GO Virginia Region 2 Council Meeting

April 23, 2025, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm
Fralin Biomedical Research Institute Room G-101A/B
4 Riverside Circle
Roanoke, Virginia 24016

- Introductions (1:00-1:05)

- Financial Report (1:05-1:10)

- Project Proposals (1:10-2:30)
    - Region 2 GO TEC Launch in the New River Valley and Roanoke County
    - New River Valley Regional Commission, Site Advancement Strategy
    - Vector Space, Robotics Facility Planning, Lynchburg Region
    - United Way of Central Virginia, Childcare & Workforce Development, Lynchburg Region

- Administrative Updates (2:30-2:45)
    - Quarterly Project Reporting
    - Speakers Bureau
    - Talent Pathways Initiative Report
    - G&D plan 2025

- Council Business (2:45-2:50)
    - AI Statewide Landscape Assessment Update

- Special Updates (2:50-2:55)
    - Board Policy #10 Helene Business Recovery Initiative

- Council Business (2:55-3:00)
    - Minutes

The meeting will adjourn at 3:00p.m.

Public comment is welcome in writing. Please submit to Region 2 staff, Emmalee Wagner, emmaleewagner@vt.edu, by 4/21 at 1:00p.m.

Region 2 Allocations   Updated 4/9/2025

FY25 Per Capita Projects

FY25 Allocation	**$1,515,210.00**
Transfer from FY23/24 Capacity Building Contingency	$124,492.39
GMP CLEAN	-$100,000.00
Artificial Intelligence State Landscape Assessment	-$50,000.00
FY25 Remaining Balance	**$1,489,702.39**

FY 25 Capacity Building (Support)

Remaining Contingency funds from FY23/FY24	**$41,529.03**
FY25 Allocation	**$250,000.00**
FY25 Drawdown	**-$104,030.93**
Current Balance	**$187,498.10**

Applications Under Consideration (Per Capita)

Region 2 GO TEC Launch in the New River Valley and Roanoke County	-$994,212.64	
New River Valley Regional Commission, Site Advancement Strategy	-$94,400.00	*planning*
United Way of Central Virginia, Childcare & Workforce Development, Lynchburg Region	-$99,639.00	*planning*
Vector Space, Robotics Facility Planning, Lynchburg Region	-$97,200.00	*planning*
Total	**-$1,285,451.64**	
Balance if All Per Capita Applications Approved	**$204,250.75**	*see Note*

FY25 Planning Cap	**$250,000.00**
Planning projects approved	$150,000.00
Percentage of planning cap	60%
Planning funds remaining	$100,000.00

*Note, per capita balance indicated above represents the balance if all four applications submitted this quarter are approved. However, due to the current balance remaining in FY25's planning funds, only one of the three planning applications can be funded in FY25. If the implementation project application (Region 2 GO TEC) and one of the three planning project applications are approved, our remaining Per Capita fund balance would be an estimated $395,850.75.

