



NRGRDA/WV Hive – Board Meeting
Feb. 24, 2026 – 11 a.m.
WV Hive Office – Beckley, WV

Call to Order

Allison Taylor called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

NRGRDA BOARD MEMBERS:

IN-PERSON: Allison Taylor, Anita Groves, Larry Meador, Heather Johnson, Lisa Eads, Ted Kula, Dave Harper, Phillip Jarrell

VIRTUAL: Donnie Holcomb, Craig Chapman, Bill Baker, Tamara Mullins

WV HIVE BOARD MEMBERS (also NRGRDA Advisory Board members)

IN-PERSON: Zackary Statler, Michelle Rotellini

STAFF :

IN-PERSON: Jina Belcher, Jozy Moore

GUESTS:

IN-PERSON: Corey Bonasso (Bowles Rice) Michael Taylor (Attorney for Fayette County Commission)

Introductions:

Allison Taylor thanked the Board for waiting until the February meeting to vote on the Wolf Creek Park matter so Fayette County board members could be part of the discussion. She also introduced Michael Taylor, attorney for the Fayette County Commission, who was present to participate in discussions related to Wolf Creek Park on Fayette County's behalf if approved by the Board.

Approval of Minutes:

- 1) Feb. 3, 2026, NRGRDA/WV Hive Board meeting
 - a. A motion to approve the Feb. 3, 2026 minutes was made by Ted Kula; seconded by Anita Groves. Motion carried with none opposed

Financials:

- 1) Jina Belcher presented the January profit and loss statement and balance sheet.
 - a. She noted there were no significant changes since the financials were reviewed earlier in the month.
 - b. NRGRDA in the process of transferring its loan fund and combining it with Partner Community Capital. Loans will be removed from financial by February 28.
 - c. Jina reported delays in reimbursement for some grants, particularly with U.S. EDA, with approximately \$115,000 expected in reimbursements to replenish the general fund.
 - d. The organization is making a targeted effort to spend down technical assistance dollars from its rural development fund.
 - e. Jina said expenses remain mostly unchanged and that NRGRDA is operating “as lean as possible,” with Zack and Donnie reviewing financials monthly.
 - f. Donnie suggested that staff prepare a schedule or supplemental explanation for certain balance sheet line items, particularly cash accounts and older entries that may not be readily understood from the financial statements alone.
 - g. Donnie and Zack also commended the work of the finance team in recent months

Reports:

- 1) Legislative Report - Jozy Moore
 - a. Jozy said the Senate budget increased the Local Economic Development Partnerships allocation to approximately \$43,000 per county, up from the Governor’s proposed \$30,000.
 - i. Jina noted that there is no proposed change to the process for counties to receive these LED funds, though there does seem to be some interest from legislators to update the process.
 - b. NRGRDA continues to monitor the House’s Industrial Access Road bill, which has not yet been taken up in the Senate. The Senate is expected to incorporate some of the language NRGRDA proposed in a separate bill.
 - c. There is movement on several child care bills. The bill supported by NRGRDA, related to the Employer-Provided Child Care Tax Credit, is gaining traction and is expected to pass out of the House.
 - d. NRGRDA and its lobbyists with 3PS recently met with Senate Finance Chair Jason Barrett regarding Senate Bill 627, which proposes updates to the Build WV

Act. Chairman Barrett was generally supportive and indicated the bill could be considered if there is sufficient support from committee members.

2) Executive Director Report -Jina Belcher

- a. NRGRDA hosted West Virginia Treasurer Larry Pack and other elected officials at Stepping Stones in early February to discuss challenges facing child care providers and potential legislative solutions.
- b. Jina reported that NRGRDA has formally received three congressionally directed spending awards:
 - i. \$3.2 million from Senator Justice for Phase IV of the Meadow River Rail Trail project, which will connect Nallen to the National Park
 1. Justice was in town recently to announce and award this funding
 - ii. \$750,000 from Senator Capito to pilot an employer-based child care model in the region, potentially through the Tri-Share program
 - iii. \$750,000 from Senator Capito for capacity support for NRGRDA's WV Hive operation, which focuses on direct business support, including small business development and business retention and expansion efforts.
- c. Appalachian Heights project:
 - i. Jina reported that Beckley Water is extending service from the hydrant near Buffalo Wild Wings toward Route 19 and that final design work had been completed for connecting water service from Appalachian Bible College to the Appalachian Heights side of the property.
 - ii. Bid documents were expected to go out by March 1.
 - iii. A tank will need to be placed on the Crossroads side to ensure adequate pressure.
 - iv. Jina said Beckley Water was the best immediate option to provide water service to the area, though longer-term interconnection planning with Mount Hope has continued.
 - v. Allison Taylor added that the Fayette County Commission had originally allocated \$250,000 to the City of Mount Hope for the Appalachian Heights project. She said the Commission had since approved \$250,000 for improvements to Mount Hope's water plant while also directing Mount Hope to transfer its prior \$250,000 Appalachian Heights allocation to NRGRDA to reaffirm its commitment to the project.
- d. Raleigh County Memorial Airport

- i. Jina reported that fiber service was moving forward, and that dual-loop fiber would be available through both Frontier and Segra.
- ii. Segra's construction was expected to be completed by spring 2026.
- iii. Natural gas had not yet been extended to the site, though casing under the runway already exists.
- iv. Beckley Sanitary is preparing lift station upgrades to better position the site for future development.
- v. Jina further shared that Contour Airlines had begun overnighing aircraft at Raleigh County Memorial Airport under a new five-year agreement, and that airport partners were also exploring additional opportunities, including a Myrtle Beach route and potential future direct service to Washington, D.C.

Action Items:

- 1) Discussion on NRGRDA bylaws
 - a. Allison Taylor stated that she had asked for a discussion of the bylaws because of concerns about information discussed during executive session being shared outside executive sessions when it should not be.
 - b. She reported that she had asked legal counsel, Corey Bonasso, to prepare recommendations clarifying how the Board should handle executive session matters, including attorney-client communications, NDA-protected matters, and other confidential discussions. She said the goal was to eliminate ambiguity about what may and may not be disclosed outside executive session and to ensure the bylaws and non-disclosure agreements were updated and aligned.
 - c. Allison stated that Corey would present recommendations at the next meeting for Board consideration.

Executive Session:

- 1) Discussion on Wolf Creek Park
 - a. Allison Taylor requested a motion to enter executive session for legal advice and contract discussions related to Wolf Creek Park.
 - b. Motion to enter into executive session for those reasons was made by Larry Meador; seconded by Dave Harper.
 - c. A separate motion was made by Larry Meador and seconded Dave Harper to allow Michael Taylor, attorney for the Fayette County Commission, to participate in executive session discussions regarding the memorandum of

understanding between Fayette County and NRGRDA related to Wolf Creek Park. That motion carried with none opposed.

- d. The NRGRDA & WV Hive boards, along with approved guests, entered executive session at 11:49 a.m.
- e. The boards exited executive session at 12:21 p.m. No decisions were made in executive session.

Action Items:

- 1) Discussion and Decision on Wolf Creek Park
 - a. Allison Taylor asked for a motion on whether to approve the real estate purchase option agreement presented to the Board by a developer identified as “Developer 2”.
 - b. Bill Baker made a motion to approve the real estate purchase option agreement for Developer 2. The motion was seconded by Phillip Jarrell. That motion carried with none opposed.

New Business:

- 1) The next NRGRDA regularly scheduled board meeting is March 24 – 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Nicholas County

Adjournment

- 1) Meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m. following motion by Anita Groves.

Larry Meador, Secretary

Accepted: