**GO Virginia Region 2 Council Meeting Minutes**

**October 19, 2023, 2:00p.m.- 4:00p.m.**

**Room G-102A, Fralin Biomedical Research Institute, 4 Riverside Circle, Roanoke, Virginia, 24016.**

Council members in attendance: Eddie Amos (Chair), Michelle Austin, Nathaniel Bishop, John Capps, Kenneth Craig, Janice Crawford, Whitney Czelusniak, Beverley Dalton (Vice-chair), Sandy Davis, Paul Denham, Greg Feldmann, Michael Friedlander, Vince Hatcher, Pat Huber, Bif Johnson, Fourd Kemper, Marty Muscatello, Kim Payne, Amy Sebring, Ray Smoot, Jacob Wright, Justin Yalung.

Council members participating remotely: Debbie Petrine, Luke Towles, Cathy Underwood, Richmond Vincent.

Council members not in attendance: Don Halliwill, Mike Hamlar, John Putney.

Staff in attendance: John Provo, Scott Tate, Sarah Lyon-Hill, Quina Weber-Shirk, Rachel Jones, Alyssa McKenney, Julia Kell.

Public in attendance: Charlie Jewel, Machelle Hall, Cody Anderson, Angie Hall, Kayleigh Hall, Scott Weimer, Kevin Byrd.

The meeting convened at 2:01p.m. and adjourned at 3:57p.m.

***Financials Report***

Alyssa McKenney reviewed the financial reports included in the board packet. Council has a remaining balance of $1,670,299 in per-capita funds. If the three proposals before council is approved, there will be a remaining balance of $693,878.

***Project Proposals***

***Developing IT & Cybersecurity Certification Pipeline to Advance Cluster Growth***

Scott Tate offered a brief overview of the new project proposal, *“Developing IT & Cybersecurity Certification Pipeline to Advance Cluster Growth”,* submitted by Radford University Economic Development. Charlie Jewel, Radford University Economic Development, shared project deliverables and answered questions from the council.

Radford University’s request totaled $202,872 in Region 2 per-capita funds, with a local match of $116,863.

Council members abstaining from the vote include Pat Huber.

Bif Johnson motioned to approve this proposal, and Greg Feldmann seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

***NRV Materials and Machinery Cluster Scale-Up***

Scott Tate offered a brief overview of the new project proposal, *“NRV Materials and Machinery Cluster Scale-Up”,* submitted by the New River Valley Regional Commission. Kevin Byrd, New River Valley Regional Commission, shared project deliverables and answered questions from the council.

New River Valley Regional Commission’s request totaled $98,859 in Region 2 per-capita funds, with a local match of $99,000.

Council members abstaining from the vote include Pat Huber and Vince Hatcher.

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

***ACA Classical & CTE Institute***

Quina Weber-Shirk offered updates to the ACA application from Appomattox County following their project deferral at the state level. Concerns at the state level surrounded the ownership of the space and equipment, specifically that state funded equipment could become stranded assets if the ACA programming ceased to exist. To mediate the concerns at the state level, Central Virginia Community College, who is partnering with the ACA institute, has agreed to take ownership of the equipment, as well as become the lead applicant for the programming.

***Special Updates***

***Report of G&D Updates***

Sarah Lyon-Hill provided an overview of 2023 Region 2 Growth & Diversification Plan Updates. Every 2 years, the regional support organization must update the Region 2 Council’s Growth and Diversification Plan following a high level review process of economic development needs existing within the three sub-regions of Roanoke Valley/Alleghany Highlands, Lynchburg, and the New River Valley. The updated plan can be viewed [here](chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https:/cece.vt.edu/content/dam/cece_vt_edu/govirginia_documentation/GOVAR2%20Growth%20and%20Diversification%20Plan%202023.pdf).

***Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP)***

Jason El Koubi, Virginia Economic Development Partnership, presented state level updates with the Region 2 Council.

***Council Business***

***Quarterly Project Reporting***

Rachel Jones reviewed active project status, noting there are two current project listed in yellow, meaning they did not meet one or more quarter 3 milestones and staff is monitoring. The Regional Talent Strategy Implementation grant did not meet Q3 milestones due to a delay in the second convening of the Talent Advisory Council. The Bedford Metal Workforce Training Center did not meet Q3 milestones due to a delayed closing on the Winona property. One project is listed in red this quarter meaning they are behind on milestones from two or more quarters. Expanding Welding Training Capacity and Jobs in the Roanoke Valley did not meet Q3 milestones due to a delay installation of equipment, along with delays in AEP placing a transformer on site; project expected to go over budget. Region 2 staff have scheduled a meeting with the project team to discuss grant challenges in November. All other active projects are listed in green, meaning they have met quarterly milestones and are on track with their current deliverables.

The meeting adjourned at 3:57p.m.