

The Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance and the Region 2000 Local Government Council have invited the local members of the Go Virginia Region 2 Council to a regional briefing.

For more information, contact Megan Lucas, [MeganLucas@LynchburgRegion.org](mailto:MeganLucas@LynchburgRegion.org) or Gary Christie, [gchristie@region2000.org](mailto:gchristie@region2000.org).

## AGENDA

Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance Briefing to the Region's GoVA Members

June 7, 2019, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Attendees: Georgeann Snead, Kenny Craig, Watt Foster, Fred Armstrong, Victor Iannello, Terry Jamerson, Ray Vaugh (BB&T), Megan Lucas, Gary Christie, Ben Bowman, Cheryl Gidgetts

Via Phone: Bev Dalton

Not attending: Dr. John Capps, John Putney, Floyd Merryman

### A. Welcome – Megan Lucas

- a. Megan Lucas welcomed everyone to the Alliance building and thanked them for their commitment to the Region 2 Council. Megan lead everyone in self introductions and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to update leadership on the strategic initiatives being executed on behalf of the region by the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance, Central Virginia Planning Council and Central Virginal Workforce Board.

### B. Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance Briefing – Megan Lucas

- a. Megan Lucas, CEO of the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance presented a power point briefing outlining the strategic documents driving the Lynchburg region and providing updates on each of the initiatives specific to economic development and entrepreneur development. The strategic documents that were briefed were: the Comprehensive Economic Development strategy with eleven key initiatives, the Regional Connectivity Plan with eight key initiatives, the regional target industry analysis and the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance strategic plan with eight key initiatives.

- b. Discussion occurred regarding the application submitted by the Valley's Innovation Council about entrepreneurship and the status of the opportunity for collaboration between The VIC and the Alliance. Megan Lucas and Victor Iannello both communicated that the groups had met and are working together to create a productive collaboration.
- C. Local Gov't Council Briefing - Gary Christie
  - a. Gary Christie, Executive Director of the Central Virginia Planning District (formerly Region 2000 Local Government Council) gave a briefing regarding the structure, organizational strategies and regional initiatives to include the PDC's role as partner in the implementation of the Comprehensive Economic Development strategy and Regional Connectivity Plan. Also highlighted were the many services the PDC provides to the partner localities.
  - b. There was a question from the attendees regarding grant writing with a brief discussion regarding the PDC's plan to fill a new position that includes grant writing responsibilities in addition the current members of staff that also engage in grants research, writing and implementation.
- D. Regional Workforce Briefing – Ben Bowman
  - a. Ben Bowman Executive Director of the Central Virginia Workforce Development Board presented a power point giving an organization overview, review and status of current GoVA projects active in the region regarding workforce initiatives. Ben highlighted the WOO Career Expo (Worlds of Opportunity) that was a hands-on career fair for middle and high school students held in April.
  - b. Comments were made from attendees about the success of the WOO event, questions regarding how to engage parents regarding career opportunities for students in the trades.
- E. Q&A Discussion – Megan Lucas
  - a. There was minimal Q & A because attendees asked questions when the topics of interest were being briefed. However, Victor Iannello did make an observation regarding the overall lack of broad band grants to which everyone agreed.
- F. GoVA Updates
  - a. Megan Lucas, Gary Christie and Ben Bowman each thanked the members for their support on GoVA projects and updated them on the status of those projects.
  - b. Megan Lucas spoke to the attendees regarding the status of the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance Sites grant.
  - c. Megan Lucas gave a briefing on the CVTC (Central Virginia Training Center) regarding the status of closure and its possible future. She did communicate that a grant application regarding the site would be forth coming.

## G. Closing Remarks

- a. Attendees expressed their appreciation for the updates and agreed that it's a good idea to brief them a few times a year so that they have the situational awareness of their sub-region key strategies.