



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
**GROWTH &
OPPORTUNITY**
IN EACH REGION

GO Virginia Region 2

Go Virginia Region 2 Council Meeting Minutes

August 24, 2018

1:00pm-3:00pm

Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance

300 Lucado Place

Lynchburg, VA 24504

Members in Attendance: Dr. Nathaniel Bishop, Dr. John Capps, John Williamson, Dr. John Dooley, John Putney, Kenneth Craig, Patrick Collingnon, Dr. Ray Smoot, Ab Boxley, Dr. Victor Iannello, Mike Hamlar, Watt Foster, Fred Armstrong, and William Fralin.

Members Participating Remotely: Debbie Petrine, Marla Akridge, Beverly Dalton, Don Halliwill, Dr. Brian Hemphill, and Marty Muscatello.

Staff in Attendance: Dr. John Provo, Dr. Scott Tate, and Jennifer Morgan

Public in Attendance: Jan Hobbs, Alleghany County Schools; Traci Blido, Bedford County EDA; Kevin Bryd, NRV Regional Commission; Keith Hartman, Small Business Development Center; Virginia Senate Senator The Honorable Mark J. Peake; Virginia House of Delegates The Honorable Scott Garrett; Joyce Waugh, Roanoke Regional Chamber

Chairman Smoot convened the meeting at 1:10pm.

GO Virginia Region 2 RPF Update

Dr. Scott Tate presented the Council with a new funding request RFP for Region 2 that includes no major changes from the previous year's RFP. Dr. Tate noted minor modifications include an emphasis on local match contributions, suggested by advice from GO Virginia's state staff, noting that local match contributions were likely not to be waived by the state board. Applications would be approved on a rolling basis and staff would accept an applicant's letter of intent at any time. Dr. Tate stated that if an applicant wanted to be considered by the state board in the 2018 calendar year, letters of intent need to be received by Region 2 staff by October 15th, to be presented to the Regional council in October/November, and reach the state board in their December meeting.

Ms. Akridge asked what qualified as a threshold criteria for applicants as described in the RFP. Dr. Tate described this as projects in alignment with priority industry clusters, working with localities, serving Region 2, and meeting the goals of the state program.



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Dr. Dooley moved to approve the RFP and Dr. Capps seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and none opposed.

Current Outreach and Marketing Process

Dr. Tate shared with the Council a communications plan for notifying Region 2 about the new RFP. Mr. Williamson noted the need to push the issue of a required local match immediately to prepare localities for a possible increase in spending and encourage funds to be set aside to support GO Virginia projects. Mr. Hamlar suggested presenting information regarding GO Virginia on season three of New Virginia Economy with Mike Hamlar, a television segment on WSLS 10. Dr. Smoot emphasized the importance of speaking directly with local government boards about GO Virginia and asked that Council members volunteer to do so in their local areas.

Current Per Capita Contracts

Dr. Tate explained to the Council that Project Hollyleaf withdrew their application, releasing the Council from its funding commitment. Staff stated that Region 2 Talent Collaborative has received their local match and their contract is awaiting final signatures in Richmond.

Roanoke Small Business Development Center (SBDC) New River Valley Expansion

Staff reported to Council that the Roanoke SBDC-New River Valley expansion project, approved by the Council in spring of 2018, was referred back to Council by state GO Virginia staff with the suggestion to consider as an enhanced capacity building project, rather than a per capita project. Kevin Byrd, from the New River Valley Regional Council, stated council funds matched by local commitments would be used to support a position in the SBDC serving the New River Valley. Mr. Putney asked what the sustainability beyond one year would be, with Mr. Byrd replying that in one year some local governments within Region 2 would increase their match support to take over the GO Virginia funds. Mr. Williamson moved to approve funds for SBDC at \$42,500 and Mr. Putney and Dr. Dooley seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed.

Bylaw Revisions

Staff presented proposed amendments of the bylaws to Council. This included the creation of three year staggered terms for Council members. Chairman Smoot noted the importance of ensuring regional representation and that language was included to formalize that practice. Dr. Dooley suggested the wording within the bylaws be changed to clarify current Council members serve a one, two, or three year term determined by the Executive Committee with an option for reappointment to one three year term totaling either four, five, or six years on the Council. Council members also agreed only members of the Council



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could be elected Chair or Vice Chair, regardless of regular council terms remaining they would serve out their two year term as Chair or Vice Chair.

Dr. Provo noted a further change in the bylaws to include an attendance requirement for Council members. The Executive Committee was also empowered to act for the council between meetings, and serve in the role of a nominating committee advising the board on filling vacancies.

Mr. Williamson motioned to direct staff to finalize language changes in the bylaws as discussed by the Council and Mr. Hamlar and Mr. Foster seconded the motion. All approved the motion and none opposed.

Support Organization Contract Renewal

Chairman Smoot supported the renewal of the Support Organization contract which was reviewed by the Executive Committee during its recent work session. Dr. Dooley moved to renew the Support Organization contract and Mr. Williamson seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed.

Council Business and Updates

Chairman Smoot asked the Council to approve minutes from the March and June Full Council meetings. Ms. Davis moved to approved the minutes and Mr. Putney seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed. Mr. Fralin motioned to approve the minutes from the August Executive Committee meeting and Mr. Williamson seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed.

Chairman Smoot presented, on the recommendation of Lynchburg area members, Georgeann Snead, President of EDM Inc., as a recommendation to forward to the state GO Virginia Board to fill the vacant position left by Shannon Valentine on the Council. Dr. Capps moved to approve the appointment and Dr. Bishop seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed.

Patrick Collignon citing growing demands of his new business venture, offered his resignation from the Council. Chairman Smoot thanked Mr. Collignon for his service and encouraged him to continue to work with the Council in the future.

Mr. Putney and Dr. Dooley noted Chairman Smoot's appointment by the Governor to the Commonwealth Transportation Board. Members of the Council congratulated Mr. Smoot on the recognition.

Public Comment

Delegate Scott Garrett of the 23rd Virginia House District thanked the members for their service. He further urged Council members to be diligent in telling their story to increase knowledge of GO Virginia throughout the region.



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Chairman Smoot adjourned the meeting at 3:06pm.



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