



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

Go Virginia Region 2 Council Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2018

10:00am – 12:00pm

Carillion Clinic

1 Riverside Circle,

4th Floor Education Conference Room

Roanoke, VA

Members in Attendance: Marla Akridge, Fred Armstrong, Nathaniel Bishop, Ab Boxley, Kenneth Craig, Watt Foster, William Fralin, Don Halliwill, Dr. Victor Iannello, Marty Muscatello, Debbie Petrine, John Putney, Dr. Ray Smoot, and John Williamson.

Members Participating Remotely: Beverley Dalton, Sandy Davis, Dr. Michael Friedlander, Michael Hamlar

Staff in Attendance: Dr. John Provo, Sarah Lyon-Hill, Jennifer Morgan

Public in Attendance: Ben Davenport, Jerry Dunnivant, Chris Llyod, Billy Gammel, Lindsay Barker, Erik Johnston, Pam Bailey, Joyce Waugh, Darlene Burcham, James E. Smith, Gail Johnson, Bill Bestpitch, Sam English, Milan Hayward, Marilyn H. Ashton, Dwayne Yancey, Wayne Strickland.

Chairman Smoot convened the meeting at 10:15am.

GO Virginia State Update and Discussion

Ben Davenport, State Board Vice Chair and Chris Lloyd, Go Virginia Foundation, updated the council on state budget action. Beginning FY19 there is an increase in funding by \$15 million across the program. Direct allocations to Region 2 over this biennium include \$1.29 million in per capita funding annually and \$361,000 in annual capacity building funds, the first \$250,000 of which is unmatched. Mr. Davenport emphasized several special initiatives at the state level, including a new focus on increasing broadband connectivity across the region from the Governor's office, the Commonwealth Cyber initiative led by Virginia Tech, and a focus on creating internships in industry organized by the State Council on Higher Education in Virginia.

Mr. Lloyd discussed with the Council how every region identified the importance of developing new sites and enhancing startup ecosystems in their growth and diversification plans. Noticing this need the state GO Virginia board has decided to work with consultants map existing assets, review best practices, and develop templates to move regions forward. These innovation economy and site development studies will be completed by December.



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Councilmember Fralin noted the importance of these state studies, but wanted to know how the projects that are currently funded are working in the growth and diversification plan. Dr. Provo informed Mr. Fralin staff will work on a dashboard for council by their August meeting.

Councilmembers Akridge and Williamson both noted local boards of supervisors and other elected officials do not know enough about GO Virginia and more information needs to be directed towards local elected officials.

Staff Presentation on Regional GAP Analysis

Dr. Provo introduced Sarah Lyon-Hill to present staff's analysis on gaps in the region after the first round of funding. Ms. Lyon-Hill stated the nine funded projects covered all target cluster and strategic areas.

However, Ms. Lyon-Hill noted that the food and beverage processing target industry cluster was least represents and geographically several rural communities were also underrepresented. Ms. Lyon-Hill stated for every \$1 of Go Virginia funding allocated \$3 were leveraged from local contributions. Ms. Lyon-Hill noted areas for improvement included Strategies 1 (Improve information on best practices and market demand) and 2 (Incentivize collaborative investment at all stages of joint site/building development) in Sites and Buildings, Strategy 2 (Coordinate mentorship and training resources) in Entrepreneurship, Strategy 1 (Strengthen the pipeline from K-12 to higher education to career for each priority sector) in Talent Development, and Strategy 2 (Expand and enhance technology transfer and research commercialization to spur regional company growth and venture creation) in Technology Development.

Council Business and Updates

Dr. Provo said staff would have a draft RFP to Council by August and that with the approval of Council could release of the RFP by early Fall. Chairman Smoot reminded the Council they need to discuss and decide if applications are to be determined on a rolling basis or with a set deadline as done previously. Smoot also indicated to Council plans for the Executive Committee to review the bylaws with recommendations to follow for the August meeting.

While reviewing the status of current grantees Dr. Provo explained to the Council the company prospect for the Holly Leaf project with Virginia's First Regional Industrial Facilities Authority has delayed their planned start date. Council asked for a report from staff at their next meeting covering proposed changes to the Holly Leaf contract including milestones, deliverables and contingency plans for the site.

Public Comment

Darlene Burcham, Town Manager of Covington, addressed the council. Mrs. Burcham called attention to the need to bring broadband across the state to capture the talents of young people. Furthermore, she urged the Council to have a school superintendent on the council to ensure a cooperation and direct engagement with schools on Go Virginia projects.