



NEW RIVER/MOUNT ROGERS WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

CULTIVATING TALENT FOR THE REGION

Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Michael Miller called the meeting of the New River/Mount Rogers Workforce Development Board to order at 10:05a.m. via zoom.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present:

Board Members

Michael Miller Chair	Jake Leonard
Thad Austin	Bryan Phipps
Ginny Ayers	Cindy Robertson
Katie Boswell	Summer Stone
Jackie Fox	Phyllis Conner (Alt)
Kim Hernandez	Perry Hughes

Staff

Jenny Bolte
Marty Holliday
Angi Chandler
Renee Sturgill
Kathy Pickel
Kimber Simmons
Della Wheeler

Guest

Mary Biggs, CLEO Chair
Beth Carico
Ginny Ayers

CONSENT AGENDA

Due to the absence of a quorum, no review or action was taken.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No public comment was received.

CONSORTIUM BOARD UPDATE

Mary Biggs reported that the Consortium Board continues efforts to diversify funding streams to strengthen and sustain the Board's mission.

FOUNDATION BOARD UPDATE

- Marty Holliday provides an update on the foundation board, focusing on the Ready Grant for capacity building and participant services.
- Angi Chandler shares details about the participant services supported by the Ready Grant, including mileage assistance, food assistance, and tuition support.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SUMMARY

Jenny Bolte noted that her full Executive Summary was included in the meeting packet. She reported progress on the strategic funding pipeline, including upcoming Appalachian Regional Commission initiatives such as the Skilled Trades Training Program and the POWERing Pathways proposal, as well as additional projects in development including YouthBuild 2025. Professional development updates included participation in the ARC Leadership Institute and the Virginia Directors of Workforce Development Network.

PROGRAM SUMMARIES

WIOA Title I Programs-Beth Carico provided highlights from the One-Stop System and WIOA program reports, including enrollment activity, credential attainment, and employment outcomes.

Board Discretionary Grant Programs

- Angi Chandler provided updates on each active discretionary grant and highlighted participant success stories that demonstrate strong cross-partner collaboration and coordinated service delivery.
- Marty Holliday provided an update on the ARISE Project. The Board is collaborating with four workforce boards to develop a six-module employer training curriculum under the Connect Appalachia Employer Engagement Initiative, focused on recovery-ready and skills-based hiring practices.

BUSINESS SOLUTIONS TEAM SUMMARY

Kimber Simmons reported ongoing employer engagement efforts, including planning for upcoming spring career fairs. Active Incumbent Worker Training projects are underway with Spectrum Brands and HAPCO, with additional employer inquiries in progress. Discussions continue regarding apprenticeship development and work-based learning placements.

SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS SUMMARY

Marty Holliday highlighted continued monthly virtual partnerships in Healthcare & Human Services, Manufacturing/Logistics, and Construction & Skilled Trades, emphasizing the Strategic Engagement Framework model used to align workforce priorities with industry demand.

PARTNER REPORTS

- Career & Technical Education - Summer Stone reported ongoing state-level changes to credentialing and work-based learning requirements and noted efforts to strengthen regional coordination among CTE directors.
- Community-Based Organizations - Bryan Phipps reported continued focus on workforce-centered case management and manufacturing-related initiatives.
Ginny Ayers provided updates including continued English language instruction, tutoring services, and staffing adjustments due to funding changes.
- Institutes of Higher Education - Perry Hughes reported that Wytheville Community College will host National Sign-Up Day to promote Career and Technical Education programs.
- Economic & Community Development - Katie Boswell provided updates on NRV Experience planning and continued efforts to connect students with regional employers.
- Virginia's Employment Services - Phyllis Conner provided an update on workforce center visit statistics.

ADJOURNMENT

- With no further business to discuss, Chair Michael Miller adjourned the official meeting at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Kathy Pickel
Program Coordinator