Project Name	Funding Type & FY	Start Date	End Date	GOVA Funding Approved	GOVA Drawn Down to date	GOVA Funds Remaining	Match Funding	Match Reported to Date	Match Funds Remaining	Notes
Regional Talent Strategy Implementation	Per Capita (FY22)	6/1/2022	12/31/2024	$315,911.00	$283,187.74	$32,723.26	$189,354.00	$160,185.64	$29,168.36	*Fiscal closeout in process*
Workforce & Entrepreneurship in a Reg. Makerspace (Vector Space)	Per Capita (FY22)	6/14/2022	12/31/2024	$324,000.00	$324,000.00	$0.00	$162,100.00	$162,978.58	$0.00	*Fiscal closeout in process*
CS/ Root	Per Capital (FY22)	10/1/2022	3/30/2025	$175,000.00	$109,317.26	$65,682.74	$175,000.00	$109,495.12	$65,504.88	
Center for Entrepreneurship	Per Capita (FY22)	3/14/2023	3/14/2026	$240,192.00	$50,511.75	$189,680.25	$120,096.00	$41,024.99	$79,071.01	
Bedford Metal Workforce Training Center	Per Capita (FY22)	8/1/2023	6/30/2025	$99,900.00	$13,969.30	$85,930.70	$201,000.00	$420,588.50	$0.00	
Industry 4.0 for the ACE Workforce	Per Capita (FY23)	3/1/2023	12/31/2025	$500,000.00	$172,054.64	$327,945.36	$251,300.00	$204,009.68	$47,290.32	*Contract extension executed extending the project end date to 12/31/2025*
Lynchburg Beacon of Hope Career Acceleration Program	Per Capita (FY23)	8/1/2023	3/1/2026	$540,000.00	$214,798.39	$325,201.61	$352,200.00	$114,119.50	$238,080.50	*Contract extension executed extending the project end date to 3/1/2026*
Falling Branch Corporate Park Regional Site Development	Per Capita (FY23)	7/1/2023	7/1/2025	$324,000.00	$262,897.92	$61,102.08	$2,810,765.60	$824,000.12	$1,986,765.48	
Strengthening Entrepreneurs' Impact	Per Capita (FY23)	12/1/2023	12/1/2025	$577,800.00	$211,568.37	$366,231.63	$288,900.00	$163,400.31	$125,499.69	
Region 2 Talent Pathways Planning Initiative	TPI (FY24)	11/20/2023	1/10/2025	$250,000.00	$202,644.59	$47,355.41	$125,029.00	$106,346.28	$18,682.72	*Fiscal closeout in process*
NRV Materials and Machinery Cluster Scale-up	Per Capita (FY24)	10/19/2023	2/19/2025	$98,859.00	$64,539.72	$34,319.28	$102,528.00	$59,473.55	$43,054.45	
ACA Classical & CTE Academy Welding	Per Capita (FY24)	7/1/2024	7/1/2026	$565,000.00	$24,894.18	$540,105.82	$538,335.85	$98,581.34	$439,754.51	
Manufacturing Workforce Strategy Development for the Lynchburg Region	Per Capita (FY24)	3/1/2024	3/1/2025	$40,500.00	$15,877.45	$24,622.55	$37,500.00	$26,514.00	$10,986.00	
Developing IT & Cybersecurity Certification Pipeline (ITCCP)	Per Capita (FY24)	7/1/2024	7/1/2026	$202,872.00	$0.00	$202,872.00	$116,863.00	$0.00	$116,863.00	
Randolph College Engineering	Per Capita (FY24)	7/1/2024	7/1/2026	$367,000.00	$28,483.86	$338,516.14	$379,784.00	$84,669.97	$295,114.03	
Project VITAL	Per Capita (FY24) & Statewide Competitive	1/1/2025	1/1/2028	$4,987,029.00	$0.00	$4,987,029.00	$2,517,443.16	$0.00	$2,517,443.16	*Contract executed 1/31/2025*
GMP CLEAN	Per Capita (FY25)	10/1/2024	10/1/2025	$100,000.00	$0.00	$100,000.00	$50,000.00	$0.00	$50,000.00	

	Project Status Summary								
Project Type & FY	GOVA Funding Approved	GOVA Drawn Down to date	GOVA Funds Remaining	Match Funding	Match Drawn Down	Match Funds Remaining	Admin Fee	Admin Fee Draw Down	Admin Fee Remaining
Per Capita FY18 Projects:	$1,115,382.03	$1,086,718.14	$0.00	$3,252,380.71	$2,901,110.76	$353,216.13			
Per Capita FY19 Projects:	$1,197,486.00	$1,058,036.14	$0.00	$1,732,722.00	$1,597,744.44	$148,098.04			
Per Capita FY20 Projects:	$1,782,567.00	$1,622,794.44	$0.00	$1,272,290.00	$1,171,367.18	$141,145.26	$27,162.00	$27,162.00	$0.00
ERR FY20 Projects:	$1,110,700.00	$1,109,141.94	$0.00	$566,610.00	$570,743.57	$0.00	$23,598.00	$23,598.00	$0.00
Per Capita FY21 Projects:	$844,157.00	$794,295.95	$0.00	$695,042.00	$669,979.51	$25,062.49	$62,530.00	$58,836.99	$3,693.01
Per Capita FY22 Projects:	$1,442,743.00	$1,068,726.04	$374,016.95	$1,080,813.00	$1,048,797.92	$252,483.25	$105,369.00	$77,661.05	$27,707.95
Per Capita FY23 Projects:	$2,108,467.00	$1,027,986.32	$1,080,480.68	$3,799,832.37	$1,400,693.63	$2,399,138.74	$156,182.00	$76,146.41	$80,035.59
Per Capita FY24 Projects:	$1,274,231.00	$133,795.21	$1,140,435.79	$954,934.00	$269,268.86	$685,665.14	$92,350.58	$9,866.56	$82,484.02
TPI FY24 Projects:	$250,000.00	$202,644.59	$47,355.41	$125,029.00	$106,346.28	$18,682.72	$20,000.00	$15,010.71	$4,989.29
Statewide Competitive Projects FY24:	$4,987,029.00	$0.00	$4,987,029.00	$2,517,443.16	$0.00	$2,517,443.16	$121,634.85	$0.00	$121,634.85
Per Capita FY25 Projects:	$100,000.00	$0.00	$100,000.00	$50,000.00	$0.00	$50,000.00	$7,407.00	$0.00	$7,407.00
TOTAL:	$16,212,762.03	$8,104,138.77	$7,729,317.83	$16,047,096.24	$9,736,052.15	$6,540,934.93	$616,233.43	$288,281.72	$327,951.71

