ms. Holliday to give the Executive Summary. Ms. Holliday updated the Board on Staff activities since their last meeting. Ms. Holiday stated that funding for the Power Grant had been awarded to the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and that it covered Workforce Areas 1 and 2. She stated that Rapid Response Funds have been requested and she hopes to have an answer by Friday, February 26. She asked if the Board would like more information other than what was in the report to please let her know.

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

- Adult Education and Literacy – Mr. Barringer shared in Shirley Carlson's place. He stated that Adult Education has received the SNAP ENT grant to provide education and training to SNAP participants through DSS.
- Institute of Higher Education – Ms. Leland shared the VCCS Chancellor's BIG ASK initiative, seeking funding for non-credit training in the community college system. The Chancellor is also seeking to triple credentials by looking for additional credentials for employment. They are "mapping" out those credentials with students by looking at Career Pathways.
- Economic & Community Development – Ms. Holiday stated that although Mr. McFadyen was unable to attend she promised to keep his work ready community in the WDB attention. She hopes that Sector Strategy will assist in this area.

- TANF Programs – Ms. Holliday stated that Mr. Jennings is retiring and they are looking for his WDB replacement.
- Title 1 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – Mr. Rouse stated that DARS has adequate funding to get clients employed and DARS is now taking referrals. DARS has seen a good success rate in the past six months with an average wage at placement of \$10 per hour. He stated that being a part of the WDB has been helpful in getting clients employed.
- Virginia Apprentice Program: Ms. Moore stated she had been able to conduct two presentations for People Inc.; one in Scott County the other in Chilhowie.
- Virginia’s Employment Services – Ms. Akers stated that the unemployment rate for Area II is 4.3%, but that this rate would not last for long. Both the Radford VEC and Wytheville One-Stop have been busy due to unemployment claims from Volvo. She is grateful to the partners and the roving computer labs for helping Radford and Wytheville get through the large numbers of layoffs since staff is already stretched thin. She is expecting another 1,800 to be laid off short term with Volvo by the end of March. The VEC is continuing with Job Fairs and hiring events. Employers seems to be satisfied with available job applicants so far. The VEC is screening applications for qualified individuals, but mechanical engineers and maintenance positions are difficult to fill. Job Fairs are individualized and customized to meet a specific business’s needs. Positions are listed on the radio, TV, and in newsprint. TAA files are continuing to be uploaded in the VaWC system. DOL is loosening standards for TAA eligibility so there should be more TAA activities in the near future.
- WIA Title I Programs –
  - Ms. Segal gave the One-Stop Operator Report highlighting the many layoffs in the area.
  - Ms. Gilmer & Ms. Segal updated Board 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 informed the Board that Ms. Segal would be retiring and thanked her for her service to the citizens of Area II for over 30 years. Ms. Segal was presented with a card signed by WDB members and a potted plant.

The 2015 WDB meeting schedule was reviewed with Board members noting that the next WDB meeting is scheduled for April 27, 2016 at the Wytheville Meeting Center beginning at 10:00 AM. Ms. Holliday discussed the Travel Voucher that each Board member must complete and sign if they want to be reimbursed for their travel. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by Chair White at 11:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly Burke,  
Workforce Operations Coordinator