



NRGRDA/WV Hive – Board Meeting
Feb. 3, 2026 – 11a.m.
WV Hive Office– Beckley, WV

Call to Order

Jina Belcher called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

NRGRDA BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

IN-PERSON: Anita Groves, Tamara Mullins, Lisa Eads, Dave Harper, Heather Ouimette, Phil Jarrell

VIRTUAL: Larry Meador, Craig Chapman, Ted Kula, Bill Baker

WV HIVE BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT (also NRGRDA Advisory Board members)

IN-PERSON: Michelle Rotellini, Zack Statler

STAFF PRESENT: Jina Belcher, Jozy Moore

Approval of Minutes

- 1) October 28 NRGRDA Emergency Board Meeting
- 2) November 18 NRGRDA / West Virginia Hive Joint Board Meeting
 - a) Jina noted a misspelling of Craig Chapman’s name in the November minutes which will be corrected.
 - b) With that correction, a motion to approve the October 28 and November 18 minutes was made by Larry Meador; seconded by Tamara Mullins. Motion carried with none opposed.

Financials

- 1) Financial statements were presented and noted as reviewed by Treasurer Donnie Holcomb. Zack Statler, Hive Treasurer, also received and reviewed the statements.
- 2) Key updates provided by Jina Belcher:
 - a) No major changes since the previous balance sheet. However, the upcoming balance sheet will show a reduction due to consolidation of the Revolving Loan Fund (United 6775 account) with Partner Community Capital as the new loan fund administrator, per Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) directive.

- b) Anticipated spending down of technical assistance funds in the Rural Development account as it approaches closeout at the end of March.
- 3) Motion to approve the financials as presented was made by Anita Groves; seconded by Heather Ouimette. Motion carried with none opposed.

Reports

- 1) Legislative Report - Jozy Moore
 - a) Local Economic Development Partnerships (LED)
 - i) NRGRDA is part of the West Virginia Economic Development Council's effort to have the Legislature fully fund LE), which is provided as a matching grant directly to economic development authorities.
 - b) Industrial Access Road Fund
 - i) Work continues to align and merge existing legislation with NRGRDA's bill to expand eligible uses to include connected roads (e.g., signage, signals, and safety improvements on connecting infrastructure).
 - c) Business Ready Sites / YES WV (HB 4008)
 - i) Proposed increase in award caps (not funded yet): \$100,000 for sites under 5 acres and \$250,000 for sites over 20 acres
 - d) Build West Virginia (SB 627)
 - i) Bill in Senate Finance; positioning and committee engagement underway due to technical nature of changes.
 - e) Aerospace (HB 4006)
 - i) Support for additional language to strengthen incentives for recruitment/relocation of trained professionals.
 - f) Child Care (HB 4517 / SB 646)
 - i) Proposed expansion of employer child care tax credit usage, including multi-employer sponsorship and fewer restrictive requirements.
 - g) Data Center Bills
 - i) Monitoring proposed changes; nothing seen that would materially change HB 2014 (from prior year) at the time of the update.
- 2) Executive Director Report -Jina Belcher
 - a) 2025 Impact
 - i) The board packet included a slide deck highlighting 2025 impacts. The full impact report is in draft and expected to launch by the end of February, with web posting, press outreach, and printed copies planned.
 - b) Amazon Facility Update
 - i) Amazon community event planned for April 1 (time TBD).

