



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

GO Virginia Region 2

GO Virginia Region 2 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2024, 1:00p.m.- 3:00p.m.

Roanoke Higher Education Center, Room 701A, 108 N Jefferson Street, Roanoke, VA, 24016.

Executive Committee members in attendance: Eddie Amos (Chair), Michelle Austin, Paul Denham, Ray Smoot.

Staff in attendance: John Provo, Scott Tate, Quina Weber-Shirk, Rachel Jones, Alyssa McKenney, Emmalee Wagner.

Public in attendance: Liz Povar.

The meeting convened at 1:02p.m. and adjourned at 3:04p.m.

Financials Review

Alyssa McKenney reviewed the financial reports included in the board packet. Council has a remaining balance of \$1,163,024 in per-capita funds. If the three proposals before council is approved, there will be a remaining balance of \$110,641.

Council Business

Council Membership

Chairman Amos recommended the reappointment of the following council members to serve an additional three-year term: Paul Denham and Fourd Kemper. Michelle Austin has declined an invitation to serve an additional term.

Region 2 MOU and Budget Review

Quina Weber-Shirk reviewed the proposed Region 2 MOU and budget which would allow Virginia Tech's Center for Economic and Community Engagement to remain the support organization for GO Virginia Region 2 through the next two years.

Project Pipeline and Tableau Review

Quina Weber-Shirk reviewed the project pipeline; listing 5 possible proposals that may come before council. Weber-Shirk then unveiled the Region 2 online tableau dashboard which is an interactive web-based portal representing real time project data regarding outcomes/impact of active and closed projects existing in the region.

Project Proposals



Educating Engineers for the Region 2 Workforce

Scott Tate offered a brief overview of the new project proposal, “Educating Engineers for the Region 2 Workforce”, submitted by Randolph College. Members of the executive committee inquired on the connection between this project and an earlier GO Virginia Region 2 project, CVCC CTE Academy. Tate replied confirming the connection between both projects and involvement of CVCC students.

Randolph College’s request totaled \$367,200 in Region 2 per-capita funds, with a total match of \$692,584.

Citizens Broadband Expansion

Scott Tate offered a brief overview of the new project proposal, “Citizens Broadband Expansion”, submitted by Citizens Telephone Cooperative. Members of the executive committee requested clarification on the involvement of the VT quarry. Tate replied that a business located closely to the quarry would be served by the project. Members then requested a letter of support describing the broadband need from the president of the VT CRC. Staff confirmed the letter of support would be obtained ahead of the council meeting.

Citizens Telephone Cooperative’s request totaled \$378,000 in Region 2 per-capita funds, with a total match of \$350,000.

Project VITAL

Scott Tate offered a brief overview of the new project proposal, “Project Vital”, submitted by VERGE. Ray Smoot inquired on the attraction of 12 prospective businesses, requesting clarification on the intended location of these businesses. Tate responded stating the project would focus on the attraction of new businesses within Region 2.

VERGE’s request totaled \$4,932,028 in statewide competitive funds, with a total match of \$2,516,443.

Special Updates

Proposal Updates

Quina Weber-Shirk shared updates for the applications who received Region 2 Council approval at their last meeting in January: these proposals were not voted on at the state board meeting in March due to lack of quorum at the state level. They will now be considered at the state board meeting in June. Rachel Jones then shared updates regarding the previously approved proposal, ACA Classical & CTE Institute, stating the project team has submitted the following updates to their original proposal: additional focus on the fabrication space, with higher electrification needs due to additional equipment being sought, and a reduction in the number of welding booths from 22 to 10 as students will alternate between welding and fabrication equipment.

TPI Update



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Emmalee Wagner shared quarter 1 milestones met by the Region 2 Talent Pathways Initiative, as well as upcoming quarter 2 goals.

Quarterly Project Reporting

Rachel Jones reviewed active project status, noting there are six current projects listed in yellow, meaning they did not meet one or more quarter 1 milestones and staff is monitoring. Region 2 Talent Pathways Initiative did not meet Q1 milestones due to a delay in a regional gap analysis. Center for Entrepreneurship due to a continued delay in the opening of their physical space at the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance. Regional Talent Strategy Implementation due to delays in the finalization of a web-based talent portal. Bedford Metal Workforce Retention Center due to continued delays closing on the Winoa property. Project has received a no-cost extension through June 30, 2025. Lynchburg Career Accelerator due to delays in the establishment of a core training program for career acceleration coaches, as well as the creation of a final brand and communications plan. Industry 4.0 for the Automated- Connected-Electrified (ACE) Workforce as the project has fallen behind in metrics reporting for students trained. All other active projects are listed in green, meaning they have met quarterly milestones and are on track with their current deliverables.

Minutes

Executive Committee members reviewed minutes from the Region 2 Executive Committee Meeting held on January 11, 2024. Chairman Amos asked if there were any corrections, additions, or questions regarding the minutes; there were none.

Ray Smoot motioned to approve the minutes, with Michelle Austin seconding. All were in favor and none opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:04p.m.