

# New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Area Consortium Board

## January 15, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the NR/MR WDA Consortium Board was held on January 15, 2020 at the Wytheville Meeting Center, Wytheville VA. Those in attendance were as follows:

<u>Board Members</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>Guests</u>
Kenneth Belton, Vice-Chair Eric Workman – Bland Joe Turman - Floyd Perry Martin - Giles Mary Biggs – Montgomery Joe Guthrie – Pulaski Travis Haynes – Galax City Rob Gropman – Radford City	Marty Holliday Beverly Suthers Della Wheeler Ronnie Martin Jenny Bolte Kimber Simmons	Mike Miller – WDB Chair Melanie Blosser – Goodwill of the Valleys, Inc. Beth Carico - People Inc.

At 10:00 am, Vice-Chair Belton called the meeting to order with a moment of reflection and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Vice-Chair Belton asked Ms. Suthers to call the roll. A quorum was present.

Vice-Chair Belton asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Dr. Workman made a motion to approve as submitted with a second from Ms. Biggs. Motion was passed.

Since there were new faces on the Board, Vice-Chair Belton asked for everyone to introduce themselves and opened the floor for public comment.

As Chair of the Nominating Committee, Dr. Workman made the following nominations for officers: Chair – Mary Biggs, Vice-Chair – Kenneth Belton. No other nominations were put forth, and the floor was closed for nominations. Mr. Guthrie seconded the motions, nominations for officers were approved as submitted.

The meeting was turned over to Chair Biggs.

Chair Biggs next asked Ms. Holiday to continue with the Agenda. Ms. Holliday ask the Board members for permission to approach their localities concerning a Locally funding Business Services for PY'20 (starting 7/1/2020). Ms. Holiday explained that discretionary grants have been used to support Kimber Simmons position in the field. She explained that it is difficult to use federal dollars to fund a part of the services that is provided by this position (speakers for business services, lunch/breakfast and learn sessions, etc...). Ms. Simmons is an integral part of all four business services units spread throughout the jurisdictions. She has been working on recruitment and upscaling within companies throughout the region. Ms. Holiday is asking for permission from the Board to do an “ask” for local funding support depending on population size of either .05 or .10 per person. Ms. Holiday read testimonials from businesses that have been assisted in the region because of the work Ms. Simmons had done. A brief discussion followed. Mr. Guthrie made a motion to give Ms. Holiday permission to approach the

localities concerning her proposal asking up to .10 per capita with a second from Mr. Belton. Motion was passed.

Next Ms. Holiday updated the Board on three business vacancies on the Workforce Development Board. Currently the counties of Bland, Floyd, and Smyth have no business representation on the WDB which is a compliance issue. These positions need to be filled quickly.

Chair Miller informed the Board that the RFP for PY20 Program Operators has been sent out. Proposals are due back in early March.

Ms. Holliday preceded to update the Board on the Executive Summary and Informational items. She then provided an update on the Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan timeline was included in the Packet. The Strategic Plan Committee will be assisting in the process.

Ms. Carico, updated the Board on the One Stop Operations with Ms. Blosser providing the Success Story.

Ms. Holliday updated the Board on current Grants with Ms. Bolte updating the Board on the Pathways Grant.

Chair Biggs opened the floor for Board member time. Mr. Gropman informed the Board he will not be running for re-election and would no longer be serving on the Board after June 2020. Mr. Guthrie informed the Board that he would be stepping down from the Board as a regular attender so that Laura Walters, a new Pulaski County Board of Supervisor, could resume his Board responsibilities. He will remain as an alternate, but this would be his last official meeting. He also said to be on the lookout for news concerning a new employer in Pulaski County!

Chair Biggs proceeded to highlight Board Travel, and the next meeting on March 18, 2020 at the Wytheville Meeting Center at 10:00 am. Mr. Martin informed the Board that there was a change in mileage reimbursement amounts from .58 to .575. Travel documents would be adjusted accordingly.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beverly W. Suthers  
Workforce Operations Coordinator