



GO Virginia Region 2 Council Meeting Minutes

July 24, 2025, 1:00 - 3:00p.m.

Virtual Zoom Webinar

Council members in attendance: Doug Agner, Eddie Amos (Chair), John Capps, Whitney Czelusniak, Paul Denham (Vice Chair), Rich Diddams, Caley Edgerly, Greg Feldman, Michael Friedlander, Nanci Hardwick, Vince Hatcher, Bif Johnson, Fourd Kemper, Marty Muscatello, Kim Payne, Debbie Petrine, Amy Sebring, Luke Towles, Cathy Underwood, Richmond Vincent, Amy White, Justin Yalung.

Council members not in attendance: Janice Crawford, Don Halliwill, Jacob Wright.

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

Public in attendance: Cody Anderson, Kaitlyn Bedwell, Selden Burns, Richard Gibson Jr., Shara Gibson, Tori Gilmartin, Jack Honig, Mary Beth Lombardo, Brandy Salmon, Gwen Sheldon.

Chairman Eddie Amos called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

I. Roll Call

Emmalee Wagner called the roll.

II. Financials Review

Alyssa McKenney reviewed the financial reports included in the board packet. Ms. McKenney reviewed the FY25/FY26 balance, the FY25 and FY26 planning cap funds, the remaining FY25 Capacity Building balance, and the FY26 Capacity Building balance. Ms. McKenney reviewed the current project drawdown summary.

III. Project Proposals

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

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 collected through the review process and from the Executive Committee. Brandy Salmon, Vice President for Innovation and Partnerships at Virginia Tech, provided a project overview to the council. Chair Amos opened the floor for questions. Ms. Salmon addressed the council members' questions.

Council Vote

Greg Feldmann motioned to approve the project for state board review; Justin Yalung seconded.

Roll call vote on the motion:

Agner – Aye	Friedlander – Abstain	Petrine – Aye
Amos – Aye	Hardwick – Aye	Sebring – Abstain
Capps – Aye	Hatcher – Aye	Towles – Aye
Czelusniak – Aye	Johnson – Aye	Underwood – Aye
Denham – Aye	Kemper – Aye	Vincent – Aye
Diddams – Aye	Muscatello – Aye	White – Aye
Edgerly – Aye	Payne – Aye	Yalung – Aye
Feldmann – Aye		

Motion passes.



Council member Nanci Hardwick left the meeting at 2:01 PM and was not included in further votes.

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 collected through the review process. Tori Gilmartin, Director of Talent and Workforce Development of the LRBA, provided a project overview to the council. Chair Amos opened the floor for questions. Ms. Gilmartin addressed the council members’ questions.

Council Vote

Marty Muscatello motioned to approve the project for state board review; Vince Hatcher seconded.
Roll call vote on the motion:

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Agner – Aye | Feldmann – Aye | Petrine – Aye |
| Amos – Aye | Friedlander – Aye | Sebring – Aye |
| Capps – Abstain | Hatcher – Aye | Towles – Abstain |
| Czelusniak – Abstain | Johnson – Abstain | Underwood – Aye |
| Denham – Abstain | Kemper – Aye | Vincent – Abstain |
| Diddams – Aye | Muscatello – Aye | White – Aye |
| Edgerly – Abstain | Payne – Aye | Yalung – Aye |

Motion passes.

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 collected through the review process and from the Executive Committee. Kaitlyn Bedwell, Program Manager for VTTI provided a project overview to the council. Chair Amos opened the floor for questions. Ms. Bedwell addressed the council members’ questions.

Council Vote

Dr. John Capps motioned to approve the project for state review; Amy Sebring seconded.
Roll call vote on the motion:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Agner – Aye | Feldmann – Aye | Petrine – Aye |
| Amos – Aye | Friedlander – Abstain | Sebring – Abstain |
| Capps – Aye | Hatcher – Aye | Towles – Aye |
| Czelusniak – Aye | Johnson – Aye | Underwood – Aye |
| Denham – Aye | Kemper – Aye | Vincent – Aye |
| Diddams – Aye | Muscatello – Aye | White – Abstain |
| Edgerly – Abstain | Payne – Aye | Yalung – Aye |

Motion passes.

IV. Quarterly Project Reporting

Ms. Wagner reviewed active project status, noting one project listed in red and four projects listed in yellow. The six remaining active projects are listed in green.



V. Project Pipeline

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

VI. Growth & Diversification Plan Update

Dr. Sarah Lyon-Hill reviewed the first draft of the Region 2 Growth & Diversification Plan 2025 update. Dr. Lyon-Hill requested council member's share feedback by August 8th. The final updated plan is due to state staff by October 31, 2025.

VII. Regional Council Committee Meeting Update

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

VIII. Program Updates

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

Chair Amos reviewed the Region 2 bylaws including how virtual participation affects quorum and the council members' vote.

Council Membership

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the council vacancies for Region 2. Mr. Yalung, Chair Amos and Vice Chair Denham reviewed the nominees from their respective subregions.

Council Vote

Amy White motioned to approve all nominees; Debbie Petrine seconded.

Roll call vote on the motion:

Agner – Aye
Amos – Aye
Capps – Aye
Czelusniak – Aye
Denham – Aye
Diddams – Aye
Edgerly – Aye

Feldmann – Aye
Friedlander – Aye
Hatcher – Aye
Johnson – Aye
Kemper – Aye
Muscatello – Aye
Payne – Aye

Petrine – Aye
Sebring – Aye
Towles – Aye
Underwood – Aye
Vincent – Aye
White – Aye
Yalung – Aye

Motion passes.

Minutes

The council reviewed minutes from the Region 2 Council Meeting held on April 23, 2025. Chair Amos asked if there were any corrections, additions, or questions regarding the minutes; there were none.



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

Council Vote

Bif Johnson motioned to approve the minutes; Cathy Underwood seconded.

Roll call vote on the motion:

Agner – Aye

Amos – Aye

Capps – Aye

Czelusniak – Aye

Denham – Aye

Diddams – Aye

Edgerly – Aye

Feldmann – Aye

Friedlander – Aye

Hatcher – Aye

Johnson – Aye

Kemper – Aye

Muscatello – Aye

Payne – Aye

Petrine – Aye

Sebring – Aye

Towles – Aye

Underwood – Aye

Vincent – Aye

White – Aye

Yalung – Aye

Motion passes.

The meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

DRAFT