



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

## GO Virginia Region 2 Council Retreat Minutes

April 15, 2026, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Fralin Biomedical Research Institute

4 Riverside Circle, Roanoke, VA 24016

Council members in attendance: Janice Crawford, Paul Denham (Chair), Rich Diddams, Daniel DiMarco, Caley Edgerly, Greg Feldmann, Steve Harvey, Vince Hatcher, Angela Joyner, Nick Kessler, James Richards, Luke Towles, Richmond Vincent (Vice-Chair), Amy White, Jacob Wright, Justin Yalung, Michael Friedlander

Council members not in attendance: Doug Agner, John Capps, Whitney Czelusniak, Nanci Hardwick, Bif Johnson, Amy Sebring, Ken McFadyen, Fourd Kemper, Frank Shushok, Cathy Underwood, Tony Seupaul

Staff in attendance: Julia Kell, John Provo, Jemma Sabokrouh, Emmalee Wagner, Barb Reibsamen

Public in attendance: Jack Honig, Sara Dunnigan, Heywood Fralin

### I. Opening

Ms. Jemma Sabokrouh opened the retreat with an introduction to review retreat goals, objectives, and housekeeping items. Ms. Sara Dunnigan, DHCD Deputy Director of Economic Development and Community Vitality, spoke about the GO Virginia mission and vision. Ms. Emmalee Wagner led the group in a Member-y Match game.

### II. Proposal Evaluation Overview and Exercise

Ms. Dunnigan provided an overview of how proposals are evaluated at the state level. Council members reviewed and evaluated a fake project proposal in small groups. Groups shared strengths and weaknesses, questions for the applicant and scored the proposal based on a provided rubric.

### III. Break

### IV. Building the Project Pipeline Activity

Council members were split into new small groups based on investment strategy. Each group chose a priority activity from the G&D Plan that corresponded to their investment strategy. Council members designed a GO Virginia project that would address the priority activity from the G&D Plan. Each table shared their project ideas.

### IV. Closing

Council members were asked to fill out an exit ticket and a post retreat survey before leaving for lunch.