



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

GO Virginia Region 2

GO Virginia Region 2 Council Meeting Minutes

July 29, 2021, 3:00p.m.- 5:00p.m,

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

Council members in attendance: Eddie Amos (Vice-chair), Michelle Austin, Nathaniel Bishop, Kenneth Craig, Beverly Dalton, Paul Denham, John Dooley, William Fralin, Pat Huber, Fourd Kemper, Marty Muscatello, Kim Payne, Ray Smoot (Chair), Luke Towles.

Council members attending remotely: Don Halliwill, John Putney.

Council members not in attendance: Amy Ankrum, John Capps, Janice Crawford, Sandy Davis, Michael Friedlander, Mike Hamlar, Vince Hatcher, Victor Iannello, Floyd Merryman, Debbie Petrine.

Staff in attendance: John Provo, Sarah Lyon-Hill, Zach Jackson, Ashley Posthumus, Rachel Jones, Cat Woodson.

Public in attendance: Aisha Johnson, Billy Gammel, Dean Rodgers, Deborah Flipppo, Jeremy Holmes, Marjette Upshur, Delegate Sam Rasoul, Pam Bailey, Angie Hall.

The meeting convened at 3:09p.m. and adjourned at 5:04p.m.

Introductions

Chairman Smoot welcomed Paul Denham, Michelle Austin, and Fourd Kemper as new members of the council. Delegate Sam Rasoul was recognized and spoke briefly to the council. Chairman Smoot expressed appreciation for his attendance at the meeting and the support provided by the General Assembly for the work of GO Virginia.

Financial Report and Budget Overview

John Provo provided council with a brief financial report. The council has a remaining balance of \$2,187,240 in per-capita funds. Kim Payne and John Dooley reported on their work with staff as requested at the spring council meeting regarding the support organization budget. The source of revenue for the support budget consists of a state allocation of \$250,000 in administrative support funds to region 2 staff. The support budget is funded by the up to 8% grant management fee to applicants in order to support administrative services to sub-grantees including technical assistance processing remittances, quarterly reporting, budget revisions, accounting, and other direct activities related to managing each project grant. John Dooley then stated the council contingency funds of \$84,000 aligns with other regions' fixed budgets. The up to 8% grant management fee was introduced as a state allowable expense for individual grants around 2 years ago. There is some level of discretion by support staff in negotiating what that fee may be based on work provided to individual grants. For the current fiscal year, council can anticipate around \$60,000 from this grant management fee that supports



implementation grants. Beverly Dalton requested clarification on the source of the variable budget. John Dooley responded by stating the up to 8% administrative fee comes directly from the amount awarded to the sub-grantee for an implementation grant. Chairman Smoot stated each sub-grantee is advised of the up to 8% grant management fee during the application process with support staff. Council then discussed policies regarding the use of council contingency funds. John Provo stated best practices recommended by the state is to reallocate any unused council contingency funds to available per-capita funds. William Fralin inquired on the process of deciding exactly how much is allocated to support staff from the up to 8% grant management fee and what that money is used for. John Provo stated the amount decided upon relates to how much work is involved with administrative services surrounding an implementation grant and the money is used for contracting, administrative support, and overall management of the grant.

Quarterly Project Reporting

John Provo began with a brief overview of projects listed as “yellow” in the quarterly report, meaning staff is monitoring progress made by sub-grantees as they experienced barriers to completing all milestones as of June 30, 2021. One project was listed as red, with a submission of a request for a second six-month no-cost extension.

Central Virginia Training Center Redevelopment Plan

The Central Virginia Training Center Redevelopment Plan is requesting more time to secure additional funding in order to complete the contracted scope of work. Council expressed the importance of this project for the Lynchburg region and disappointment that local governments have not agreed to fund the remaining amount needed to complete the project. John Provo stated he has worked with the sub-grantee to identify an additional funding source for the grant. William Fralin inquired on the ability of the council to allocate additional funding to this project. John Provo stated council can not fund the next stage of this project as it does not align with site development guidance released by the state. John Putney stated the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance completed a congressional request that was favorably viewed but ultimately not supported. The organization is currently in the process of submitting a state appropriation but is unclear whether this funding source will be successful. Dean Rodgers, Amherst County Administrator, stated the local Planning District Commission has allocated \$150,000 from their reserves, Amherst County Economic Development Authority has allocated \$50,000, and the Amherst County Board of Supervisors contributed \$50,000. The Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance also hired HDR, a planning firm that has completed the study and is currently compiling the final plan to be released. The plan will entitle the county and the region to decide what happens to the property. Dean Rodgers continued by stating he held a planning session with the Marine Corps this week who are planning to utilize the facility as their urban warfare training site. Mr. Rodgers then expressed the importance of finalizing this plan in order to begin marketing the property. Chairman Smoot then inquired on why Amherst County, where the property is located, has not contributed the remaining funds needed. Dean Rodgers responded by stating the county has contributed \$100,000 to the project but has not contributed \$200,000 because the site is not owned by the county and believes it should be the state’s responsibility, as the county does not have the extra funds at this time. John Dooley



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

GO Virginia Region 2

suggested the council moves forward with a second six-month extension with the request that staff work with the sub-grantee in an attempt to find a pathway for this project to be realized. Beverly Dalton seconded this motion and expressed the importance of this project moving forward. William Fralin requested staff work with parties involved to bring forth a funding resolution to be considered at the upcoming October council meeting.

John Dooley motioned to approve the extension request, with a requirement for an update on project progress be provided at the upcoming October council meeting, and Beverly Dalton seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

Staff Presentations

GO Virginia Program Evaluation

Sarah Lyon-Hill provided the council with an update on GO Virginia Region 2 program evaluation. Thus far, GO Virginia Region 2 has funded 35 total projects, allocating \$6,346,980, and addressing all four target industry sectors mentioned in the Region 2 Growth and Diversification Plan. Since the first Region 2 grant was awarded in 2018, GO Virginia Region 2 projects have created as many as 486 high-wage jobs, enhanced the skill sets of 406 workers within the region, leveraged \$2.6 million, and has engaged 576 local companies. GO Virginia Region 2 has also created 65 new or expanded startups and 2 industry ready sites since program implementation.

Growth and Diversification Plan Update: Preliminary Findings and Workplan

Region 2 staff provided the council with a Growth and Diversification Plan update, presenting preliminary findings and a workplan related to updating the region's targeted industry clusters. You can view this presentation [here](#).

Council Business

Minutes

Council reviewed meeting minutes from the GO Virginia Region 2 Executive Committee Meeting held on April 22, 2021, as well as minutes from the meeting of the full council held on May 4, 2021. Chairman Smoot asked if there were any questions or corrections regarding the minutes; there were none.

Luke Towles motioned to approve the minutes and Beverly Dalton seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

COIA Policy Updates

Council reviewed revised conflict of interest policy updates released by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

The meeting adjourned at 5:04p.m.