



## **GO Virginia Region 2 Council Meeting Minutes**

April 15, 2026, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Fralin Biomedical Research Institute, Room G101A/B

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, Tony Seupaul, Luke Towles, Richmond Vincent (Vice-Chair), Amy White, Jacob Wright, Justin Yalung.

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

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

Public in attendance: Megan Atkinson, Jonathan Bender, Alec Brebner, Mandy Cribb, Cameron Draper, Michelle Gervasio, Jack Honig, Bryan Kuhr, Marc Nelson, Kathleen Placidi, Leo Priddy, Andrew Sinclair, Angelina Vernon

Public in virtual attendance: Pamela Armstrong, Pamela Lightfoot, Lisa Tucker

### **I. Opening**

Chair Denham called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM. Ms. Emmalee Wagner conducted a roll call.

### **II. Project Report**

Ms. Wagner introduced the financial reports, the Stoplight report and proposal updates, and opened the floor for questions from the council. Chair Denham provided further clarification on the split of the GOTEK activities from the NRV Regional Commission AM2 Initiative to Grow Advanced Manufacturing in Regions 2&3 project and how it will impact remaining funds for this fiscal year, if approved.

### **III. 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 questions. Mr. Greg Feldmann motioned to approve the project for state board review; Ms. Janice Crawford seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **NRV Regional Commission GOTEK 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 included in 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. Mr. Leo Priddy and Ms. Megan Atkinson represented the applicant and responded to questions.

Mr. Justin Yalung motioned to approve the project for state board review; Mr. Vince Hatcher seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **IV. Virginia AI Landscape Assessment**

Mr. Andrew Sinclair, Vice President of Public Policy for the Virginia Chamber of Commerce, gave a presentation on the results of the Virginia AI Landscape Assessment.

*Council member Dr. Rich Diddams left the meeting during this time and is not included in future votes.*



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

Mr. 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. Mr. Yalung opened the floor for questions from the council.

#### **VI. Council Business**

##### **Meeting Minutes**

The committee reviewed minutes from the Region 2 Council Meeting held on February 10th, 2026. Chair Denham asked if there were any corrections, additions, or questions regarding the minutes; there were none. Mr. Feldmann motioned to approve the minutes; Dr. Angela Joyner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

##### **Terms and Vacancies**

Chair Denham presented the Executive Committee's recommendations of Marty Holliday, Kevin Byrd, David Wallenborn, Jeff Spaeth and Rosana Chaidez as new council members.

Mr. Hatcher moved to approve the nominations; Vice Chair Richmond Vincent seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

##### **Executive Committee Report**

Chair Denham addressed the council member feedback summary item about discussing project proposals during council meetings with applicants present, encouraging members to offer their insights and comments.

#### **IV. Program Reports**

##### **Governance & Policy Committee**

Ms. Sabokrouh reviewed the content from the Governance & Policy Committee meeting on March 24, 2026.

##### **FY27-28 Capacity Building Budget**

Ms. Sabokrouh presented the Region 2 FY27-28 Capacity Building Budget. Dr. Joyner motioned to approve the budget; Ms. Crawford seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

##### **Stories of Impact**

Ms. Barb Reibsam introduced the Stories of Impact video highlighting the project Good Manufacturing Practices: Cleanroom Manufacturing for Local Engineering Advancement in the New River & Roanoke Valleys.

#### **V. Adjournment**

Chair Denham adjourned the meeting at 2:51 PM.