



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

GO Virginia Region 2

## GO Virginia Region 2 Council Meeting Minutes

### February 10, 2026, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

### Melrose Plaza Conference Room

### 2502 Melrose Ave NW, Roanoke, VA 24017

Council members in attendance: Doug Agner, John Capps, Whitney Czelusniak, Paul Denham (Chair), Rich Diddams, Daniel DiMarco, Caley Edgerly, Greg Feldmann, Steve Harvey, Angela Joyner, Ken McFadyen, Nick Kessler, James Richards, Tony Seupaul, Frank Shushok, Luke Towles, Cathy Underwood, Richmond Vincent (Vice-Chair), Amy White, Jacob Wright, Justin Yalung.

Council members that joined remotely: Janice Crawford, Nanci Hardwick, Vince Hatcher

Council members not in attendance: Bif Johnson, Michael Friedlander, Fourd Kemper, Amy Sebring

Staff in attendance: Julia Kell, Sarah Lyon-Hill, Alyssa McKenney (virtually), John Provo, Jemma Sabokrouh, Emmalee Wagner, Barb Reibsamen

Public in attendance: Jack Honig, Peter Sheldon, Tamara Jamerson, Dana Silva, Siavash Sattar, Emma Carrol, Kevin Byrd, Julie Vick, Chris Conner

Chair Paul Denham called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM

#### I. Opening

Chair Denham called the meeting to order. Ms. Emmalee Wagner conducted a roll call.

#### II. Staff Report

##### Program Reports

Ms. Jemma Sabokrouh introduced the financial reports and the Stoplight report and opened the floor for questions from the council.

##### Proposal Updates

Ms. Sabokrouh provided updates on two projects newly approved by the State Board, two administratively approved and two projects that have closed.

##### GO Virginia Elevator Pitch

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed highlights of the GO Virginia framework and offered an elevator pitch that council members may use when talking about the program.

#### III. Project Proposals

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

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the workforce development project application submitted by Randolph College requesting \$686,340 in GOVA funding. Ms. Sabokrouh shared application evaluation feedback collected through the review process and from the Executive Committee. Dr. Siavash Sattar represented the applicant and provided a project overview to the council. Chair Denham opened the floor for questions. Dr. Peter Sheldon and Dr. Sattar addressed the council members' questions.

Mr. Greg Feldmann motioned to approve the project for state board review; Mr. Caley Edgerly seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Members who recused themselves: Paul Denham



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

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the AM2 Initiative to Grow Advanced Manufacturing for Regions 2 and 3 statewide competitive implementation project application, submitted by the NRV Regional Commission, requesting \$6,518,720 in GOVA funding. Ms. Sabokrouh shared application evaluation feedback collected through the review process and from the Executive Committee. Kevin Byrd, representing the applicant, provided a project overview to the council. Chair Denham opened the floor for questions. Mr. Byrd addressed the council members' questions. Dr. Rich Diddams motioned to approve the project for state board review; Mr. Justin Yalung seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Members who recused themselves: Nancy Hardwick, Vince Hatcher

## **IV. Council Business**

### **Meeting Minutes**

The council reviewed minutes from the Region 2 Council Meeting held on October 29, 2025. Chair Denham asked if there were any corrections, additions, or questions regarding the minutes. Dr. John Capps motioned to approve the minutes; Ms. Amy White seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Terms and Vacancies**

Chair Denham reviewed current and upcoming vacancies on the Region 2 council.

### **Region 2 Council Feedback Summary**

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the Region 2 Council Feedback Summary. Chair Denham reviewed the role and responsibilities of the executive committee and reminded the council that they are always invited to attend executive committee meetings.

## **V. Regional Council Committee Update**

### **Regional Council Committee**

Vice Chair Richmond Vincent provided an update on the December 9<sup>th</sup> GO Virginia State Board Meeting and the December 15<sup>th</sup> State Board Governance & Policy Committee regarding discussions on childcare project eligibility and the request submitted during public comment from Regions 2, 3, and 7 to increase the flexibility in regional planning grant funding.

## **VI. New Business**

### **Region 2 Council Retreat**

Ms. Sabokrouh provided the details for the Region 2 Council Retreat scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and invited council members to provide their input for the event.

### **Stories of Impact**

Ms. Barb Reibsamen introduced the Stories of Impact project and showed two videos highlighting two closed projects: Expanding Welding Training Capacity & Jobs in the Roanoke Valley and Building a Regional Health Sciences Talent Pipeline.

## **VII. Adjournment**

### **Adjournment**

Chair Denham adjourned the meeting at 3:00 PM.