



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

GO Virginia Region 2

GO Virginia Region 2 Council Meeting Minutes

May 6, 2020, 3:00p.m.- 5:00p.m, Zoom Webinar.

Council members in attendance: Marla Akridge, Eddie Amos, Amy Ankrum, Nathaniel Bishop, Ab Boxley, John Capps, Kenneth Craig, Beverley Dalton, Sandy Davis, William Fralin, Michael Friedlander, Mike Hamlar, Brian Hemphill, Victor Iannello, Floyd Merryman, Marty Muscatello, Debbie Petrine, John Putney, Ray Smoot.

Council members not in attendance: John Dooley, Watt Foster, Don Halliwill, Terry Jamerson, Kimball Payne.

Staff in attendance: John Provo, Scott Tate, Rachel Jones.

Public in attendance: Aisha Johnson, Mike Burnette, Meredith Hundley, Megan Lucas, Mary Zirkle, Mary Miller, Sarah Whitt, John Edwards, Deborah Flippo.

The meeting convened at 3:03p.m. and adjourned at 4:15p.m.

GO Virginia State Program Changes

Dr. Provo began with an overview of GO Virginia state program changes, including the creation of a new resilience and recovery program to assist with both the economic and health crisis. The program allows each region to apply for up to \$1 million for projects that directly respond to the covid-19 crisis. Dr. Provo stated that with this program match requirements are reduced, with the local match requirement waived. The state board has also waived the local match requirement through October 18, 2020 on regular per-capita funds.

Executive Committee Actions Review

Dr. Provo provided an overview of actions taken by the Executive Committee on April 21, 2020. The Executive Committee approved the region's first covid-19 response related project. *Workforce Training and Regional Capacity for Rapid High-Throughput COVID-19 Testing* submitted by Virginia Tech's Office of Vice President for Health Sciences and Technology. The project budget will support an initial 90-day start-up phase for two testing sites located in Blacksburg and Roanoke. Once fully operational, the project will support around 500 tests per day in each location. Dr. Friedlander provided an update to council stating the sites have been launched and the program has begun testing samples they are receiving daily from regional health departments.



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The project proposal was approved by the Executive Committee for \$100,000 of GO Virginia Region 2 funds.

New Project Review

Workforce Training for Covid-19 Testing in Southwest Virginia

Dr. Tate provided an overview of the new project proposal *Workforce Training for Covid-19 Testing in Southwest Virginia*. The project budget will support the hiring and training of medical staff as well as the procurement of equipment needs. The initiative will remain active through June 2021. Dr. Friedlander provided an update to council reporting that the outcome of positive tests in the region has proven to be quite high. The program is currently in the process of identifying and interviewing potential employees. Dr. Friedlander addressed questions from the council regarding project timeline and progress of receiving samples thus far.

The Office of Vice President for Health Sciences and Technology request totaled \$500,000 of GO Virginia Region 2 funds.

Chairman Smoot asked if there were any additional questions. There were none.

Council members recusing from the vote include Ms. Petrine, Mr. Fralin, Mr. Friedlander, and Mr. Bishop.

Mr. Iannello motioned to approve the project, and Mr. Boxley seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

Pivot and RAMP Up Program

Dr. Tate provided an overview of the new project proposal *Pivot and RAMP Up Program* submitted by the Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council (RBTC). The project budget will focus on the continuation of RAMP's efforts as well as pivot the program's deliverables in order to maintain its momentum to support the entrepreneurial community during the response and recovery of our region post Covid-19. RAMP's pivot consists of three key components: a robust content management system, the development of an online mentor and expert support network, and a new "Exit RAMP" program providing ongoing business assistance and connections to resources for RAMP alumni. Mary Miller from



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the Regional Accelerator and Mentoring Program (RAMP) provided a detailed overview to the council stating the program has begun to pivot their deliverables to online resources and will continue to do so with the proposed GO Virginia funds.

RAMP and RBTC request totaled \$97,200 of GO Virginia Region 2 funds.

Chairman Smoot asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Mr. Fralin recused himself from the vote.

Mr. Capps motioned to approve the project, and Mr. Muscatello seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

Region 2 Budget Proposal

Chairman Smoot and Dr. Provo provided an overview of the Region 2 budget proposal. As approved GO Virginia Region 2 projects continue to increase, support staff have adjusted accordingly in their evaluation efforts as well as the preparation of proposals presented to the council. All GO Virginia Regional Councils are administering an 8% charge in per-capita grant funds to focus on additional contracting work. The proposed budget would reflect these enhancements. The two-year estimated budget totals in \$740,000.

Dr. Capps motioned to approve, and Ms. Akridge seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

Broadband Policy Report

Dr. Provo provided an overview of guidelines recently adopted from the State Board relating to recommended regional broadband proposals. Included in the report are guidelines regarding middle mile delivery as well as policies pertaining to specific limitations for broadband planning funds.

Mr. Fralin and Mr. Amos provided an update stating the task force is continuing to meet and are making progress to develop a proposal for the council's review.

Council Vacancies

Chairman Smoot provided the council with an update regarding council vacancies. There are currently two vacancies in the Lynchburg region and two vacancies in the Roanoke Valley/Alleghany Highlands. The Chairman encouraged members of the council from those two regions to bring forward an individual to fill those vacancies. Chairman Smoot then offered the council the name of Vince Hatcher,



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Southeast Regional Operations Director of Hollingsworth and Vose, located in Floyd County. Mr. Hatcher would fill the vacancy in the New River Valley in place of Matthew Stewart.

Chairman Smoot nominates Mr. Hatcher to join the Region 2 Council, and Mr. Iannello seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

Project Reporting and Evaluation

Project reporting updates were provided in the council packet and the full report is available for review on the support staff's website listed [here](#).

There being no further business to come before the council, adjournment occurred at 4:15p.m.



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