



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

GO Virginia Region 2

GO Virginia Region 2 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

October 14, 2020, 1:00p.m.- 3:00p.m, Zoom Webinar.

Executive Committee members in attendance: Ab Boxley (Vice-Chair), Beverly Dalton, Sandy Davis, Ray Smoot (Chair).

Council members in attendance: Don Halliwill.

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

Public in attendance: Traci Blido, Aisha Johnson, Deborah Flippo, Mary Zirkle, Amy Adams, Christopher Bryant, Jack Freeman, Jason Ferguson, John Newby.

The meeting convened at 1:03p.m. and adjourned at 2:08p.m.

Financial Report

John Provo began by providing the executive committee with a brief financial report. The council has a remaining balance of \$1,809,044 in per-capita funds and a remaining balance of \$202,800 in Economic Resilience and Recovery funds.

Proposal Review

Virginia Bio-Connect

Scott Tate began by providing a brief overview of the new project proposal, *Virginia Bio-Connect*, submitted by the Virginia Biotechnology Association. This proposal is a state-wide initiative to catalyze, strengthen, and grow the life science and biotechnology industry cluster in the Commonwealth through a model of formalized regional BioHubs where they currently do not exist, and connecting the BioHubs across the state in the areas of workforce development, commercialization, resource sharing, and mentorship. The project supports the creation, retention, or attraction of at least 15 life sciences companies, with an average of 8 new jobs per company across the state, for a total output of 120 new jobs, with an average bioscience industry salary of \$107,610, annually. John Newby, Virginia Bio, and Amy Adams, Institute for Biohealth innovation at George Mason University, addressed concerns raised in the regional review process pertaining to program sustainability beyond the grant, stating program staff are in active discussion with existing and potential industry partners to seek additional funding from private and state entities. Don Halliwill informed the committee that Carilion has issued a letter of support to the program, stating this proposal would be beneficial to the Department of Carilion Innovation. Chairman Smoot inquired if the regional hub would serve the entire region. John Newby stated although the program's Region 2 Hub directors will primarily work in Roanoke, they will represent the entire region through their connections with partners including the Valleys Innovation Council, Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council, and Virginia Tech.

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



The Virginia Biotechnology Association request totaled \$2,020,780 in GO Virginia Statewide Competitive funding, with a match of \$1,108,934.

Ab Boxley motioned to recommend the proposal for review of the Region 2 Council, and Sandy Davis seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

Central Virginia Regional CTE Academy

Scott Tate continued with a brief overview of the new project proposal, *Central Virginia Regional CTE Academy*, submitted by Central Virginia Community College. The proposal will support the start up of a CTE academy in order to serve the college's service region. The proposal is considered a regional need following a 9-month employer needs assessment conducted with over 600 area businesses and roundtable discussions with nearly 100 industry representatives. The academy will enable an estimated 1,120 students to complete a credential or certificate over the 2-year GO Virginia grant period. Students served may be high school students, high school graduates, adult learners, or under-skilled workers. GO Virginia funds are sought after to support 2 positions during the start-up phase, a CVCC Coordinator of CTE initiatives and a CTE Academy Coordinator of Business Partnerships. Dr. Jason Ferguson, Central Virginia Community College, addressed the need for the 2 mentioned critical positions to effectively implement this initiative, stating the Coordinator of Business Partnerships will involve marketing, outreach, receiving feedback from local stakeholders, as well as the implementation of otherwise lacking work-based learning opportunities. The Coordinator of CTE Initiatives will focus on daily operations, engaging with K-12 partners, and assessing the need for early career exploration. Jason Ferguson addressed questions of the committee regarding critical business needs in the region, stating his team has received feedback suggesting a regional need of retaining soft skills, industrial maintenance, and different types of trade positions in the workplace.

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

Central Virginia Community College request totaled \$266,000 of Region 2 Per-Capita funds, with a local match of \$134,000.

Ab Boxley motioned to recommend the proposal for review of the Region 2 Council, and Beverly Dalton seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

Council Business

Council Vacancies

Provo provided the committee with an update regarding council vacancies. Chairman Smoot then recommended Region 2 Council member; Dr. Eddie Amos to fill the executive committee vacancy existing in the Roanoke region, in place of John Williamson, whose term expired.

Provo continued with a council membership update pertaining to Region 2 Council member, Terry Jamerson. Terry has left the region and has proven to be inactive with the council, according to council



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

GO Virginia Region 2

bylaws. Therefore, Region 2 staff have recommended to consider her membership as vacant. Chairman Smoot recommended staff to reach out once more before council takes action.

VEDP Site Development Virtual Roadshow

Provo continued with an announcement to the committee. Region 2 Council will be partnering with the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) to host the Site Development Virtual Roadshow on October 22, 2020 from 2:00-3:00p.m, via Zoom Webinar. As part of the rollout process for VEDP's recently completed Enhanced Site Characterization effort, VEDP will discuss broad themes that have emerged from the data collection and analyses on the 45 sites, across 16 localities, included in the study. Members of the Region 2 Council are welcome to attend.

Staff Updates

Region 2 Talent Collaborative

Provo continued with a special update in regard to a previously funded regional project, *Region 2 Talent Collaborative*. The project anticipates returning remaining funds of \$105,415 to Region 2 per-capita funds. The project will receive a no-cost extension from July 31, 2020 to December 31, 2020. The project has worked with staff to retool their deliverables amid the pandemic. However, the initiative remains in their scope of work and has exceeded their goals.

Proposal Pipeline

Provo provided a brief update to council pertaining to proposal pipeline, stating Region 2 support staff have received several inquiries for review, with additional proposals to come before the council during the upcoming meeting in January. Anticipated proposals to review next quarter may include a 5G Broadband initiative in Roanoke, a proposal from Lynchburg-Beacon of Hope, and a proposal from a Virginia Tech department involved with manufacturing.

With there being no further business to come before the committee, adjournment occurred at 2:08p.m.