



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

GO Virginia Region 2

GO Virginia Region 2 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2025, 1:00 - 3:00p.m.

Virtual Zoom Webinar

Executive Committee members in attendance: Eddie Amos (Chair), Paul Denham (Vice-Chair), Whitney Czelusniak, Richmond Vincent, Justin Yalung.

Staff in attendance: Alyssa McKenney, Sarah Lyon-Hill, John Provo, Jemma Sabokrouh, Emmalee Wagner.

Public in attendance: Kaitlyn Bare, Kaitlyn Bedwell, Myra Blanco, Erin Burcham, Luke Campbell, Richard Gibson, Tori Gilmartin, Aisha Johnson, Sheri Lambert, Brandy Salmon, Rachel Stogner, Ginny Williams.

The meeting convened at 1:02 p.m. and adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

I. Roll Call

Ms. Emmalee Wagner called the roll.

II. Financials Review

Ms. Alyssa McKenney reviewed the financial reports included in the board packet. Council has a remaining balance of \$537,018 in FY25 per-capita funds, along with \$1,506,951 in FY26 per-capita funds, leaving a remaining FY25/FY26 balance of \$2,043,969.

Chairman Amos asked McKenney to report back why the FY26 allocation is less than FY25.

Ms. McKenney reviewed the FY25 and FY26 planning cap funds, with a remaining balance of \$350,000 (not including the pending planning grants).

Ms. McKenney then reviewed the remaining FY25 Capacity Building balance (\$20,901) and the FY26 Capacity Building balance (\$250,000).

Ms. McKenney reviewed the current project drawdown summary; CS/root is in fiscal closeout and Falling Branch Corporate Park Phase II received an executed contract extension.

III. Project Proposals

Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center Regional Initiative for Startups and Entrepreneurship in the New River and Roanoke Valleys

Ms. Jemma Sabokrouh reviewed the implementation project application, submitted by the Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center (VT CRC), requesting \$648,000 in GOVA funding. Ms. Sabokrouh shared application evaluation feedback from staff, a Region 2 council member, and external reviewers. Chairman Dr. Amos opened the floor for questions. Ms. Brandy Salmon and Mr. Richard Gibson represented VT CRC and responded to the committee's questions.

Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance Regional Talent Portal

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the implementation project application, submitted by the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance (LRBA), requesting \$99,999 in GOVA funding. Ms. Sabokrouh shared application evaluation feedback from staff, a Region 2 council member, and external reviewers. Dr. Amos opened the floor for questions. Ms. Tori Gilmartin represented the LRBA and responded to the committee's questions.

Virginia Tech Transportation Institute Workforce Pathways Plan for ACE Technology in Region 2

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the planning project application, submitted by the Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI), requesting \$100,000 in GOVA funding. Ms. Sabokrouh shared application evaluation feedback from staff, a Region 2 council member, and external reviewers. Dr. Amos opened the floor for questions. Ms. Kaitlyn Bedwell represented VTTI and responded to the committee's questions.



Recommendation to Move Forward

Mr. Justin Yalung motioned to move the projects forward to the full council for approval, contingent upon the applicants addressing the committee's concerns; Vice Chair Mr. Paul Denham seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

IV. Quarterly Project Reporting

Ms. Wagner reviewed active project status, noting there is one current project listed in red, meaning they did not meet quarterly milestones, and staff is meeting with the sub-grantee. Dr. Amos requested the outcome of that meeting be shared with the Executive Committee.

Four active projects are listed in yellow, meaning they did not meet one or more Quarter 2, 2025 milestones but there is a plan to complete all contracted outcomes and products by the contract end date. The six remaining active projects are listed in green, meaning they have met quarterly milestones and are on track with their current deliverables.

V. Project Pipeline

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the projects in the pipeline, highlighting strategy areas and interested applicants.

VI. Project VITAL Update

Ms. Erin Burcham and Ms. Rachel Stogner provided a detailed update of the activities completed and in progress for the first two of Project VITAL.

VII. Growth & Diversification Plan 2025 Update

Dr. Sarah Lyon-Hill reviewed the first draft of the Region 2 Growth & Diversification Plan 2025 update. Dr. Lyon-Hill requested that the executive committee provide feedback by the end of July. The final updated plan is due to state staff by October 31, 2025.

VIII. Program Updates

Planning Grant Allocation

Mr. Richmond Vincent shared an update from the State GOVA Regional Council Committee on May 29th.

State of the Region Event

Ms. Sabokrouh shared that the annual Region 2 GOVA event will be held immediately following the October full council meeting; details are still to be determined.

IX. Council Business

Council Bylaws

Dr. Amos shared with the executive committee that staff will remind the full council of the Region 2 bylaws in the upcoming meeting, including how virtual participation affects quorum and the council members' vote.

Council Membership

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the nominees for Region 2 council membership.

Mr. Vincent motioned for the nominees to be voted on at the full council meeting; Mr. Yalung seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

Dr. Amos requested Ms. Sabokrouh share the breakdown of Region 2 council member affiliation at the July 24th full council meeting.



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Minutes

The committee reviewed minutes from the Region 2 Executive Committee Meeting held on April 16, 2025. Dr. Amos asked if there were any corrections, additions, or questions regarding the minutes; there were none. Mr. Denham motioned to approve the minutes; Mr. Vincent seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.