

New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board

Meeting Minutes October 22, 2025

Call to Order & Welcome of Guests

Chair Miller called to order the regular meeting of the NRMR Workforce Development Board, virtually at 10:20 am on October 22, 2025.

Roll Call

The following persons were online:

<u>Board Members</u>		<u>Guests</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Michael Miller	Mary Anne Holbrook	Mary Biggs	Angi Chandler
Ginny Ayers	Perry Hughes	Beth Carico	Kathy Pickel
Katie Boswell	Christy Lowe	Brenda Rigney	Renee Sturgill
Vicky Collins	Bryan Phipps	Jame Leonard	Kimber Simmons
Kim Hernandez	Cindy Robertson		Marty Holliday

A quorum was not established; however, the meeting continued for information sharing and updates.

Approval of the Agenda and Consent Agenda

Due to the lack of quorum, no official votes were taken.

Consortium Board Update

Chair Mary Biggs gave a brief update on the Consortium Board.

Executive Director Summary

Executive Director Jenny Bolte highlighted continued progress in strengthening organizational capacity through major Appalachian Regional Commission initiatives, including POWERing Pathways, ARISE, and READY. She noted the recent Board Staff Leadership Retreat, ongoing financial management amid WIOA funding delays, and the successful closeout of several discretionary grants. Jenny also shared updates on expanded communications through the new Workforce Minute, active participation in statewide workforce committees, and new partnerships such as Feeding Southwest Virginia.

Program Summaries

Board Discretionary Programs – Angi Chandler, Kathy Pickel, and Marty Holliday: Build Smart program approved. ARISE Project remains in holding until the official announcement of the Skill-Based Hiring initiative.

Business Services Team – Kimber Simmons: Reported that the Supervisory Skills Training held on October 7th was successful with 43 attendees and positive feedback.

Partner Reports

Ginny Ayers (Community-Based Organizations): English Language and Literacy class launched with increased GED participation.

Mary Anne Holbrook (Office of Equal Opportunity – Abingdon): Shared updates on the Innovated Internship and college-level internship programs in the NRV.

Bryan Phipps (People Inc./CEC): Continuing community and employment services.

Perry Hughes (Wytheville Community College): FastForward enrollments remain strong, though spring offerings may be limited without additional funding.

Katie Boswell (Mount Rogers PDC): Provided updates on regional economic and workforce development activities.

Vicky Collins (Department of Social Services – TANF): Reported steady program activity and service delivery.

Foundation Report

Marty announced that the Foundation has received a Ready Grant through the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and continues to seek additional funding opportunities.

Board Member Time

No additional comments were shared.

Other Information

The next scheduled meeting will be the Joint Meeting with the Consortium Board on December 3, 2025, at the Wytheville Meeting Center beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 a.m.