



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

## GO Virginia Region 2

### GO Virginia Region 2 Executive Committee Work Session DRAFT Minutes (For Council Approval)

April 3, 2019 10:00am, 702 University City Boulevard, Blacksburg, VA  
RM 218

Executive Committee Members Participating Remotely: Ray Smoot, AB Boxley, John Williamson,  
Beverly Dalton

Council Members Participating Remotely: Victor Iannello

Staff in Attendance: John Provo, Jennifer Morgan, Scott Tate

Chairman Smoot convened the meeting at 10:05am.

#### **Discussion Items:**

##### **State-led GO Virginia Initiatives**

John Williamson presented to the Executive Committee a synopsis on his attendance to the state GO Virginia meeting focused on gathering all regions to discuss regional marketing efforts and the TEconomy report. Chairman Smoot recommended the TEconomy report be presented to Council at its May meeting to discuss how Region 2 will address report recommendations and how staff will advertise and receive proposals surrounding a quarterback agency coordinating the efforts in the report. Victor Iannello discussed The Valley's Innovation Council's potential application as the quarterback agency and Chairman Smoot suggested a proposal be submitted, if desired, for general Council review at their meeting in May.

##### **New Letters of Interest (LOIs)**

Staff has received a number of LOIs that have been reviewed and they expect to receive three full applications to be reviewed at the full Council meeting in May.

##### **Project Deliverables**

The two Enhanced Capacity Building projects, Stopping the Brain Drain and Capital Ecosystem Development, have presented to staff their final reports. Scott Tate presented to the Executive



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Committee a summary of Stopping the Brain Drain's efforts to survey college students on regional employment and effort to improve regional employment moving forward. John Provo presented Capital Ecosystem Development's report. The results only examined a part of the region and Chairman Smoot suggested the grantee attend the next Council meeting to discuss their results.

### Update Items

#### Project Evaluations

Staff consulted with DHCD regarding two projects milestones and no further action is needed at this time.

#### Growth and Diversification Plan Update

Staff is working with the guidance document presented by DHCD and beginning the process of updating the G&D plan data, including how the landscape has changed in priority industry sectors, engaging in pipeline development, and building upon the TEconomy report findings. The update is due to be submitted by August 1, 2019 and will be reviewed at the July Regional Council Meeting prior to submission. Mr. Boxley asked for a summary of project pipeline development ideas from other regions across the state to compare Region 2 tactics.

#### FY20 Budget

Staff explained that the budget is slightly reduced for administrative support. Staff intends to present a new budget to Council at their May meeting.

#### Upcoming Events and Administrative Matters

Staff asked for volunteers to attend a state meeting on entrepreneurship and GO Virginia at the Tom-Tom festival in Charlottesville in April. Council member Marla Akridge and staff attended for Region 2. Staff asked for volunteers to attend a Southwest Virginia presentation on GO Virginia in May. Mr. Boxley commemorated the Council and staff on their efforts.

The meeting ended at 11:20am.



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