- ii) Raleigh County Commission expected to make the announcement per disbursement agreement.
- iii) Amazon workforce update:
 - (1) 33 inquiries from entrepreneurs interested in fleet opportunities (noted as unusually high interest). High fleet interest could potentially lead to opening a second location.
 - (2) Operating three shifts/day since Dec. 1 as a soft opening.
 - (3) Approximately 50% of planned 75 full-time roles filled.
- c) West Virginia Hive Grant Updates
 - i) Retail Incubation Hub: Appears feasible to support construction at the new Beckley market; USDA partners indicated alignment with original intent.
 - ii) Food Incubation Hub (Fayette County): No viable fit identified; USDA will not allow funds to be redirected outside Fayette County.
 - (1) About \$17,000 used for consultant work would need to be repaid upon closeout in med-2028
- d) Hinton Ice House –
 - i) The project is in closeout and ready to transfer from NRGRDA back to the City of Hinton.
 - ii) Brownfields remediation grant closed out (DEP/EPA closeout confirmed as of Dec. 31, 2025).
 - iii) NRGRDA will remain engaged in conversations to assist the City of Hinton with future use of the site.
 - iv) Motion to transfer Ice House property back to the City of Hinton was made by Larry Meador; seconded by Phil Jarrell. Motion carried with none opposed.
- e) Pattern & and City Avenue Building
 - i) Pattern training curriculum (“FISP training”) consists of:
 - (1) 92-hour industrial sewing training, Outdoor gear module (with royalty agreement if sold externally)
 - (2) Five-pod training space established on the third floor of United; four participants identified for first pilot cohort.
 - (3) Taylor (former staff member, now at the Market) will support training deployment under contract. The target timeline discussed was June/July, pending maternity leave.
 - (4) Beginning in March, Emily Rouse, Pattern consultant, has proposed hosting a weekly one-hour workshop series.

- (5) The long-term vision includes potential textile studio spaces on the fourth floor of the United building.
- ii) 412 City Avenue Building: Current Pattern located owed by NRGRDA
 - (1) Building purchased for \$125,000 with congressional directed spending funds.
 - (2) Significant renovation needs; consultants reportedly advised it was not ideal for Pattern.
 - (3) Neighbor, Brandon Carter, expressed interest in purchasing for the original purchase price.
 - (4) Funder indicated the building may be sold; proceeds to be held in reserve/escrow pending OMB guidance for congressionally directed spending.
 - (5) Motion to sell City Avenue building to Brandon Carter for \$125,000 was made by Anita Groves; seconded by Tamara Mullins. Motion carried with none opposed.

Action Items

- 1) Discussion and Decision on revised WV Hive Bylaws
 - a. Jozy Moore reviewed the key changes reflecting decisions made at the November joint meeting:
 - i. Hive service area revised to Raleigh, Summers, Fayette, and Nicholas counties.
 - ii. Board structure adjustments with three directors: NRGRDA Executive Director as Chair; a Chamber of Commerce representative as Secretary; and a financial expert as Treasurer, tied to NRGRDA governance.
 - iii. Optional ability for NRGRDA to appoint additional non-voting directors to WV Hive board
 - b. Larry Meador asked about definition of “member”; Article Four was referenced as defining NRGRDA as the member.
 - c. Jina noted conversations with the marketing firm to reintegrate the WV Hive brand under NRGRDA. Hive partners and clients have been notified of the revised service territory. Existing clients outside the new four-county footprint will remain clients until services are complete.
 - d. Applications will continue to be accepted through September from Accelerate Communities (Logan, Williamson, and McDowell Counties).
 - e. Jina stated she would hold the vote on the amended bylaws until later in the meeting to briefly confer with NRGRDA’s counsel regarding which board must formally approve them.

- f. Motion to appoint Michelle Rotellini, President/CEO of the Beckley Raleigh County Chamber of Commerce as secretary and chamber of commerce affiliated representative for the WV Hive board made by Phil Jarrell; seconded by Larry Meador. Motion carried with none opposed.

Executive Session

1. Motion to enter into executive session to discuss real estate/legal matters for Wolf Creek Park made by Anita Groves; seconded by Heather Ouimette.
2. The NRGRDA & WV Hive board entered executive session at 12:10 p.m.
3. The boards exited executive session at 1:11 p.m. No decisions were made in executive session.

Action Items cont.

1. Decision on revised WV Hive bylaws
 - a. Jina stated she was informed by NRGRDA's counsel that the motion to approve the amended WV Hive bylaws must come from the NRGRDA Board.
 - i. Motion to approve the revised and amended WV Hive bylaws was made by Phil Jarrell and seconded by Anita Groves. Motion carried with none opposed.
2. Discussion and Decision on Wolf Creek Park Offer
 - a. Motion to table the decision on the Wolf Creek Park Offer until the next board meeting made by Phil Jarrell; seconded by Dave Harper. Motion carried with none opposed.

New Business

1. Next board meeting will be Feb. 24.

Adjournment

1. Meeting adjourned at 1:13 p.m. following motion by Phil Jarrell.

Larry Meador, Secretary

Accepted:

