



GO Virginia Region 2 Council Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2022, 1:00p.m.- 3:00p.m.

Roanoke Higher Education Center, Room 212, 108 N Jefferson St, Roanoke Virginia, 24016.

Council members in attendance: Eddie Amos (Vice-chair), Nathaniel Bishop, John Capps, Paul Denham, John Dooley, William Fralin, Don Halliwill, Kim Payne, John Putney, Justin Yalung.

Council members participating remotely: Michelle Austin, Kenneth Craig, Janice Crawford, Sandy Davis, Vince Hatcher, Pat Huber, Victor Iannello, Fourd Kemper, Floyd Merryman.

Council members not in attendance: Beverley Dalton, Michael Friedlander, Mike Hamlar, Marty Muscatello, Debbie Petrine, Luke Towles, Ray Smoot (Chair).

Staff in attendance: John Provo, Scott Tate, Rachel Jones, Elli Travis, Alyssa McKenney, Julia Kell.

Public in attendance: Robert Mcnabb, Toni Clark, Liz Povar, Elise Spontarelli, Morgan Romeo, John Hull, Aisha Johnson, Bob Bailey, Daniel Pinard, Deborah Flippo, Mary Zirkle, Megan Lucas, Quina Weber-Shirk, Tim Saunders, Pam Bailey, Traci Bilde.¹

The meeting convened at 1:05p.m. and adjourned at 2:58p.m.

Financials Review

John Provo reviewed the financial reports included in the board packet. Council has a remaining balance of \$1,590,043 in per-capita funds. If the 2 proposals reviewed today receive council approval, there will be a remaining balance of \$940,133. Alyssa McKenney then reviewed drawdown status of all active Region 2 projects, as well as support org staff drawdown for administrative purposes.

Council Business

Nominating Committee

Vice-chair Eddie Amos provided council with the report of the nominating committee, consisting of executive committee members Beverley Dalton and Eddie Amos. The nominating committee recommended the reappointment of the following council members to serve an additional three-year term: Beverley Dalton, Nathaniel Bishop, Kenny Craig, and Mike Hamlar. Council member William Fralin has declined an invitation to serve another term. Vice-chair Eddie Amos then offered the council the name of Justin Yalung, Chief Operating Officer, Inorganic Ventures, to fill an existing NRV vacancy.

Vice-chair Eddie Amos asked if there were any further discussion. There was none.

¹ Unofficial staff correction 5/10/2022



John Dooley motioned to appoint Justin Yalung, and reappointments of Nathaniel Bishop, Beverley Dalton, Kenny Craig, and Mike Hamlar. John Putney seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

ODU Report on Virginia Economy

Robert McNabb, Professor of Economics, Director, Department of Economics, Old Dominion University (ODU), joined virtually to share highlights of the recent ODU report on the current state of Virginia's economy. Specifically, Robert McNabb presented data on Region 2 evolution of Gross Domestic Product and population. Addressing questions from the council, he reviewed economic changes in the Lynchburg MSA, stating using data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, who generates annual estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), to determine what a region produces. After eliminating inflation rates, you can see the GDP in 2007 was approximately 9.3 billion dollars, then increased in nominal terms and in real terms in 2019, prior to the covid-19 pandemic. Through 2007-2019, that growth is relatively small in the Lynchburg MSA. Comparing statewide and national growth in real GDP, you can see that the United States is approximately 21.8% larger than in 2007, Virginia is around 15% larger, and the Lynchburg MSA is approximately 2.4% larger. Robert McNabb continued by reviewing data on the increase of real per-capita personal income and population in the Lynchburg MSA, stating personal income has increased from \$38.8 thousand per year to \$43 thousand, and from 2010-2020, population has increased from 253,000 residents to 264,400 residents. Robert McNabb then reviewed unemployment data and nonfarm payroll data. William Fralin asked on what level does the data in northern Virginia sway the rest of the state's results. Robert McNabb responded by stating in retrospect, the large, more dense, urban areas are generating significant amounts of economic growth and value over time, but that does not mean we should discount what is happening outside of those areas. If you took northern Virginia out of the data, Virginia would be a much different state in terms of economic activity, per-capita personal income, and job growth over time. We have seen a trend in the United States over the last three decades of population and economic activity moving to higher population and metro areas.

Proposal Review

Workforce and Entrepreneurship Initiatives in a Regional Makerspace

Scott Tate began with a brief overview of the new project proposal, *Workforce and Entrepreneurship Initiatives in a Regional Makerspace*, submitted by Vector Space. Elise Spontarelli (Vector Space) explained Vector Space's history and mission, as well as plans to grow the facility and current initiatives. Vector Space is requesting \$324,000 in GO Virginia grant funds to be used towards equipment purchases and programming expansion at the makerspace that will meet workforce development and entrepreneurial development needs in Greater Lynchburg. Vector Space will partner with HireLynchburg and Virginia Career Works to implement a 12-week Women in Machining program for 10 low-income women. Grant funding will be used to purchase equipment, pay staff and program instructors, and cover utility costs during the two years of the grant program. Vice-chair Eddie Amos requested Elise to explain what a makerspace is. Elise Spontarelli listed examples of work completed to date in the community makerspace and mentioned this is a great space for entrepreneurs and small businesses to utilize the machinery for their business needs. The space is also used for training and class workshops. John Dooley



requested more information on the relationship between Vector Space and Central Virginia Community College, as well as how closely related are the initiatives offered between the two. John Capps responded by stating the the initiatives offered by Central Virginia Community College do not overlap with the initiatives offered by Vector Space, as he views their program to be more of a prerequisite to more advanced programs that are offered at the college. John Capps continued stating they have worked with Vector Space to articulate a pathway for their students to enter the college's machining programs. He expects to continue working with them through the grant activity and beyond. Paul Denham commended the program's outcomes, stating this is serving a community who otherwise may not be able to achieve the same success without this kind of initiative.

Vice-chair Eddie Amos asked if there were any additional questions. There were none.

Vector Space's request totaled \$324,000 in Region 2 per-capita funds, with a match of \$162,100.

Council members abstaining from the vote include John Capps, John Putney, and Floyd Merryman.

Kim Payne motioned to approve this proposal, and Paul Denham seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

Gupton Initiative

Scott Tate began with a brief overview of the new project proposal, *Gupton Initiative*, submitted by the Virginia College Fund (VCF). Liz Povar (Vice President, Virginia College Fund) elaborated on program deliverables stating the goal of the Gupton Initiative is to launch and demonstrate the sustainability of a career pathways partnership with VCU's College of Engineering to create a pipeline of internship and employment opportunities for students of the Virginia College Fund (VCF) member institutions in the advanced pharmaceutical manufacturing cluster in central Virginia, and to further validate the potential for employment in advanced manufacturing sectors across the Commonwealth, most specifically in the rural regions represented by the VCF member institutions. The specific outcome of the project is a roadmap for ensuring that a first cohort of students from VCF member institutions enrolls in the VCU Medicines for All Institute in the fall of 2022. Pat Huber inquired on the metric of student participation. Liz Povar responded stating they are initially targeting 2-4 students per university; one outcome of the grant is to identify the best strategies to engage the students. William Fralin mentioned this is a planning proposal and inquired on long-term sustainability of the program. Liz Povar responded by stating this initiative is meant to craft the roadmap to ensure all 5 institutions are in agreement as to how matriculation of the students will occur. As of now, they are operating under a single MOU between Virginia Commonwealth University and all 4 institutions involved. Through the current part-time staff, this initiative could be implemented over the course of 3 years, however, through GO Virginia funding, the roadmap could be in place in 6 months, which would allow the first cohort to launch in the Fall of 2022.

Vice-chair Eddie Amos asked if there were any additional questions. There were none.



The Virginia College Fund's request totaled \$100,000 in GO Virginia Statewide Enhanced Capacity Building funds, with a match of \$59,000, and a Region 2 request of \$10,000 in Region 2 Enhanced Capacity Building funds.

John Capps motioned to approve this proposal, and Fourd Kemper seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

Regional Talent Strategy Implementation

Scott Tate continued with an overview of updates to the project previously approved by the Region 2 Council, Regional Talent Strategy Implementation, submitted by the Western Virginia Workforce Development Board (WVWDB). This project was not approved by the GO Virginia State Board. The applicants have revised committed outcomes and have returned for the review of the state board. The main concerns voiced at the state level was that the project was not as inclusive to target sector industries and occupations, and the project should clearly articulate the partnership of the private sector companies in Region 2. The applicant has updated the proposal to address these concerns and the application will come before the GO Virginia State Board at their next meeting in March.

Council Business

Quarterly Project Reporting

Elli Travis reviewed quarter 4 project progress reporting, noting the only projects who are not listed as "green" this quarter are ELITE and Amherst Site Readiness. The ELITE Internship Program is a few quarters behind on the metric of internships completed due to issues locating companies who have current projects suitable for interns. Amherst Site Readiness has fallen behind while awaiting finalization of contract and paperwork during the review phase by the contractor at the Amelon site. The project manager expects to receive the final contract to begin the grading work at Amelon during the upcoming quarter. Council requested support staff return with a revised quarterly reporting template that shows a breakdown of metrics both committed and achieved, return on investment, and external investment/matching funds committed.

Minutes

Council reviewed meeting minutes from the GO Virginia Region 2 Council Meeting, held on October 27, 2021. Vice-chair Eddie Amos asked if there were any corrections, additions, or questions regarding the minutes; there were none.

John Capps motioned to approve the minutes, with Nathaniel Bishop seconding. All were in favor and none opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58p.m.



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