



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

**April 8, 2026, 1:00 - 3:00p.m.**

**Roanoke Higher Education Center**

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

**Roanoke, VA 24016**

Executive Committee member attendance: Paul Denham (Chair), Richmond Vincent (Vice Chair), Caley Ederly, Greg Feldmann, Justin Yalung.

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

Public attendance: Erin Burcham, Mark Mondry

Public virtual attendance: Jonathan Bender, Andrea Hill, Bryan Kuhr, Pamela Lightfoot, Kathleen Placidi, Rachel Stogner

The meeting convened at 1:00 p.m. and adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

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

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

### ***II. Financial Report***

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

### ***III. Project Report***

Ms. Emmalee Wagner reviewed updates on approved and closed Region 2 projects. Ms. Wagner reviewed active project statuses, noting six projects listed in yellow. The nine remaining active projects are listed in green.

### ***IV. Project VITAL Update***

Ms. Erin Burcham provided an update on the activities and accomplishments of Project VITAL in Region 2 through Quarter 1. Mr. Mark Mondry, Director of Virginia Tech's LAUNCH, shared an update on the Fast-Track Lab to Launch program and the Proof-of-Concept program.

### ***V. Project Proposals***

#### **Sweet Briar College Thermal Engineering Program Expansion**

Ms. Jemma Sabokrouh reviewed the Sweet Briar College Thermal Engineering Program Expansion implementation project application, submitted by Sweet Briar College, requesting \$139,777 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 Jonathan Bender represented the applicant and responded to the committee's questions.

#### **NRV Regional Commission GOTEC Expansion in Regions 2 & 3**

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the statewide competitive implementation project application, submitted by the New River Valley Regional Commission (NRV RC), requesting \$2,295,384 in GOVA funding. This application was originally part of the *NRVRC AM2 Initiative to Grow Advanced Manufacturing in Regions 2 & 3* application. Based on DHCD guidance, this project will now be submitted as a standalone project proposal.

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

Mr. Justin Yalung reviewed the content of the Regional Council Committee meeting on March 24, 2026, including regional fund utilization and discussion around the regional planning grant cap. The committee discussed Region 2's representation at the GOVA State Board.



### **VII. Program Updates**

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the updates from the GOVA State Board subcommittee meetings on March 24, 2026.

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the goals, objectives, and agenda for the Region 2 Council Retreat on April 15, 2026.

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the proposed FY27-28 Capacity Building Budget that will be presented to the Full Council for approval on April 15, 2026.

### **VIII. Council Business**

#### **Meeting Minutes**

The committee reviewed minutes from the Region 2 Executive Committee Meeting held on January 29, 2026. Chair Denham asked if there were any corrections, additions, or questions regarding the minutes; there were none.

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

#### **Terms & Vacancies**

The committee reviewed the current and upcoming council vacancies. Mr. Feldmann presented the Roanoke-Alleghany Valley candidate; Chair Denham presented the two candidates from the Greater Lynchburg region; Mr. Yalung presented the two candidates from the New River Valley.

Mr. Feldmann motioned to recommend the Council Member nominations to be presented to the Region 2 Council; Mr. Yalung seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **Council Feedback Review**

Chair Denham reviewed common points of feedback from the Region 2 Council Member Feedback Summary. The Executive Committee discussed what points of clarification will be shared with the full council.

### **IX. Closing**

Chair Denham adjourned the meeting at 3:15 PM.