New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Area Joint Boards Meeting Minutes

December 3, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Miller and Chair Biggs, respectively, called to order the Joint meeting of the NRMR Workforce Development Board, the Consortium Board and the Workforce Development Foundation at 10:06 am on December 3, 2025 in person at the Wytheville Meeting Center and online via Zoom.

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

Chair Biggs lead the Boards in the Pledge of Allegiance and in a moment of reflection.

ROLL CALL

Ms. Renee Sturgill conducted roll call. The following persons were present and online, a quorum was present:

Consortium Board	Workforce Board		Foundation
Montgomery – Chair Mary Biggs	Chair Michael Miller	Kim Hernandez	Chair Michael Miller
Bland – Cameron Burton	Christi Altizer (Virtual)	Mary Anne Halbrook	Laura Walters
Galax – Sharon Ritchie	Thad Austin	Jake Leonard	Vicky Collins
Giles – Perry Martin (Virtual)	Ginny Ayers (Virtual)	Christy Lowe	Thad Austin
Pulaski – Laura Walters	Katie Boswell (Virtual)	John Overton	Jeff Dunnack
Smyth – Shawn Utt (Alt)	Vicky Collins	Bryan Phipps	Mary Biggs
Washington – Charlie Hargis	Kelly Debusk	Cindy Robertson	Cameron Burton
Wythe – Brian Vaught	Jeff Dunnack	Jay Williams (Virtual)	
	Jennifer McKenzie (Alt)	Larry Wyatt	
	Patricia Dover-Bedwell (Alt)		

Staff	Guest	
Jenny Bolte	Logan Lorenzo	Jennifer Houston
Marty Holliday	Patricia Bevil	Linda Batchelor
Angi Chandler	Lisa Reedy	Kimberly Keith
Kathy Pickel	Leta Bradley	Brinda Rigney
Renee Sturgill	Beth Carico	Phyllis Conner
Denise Lee	Dominique Reeves	Laura Venable
Sherri Hanshew	Victoria Beckner	Linda Nuckolls
John Lowrey	Emily Linkas	Kim Catton
Bam Felger	Jennifer Claytor	Paula Byrd
Marjorie Martin	Renee Moore Slayton	Rebecca Haynes
Kimber Simmons	Allison Slayton	Kimberly McIvor
	Karen Rhodes	Fabian Garcia
	Joyce McGuire	Blane Clark
	Robyn Crockett	

APPROVAL TO ALLOW MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE REMOTELY

Ms. Vicky Collins made the motion to allow members attending virtually to vote, Mr. John Overton seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Cameron Burton made the motion to approve the Agenda, Mr. Thad Austin seconded the motion and the motion was passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- Consortium Board Consent Agenda

  Ms. Laura Walters made the motion to approve the Consortium Board Consent Agenda, including approval of the September 17, 2025 meeting minutes and the Financial Summary. Mr. Charlie Hargis seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

- Workforce Development Board Consent Agenda

  Ms. Vicky Collins made the motion to approve the Workforce Development Board Consent Agenda, including approval of the October 22, 2025 meeting minutes and the Operational Summary. Ms. Kim Hernandez seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

- Workforce Development Foundation Consent Agenda

  Mr. Thad Austin made the motion to approve the Workforce Development Foundation Consent Agenda, including approval of the September 8, 2025 meeting minutes and the Foundation Report. Ms. Vicky Collins seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

PY25 BUDGET UPDATE

Executive Director Jenny Bolte reviewed the PY25 Budget Update.

- Workforce Development Board

  Ms. Vicky Collins made the motion to approve the PY25 Budget Update and to recommend the budget to the Consortium Board. Ms. Mary Anne Halbrook seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

- Consortium Board

  Mr. Cameron Burton made the motion to approve the PY25 Budget Update as recommended by the Workforce Development Board. Ms. Laura Walters seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

PY25 CONTRACT MODIFICATION

- Workforce Development Board

  Mr. John Overton made the motion to approve the PY25 Contract Modification. Mr. Thad Austin seconded the motion. Mr. Bryan Phipps abstained. The motion was passed by all other members in attendance.

- Consortium Board:

  Ms. Sharon Ritchie made the motion to approve the PY25 Contract Modification. Mr. Cameron Burton seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously by all those in attendance.

BOARD APPOINTMENT – WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Ms. Vicky Collins nominated Mr. Jeff Dunnack for appointment. Mr. Thad Austin made the motion to appoint Mr. Jeff Dunnack, Ms. Kim Hernandez seconded the motion, and the appointment was approved unanimously by all those in attendance.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Director Jenny Bolte noted that her written report was included in the meeting packet and provided brief highlights on ongoing efforts to secure additional funding and participation in Appalachian Regional Commission leadership activities.

PROGRAM SUMMARIES

- WIOA Title I Programs – Beth Carico

  Ms. Carico provided brief highlights from the One-Stop System and Operations reports.
- Board Discretionary Programs – Angi Chandler, Kathy Pickel, and Marty Holliday

  Ms. Chandler provided a brief overview of discretionary programs. Ms. Holliday highlighted that the ARISE grant officially began on October 1.
- Business Services Team – Kimber Simmons

  Ms. Simmons shared brief updates from the Business Services Team, including the Board's designation as an approved apprenticeship intermediary and upcoming Business Solutions Team meetings.

PARTNER REPORTS

- Adult Education – Patricia Dover-Bedwell (Alternate for Barry Yost)

  Ms. Dover-Bedwell reported that two GED graduations are being held this week, with thirteen individuals completing GED requirements since July 1.
- Career & Technical Education – Summer Stone

  No report.
- Community-Based Organizations – Mary Anne Halbrook, Bryan Phipps, Ginny Ayers

  Ms. Halbrook had no report. Mr. Phipps reported that services remain intact. Ms. Ayers provided a virtual update from Literacy NRV, noting continued work with the YouthBuild program.

- Institute of Higher Education – Perry Hughes
  No report.
- Economic & Community Development – Katie Boswell
  Ms. Boswell provided a virtual update on Onward NRV.
- TANF Programs – Vicky Collins
  Ms. Collins reported a 48-hour delay in SNAP benefit issuance with no guidance provided and noted that SNAP benefits are authorized through 2026.
- Title I Rehabilitation Act of 1973 – Christi Altizer
  Ms. Altizer reported virtually, highlighting adult career training efforts, credential attainment, services to high school students, and the need for apprenticeship and internship opportunities.
- Virginia Employment Services – Christy Lowe
  Ms. Lowe reported that the Regional Director and Area Director were present.
- Job Corps
  Vacant.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairs Mike Miller and Mary Biggs adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Pickel

Kathy Pickel
Program Coordinator