



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

GO Virginia Region 2

## GO Virginia Region 2 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2022, 1:00p.m.- 3:00p.m.

**Roanoke Higher Education Center, Room 709, 108 N Jefferson St, Roanoke Virginia, 24016.**

Executive Committee members in attendance: Eddie Amos (Vice-chair), Beverley Dalton, Ray Smoot (Chair).

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

Public in attendance: Billy Gammel, Dean Rodgers, Deborah Flippo, Jill Loope, Jonathan Buttram, Lynchburg Economic Development, City of Roanoke, Mary Zirkle, Pam Bailey, Elise Spontarelli, Liz Povar, Toni Clark, Scott Weimer.

The meeting convened at 1:03p.m. and adjourned at 2:47p.m.

### ***Financials Review***

John Provo began with an overview of the financial report. 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. John Provo then reviewed drawdown status of all active Region 2 projects, as well as support org staff drawdown for administrative purposes.

### ***Proposal Review***

#### ***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 (The Riverlink Group) 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. Beverley Dalton and Eddie Amos both voiced their support for this proposal and thanked the applicant for their work on this application.

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

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



## ***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. Beverley Dalton requested more information on the women in machining program. Elise Spontarelli responded by highlighting the women in machining program success to date, stating the pilot phase was successful and demonstrated a need for this kind of program. Chairman Smoot requested more information on Vector Space. Elise responded Vector Space is a community makerspace, meaning the space has all necessary tools for members of the community to attend skill-based workshops and utilize the equipment to create needed materials.

Chairman Smoot 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.

## ***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***

### ***Council Vacancies/Membership***

Chairman Smoot and John Provo reviewed membership updates stating there are five members of the regional council whose membership expired in the month of January 2022, and are eligible for a second 3-year term should they continue to serve. Those members are identified as Nathaniel Bishop, Beverley Dalton, William Fralin, Kenneth Craig, and Mike Hamlar. Chairman Smoot requested executive committee members to form a nominating committee and report back at the meeting of the full council.

Chairman Smoot motioned to approve the nominating committee, with Vice-chair Eddie Amos seconding. All were in favor and none opposed.



### ***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. Vice-chair Eddie Amos suggested support staff request more information as to why the ELITE project is experiencing issues locating interns during the ongoing labor shortage.

### ***Minutes***

The committee reviewed meeting minutes from the GO Virginia Region 2 Executive Committee Meeting, held on October 21, 2021. Chairman Smoot asked if there were any corrections, additions, or questions regarding the minutes; there were none.

Beverly Dalton motioned to approve the minutes, with Eddie Amos seconding. All were in favor and none opposed.

### ***Recent ODU Report on Virginia Economy***

The committee reviewed and discussed the recent Old Dominion University report on Virginia’s Economy. Chairman Smoot requested a representative from the team who created this report come before the full council at their upcoming meeting to speak with members and answer any questions about this report.

The meeting adjourned at 2:47p.m.