



## **GO Virginia Region 2 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

**January 29, 2026, 1:00 - 3:00p.m.**

**Roanoke Higher Education Center**

**108 N Jefferson St, Room 701A**

**Roanoke, VA 24016**

Executive Committee members in attendance: Paul Denham (Chair), Richmond Vincent (Vice Chair), Whitney Czelusniak, Caley Edgerly, Greg Feldmann (virtual), Justin Yalung.

Staff in attendance: Alyssa McKenney (virtual), John Provo, Barb Reibsamen, Jemma Sabokrouh, Emmalee Wagner.

Public attendance: Erin Burcham.

Public virtual attendance: Emma Carroll, Tamara Jamerson, Sherri Lambert, Sarah Lyon Hill, Peter Sheldon, Dana Sliva

The meeting convened at 1:02 p.m. and adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

### ***I. Opening***

Council members and staff introduced themselves. Public attendees were announced.

### ***II. Council Business***

Chair Paul Denham reviewed upcoming council member vacancies; new members will need to be approved by the council in the April meeting.

### ***III. Financial Report***

Ms. Alyssa McKenney reviewed the financial reports included in the committee packet.

### ***IV. Program Report***

Ms. Jemma Sabokrouh reviewed updates on approved and closed Region 2 projects. The committee discussed project pipeline development.

### ***V. Quarterly Project Reporting***

Ms. Emmalee Wagner reviewed active project statuses, noting one project listed in red and five projects listed in yellow. The eight remaining active projects are listed in green.

### ***VI. Project VITAL Update***

Ms. Erin Burcham provided an update on the activities and accomplishments of Project VITAL in Region 2 through Quarter 4. Ms. Leah Thomas, Biotech Education Outreach Specialist at Virginia Western Community College, shared the STEM outreach activities she's conducted to engage with local K-12 students.

### ***VII. Project Proposals***

#### **Randolph College Mechanical Engineering Program Expansion in Greater Lynchburg**

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the Randolph College Mechanical Engineering Program Expansion implementation project application, submitted by Randolph College, requesting \$686,340 in GOVA funding. Ms. Sabokrouh shared application evaluation feedback from staff, a Region 2 council member, and external reviewers. Chair Denham opened the floor for questions. Professor Peter Sheldon represented Randolph College and responded to the committee's questions.

Chair Denham recused himself from the motion. Mr. Justin Yalung motioned to move this project forward for the council's review. Ms. Whitney Czelusniak seconded. The motion passed unanimously.



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### **NRV Regional Commission AM2 Initiative to Grow Advanced Manufacturing in Regions 2&3**

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the statewide competitive implementation project application, submitted by the New River Valley Regional Commission (NRV RC), requesting \$6,518,720 in GOVA funding. Ms. Sabokrouh shared application evaluation feedback from a Region 2 council member and external reviewers. Chair Denham opened the floor for questions. Dr. Sarah Lyon Hill and Ms. Emma Carroll represented Virginia Tech Center for Economic and Community Engagement and NRV RC, respectively, and responded to the committee's questions. Mr. Yalung motioned to move this project forward for the council's review; Ms. Czelusniak seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### ***VIII. Regional Council Committee Meeting Update***

Vice Chair Vincent reviewed recent meetings of the Regional Council Committee (October 22, 2025), the State Board (December 9, 2025), and the Governance and Policy Committee (December 15, 2025). The committee discussed Region 2's general position on notable issues anticipated for consideration at the upcoming Regional Council Committee meeting.

### ***IX. Staff Report***

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the summary of feedback from Region 2 Council member check ins. The executive committee discussed how to address common questions or concerns.

### ***X. Closing Business***

The committee reviewed minutes from the Region 2 Executive Committee Meeting held on October 15, 2025. Chair Denham asked if there were any corrections, additions, or questions regarding the minutes; there were none.

Mr. Greg Feldmann motioned to approve the minutes; Vice Chair Vincent seconded. The motion passed unanimously.