NEW RIVER/MOUNT ROGERS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AREA CONSORTIUM BOARD
CULTIVATING TALENT FOR THE REGION

Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2025-Wytheville Meeting Center

Call to Order

Chair Biggs called to order the regular meeting of the NRMR Workforce Development Area Consortium Board at 10:02 a.m. on September 17, 2025, at the Wytheville Meeting Center.

Moment of Reflection

Chair Biggs led a moment of reflection, recognizing the challenges faced by the board, staff, and clients. She emphasized the importance of meeting clients with the resources available and maintaining energy and commitment during difficult times.

Roll Call

Renee Sturgill conducted a roll call. A quorum of the Consortium Board was not present. Chair Biggs called the Executive Committee to order to continue to conduct business.

Consortium Board Members	**Staff Members**
Mongomery County – Chair Mary Biggs	Jenny Bolte
Washington County – Charlie Hargis	Angi Chandler
Galax City – Sharon Ritchie	Kathy Pickel
Pulaski County – Lauren Walters	Renee Sturgill
Smyth County – Jason Parris (online)	Kimber Simmons
WDB Members	**Guests**
WDB Chair Mike Miller	Beth Carico

Approval To Allow Members Attending Virtually to Vote

Charlie Hargis made the motion allowing members attending virtually to vote with a second from Lauren Walters. Motion Passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented by Lauren Walters and seconded by Charlie Hargis. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

Board members discussed the importance of maintaining active participation across all jurisdictions, especially in light of changes to WIOA funding. Chair Biggs noted concerns about members who do not attend and suggested outreach to emphasize the importance of their involvement. Jason Parris noted challenges for virtual participants and suggested monthly information sharing.

This event is funded, wholly or in part, using funds provided by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014 and administered by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Review/Approval of Budget

Jenny Bolte reviewed the PY25 budget including Carry Over Funds, PY'25 WIOA Allocations, PY'25 WIOA NOOs, and Summary of funds. A motion was made to approve the budget as presented by Lauren Walters with a second from Charlie Hargis. The motion was passed unanimously.

Review/Approval of Contracts

Jenny Bolte reviewed the PY25 contracts. Charlie Hargis made a motion to approve the PY25 contracts as presented with an effective date of July 1, 2025. Lauren Walters seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Workforce Development Board Update

Mike Millere, Workforce Development Board Chair, noted that at the Aug 27th meeting it was discussed that the plan was to fund contracts monthly, allowing for everything to keep going as best as it can.

Executive Summary

Ms. Bolte noted that her report was in the packet and gave brief updates on Financial Planning, Strategic Communications, Regional Commission funding, and Project Development. She also discussed the Appalachian regional Commission programs and why those matter.

Informational Items

Updates were given for the WIOA Title 1 Programs by Ms. Carico, Grant Updates were given by Ms. Pickel and Ms. Chandler, and Business Services updates by Ms. Simmons. Updates for the Foundation were given by Mr. Miller.

Adjourn

The next scheduled meeting will be the Joint Meeting on December 6, 2025, at the Wytheville Meeting Center. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Pickel

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Program Coordinator

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