Region 2 GO TEC Launch in the New River Valley and Roanoke County

Type of Project: **implementation**
Applicant: Montgomery County Public Schools
Localities covered: Montgomery County, Pulaski County, Roanoke County, Giles County, Radford City

Target Industry Cluster(s): Materials and Machinery Manufacturing; Transportation Manufacturing and Autonomy, IT and Emerging Tech, Life Sciences and HealthCare

Investment Strategy: Talent Development Attraction and Retention

Goal: Establish six middle-school GO TEC Career Connections labs

Products:
☐Six new middle-school GO TEC Career Connections Labs in Year 1

☐1,135 middle school students annually participate in hands-on learning experiences across precision machining, welding, IT/cybersecurity, robotics, automation and mechatronics, advanced materials, and health sciences.

☐Six middle school teachers will complete IALR GO TEC training in Year 1

Total GOVA Request: $994,212.64

Total Match: $518,956.20

Total Budget: $1,513,168.84

New River Valley Regional Commission, Site Advancement Strategy

Type of Project: Planning
Applicant: NRV Regional Commission
Participating Localities: Montgomery County, Floyd County

Target Industry Cluster(s): Materials and Machinery Manufacturing; Transportation Manufacturing and Autonomy

Investment Strategy: Collaborative Sites and Infrastructure Development

Goal: Update and expand upon the 2019 VBRSP assessment by evaluating industrial sites across Floyd, Giles, Montgomery, and Pulaski Counties, along with the City of Radford. The project will identify infrastructure gaps, environmental constraints, and site development needs, providing a clear path for advancing sites through the VBRSP tiers.

Products:
☐ Updated site inventory reports and one-page site summaries.
☐A site advancement roadmap.
☐A site selection investment report.

Total GOVA Request: $94,400

Total Match: $108,479

Total Budget: $202,879

Vector Space, Robotics Facility Planning, Lynchburg Region

Type of Project: Planning
Applicant: Vector Space
Participating Localities: City of Lynchburg, Bedford County

Target Industry Cluster(s): Materials and Machinery Manufacturing; IT, Engineering, & Emerging Tech

Investment Strategy: Talent Development, Attraction, and Retention

Goal: investigate the potential opportunities and develop plan for a robotics education facility and new robotics programming in Region 2.

Products:
- Market Analysis/Stakeholder Report
- Architectural Plans
- Robotics Training Program Curriculum
- Equipment Research & Interior Floor Plan Drawings
- Revenue and Sustainability Report
- Budget for Implementation Project

Total GOVA Request: $97,200

Total Match: $48,961

Total Budget: $146,161

United Way of Central Virginia, Childcare & Workforce Development, Lynchburg Region

Type of Project: Planning
Applicant: United Way of Central Virginia, Inc
Participating Localities: City of Lynchburg, Bedford County

Target Industry Cluster(s): Materials and Machinery Manufacturing; IT, Engineering, & Emerging Tech

Investment Strategy: Talent Development, Attraction, and Retention

Goal: Develop a plan for a childcare center, tailored to meet the needs of target industry workforce.

Products:
- Establish Advisory Board and secure target sector employer commitments
- Workforce and market analysis
- Development of pilot program model for employer-focused childcare center or program

Total GOVA Request: **$99,639**

Total Match: **$50,000**
Add. Leverage: $50,000

Total Budget: **$199,639**

GO Virginia Region 2 Quarterly Report

Period: January – March 2025

Total Projects Funded	Total Funds Allocated	Jobs Created to Date	Matching Funds Allocated
53 (41 Projects Completed)	$16,402,887	669	$18,419,174

Area One: Talent development, attraction, and retention

Status	Talent: Aggregated Metrics (from beginning of project – present)									
		Metrics								
	Project	Internships completed	Businesses served	New jobs created	Jobs retained	Students trained	Upskilled employees	Credentials awarded	Dual enrollment	Contract end date
🟧	Industry 4.0 for the Automated- Connected- Electrified (ACE) Workforce	N/A	21	N/A	N/A	55	N/A	N/A	N/A	<u>12/31/2025</u>
🟩	Lynchburg Career Accelerator	192	58	27	N/A	N/A	12	80	N/A	<u>03/01/2026</u>
🟥	ACA Classical & CTE Institute	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	-	N/A	06/30/2026
🟧	Educating Engineers for the Region 2 Workforce	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	07/01/2026
🟩	Developing IT & Cybersecurity Certification Pipeline	N/A	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	-	N/A	07/01/2026

ECB Progress Notes:

🟠 **Bedford Metal Workforce Training Center:** Significant progress was made in continued outreach to selected metals employers and to key education partners. This progress also included exploration of potential trade association and industry programs and partners. Model research is

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GO Virginia Region 2 Quarterly Report

Period: January – March 2025

progressing well. Quarter 1 milestones are currently underway but not complete, with estimated completion in quarter 2. **received no-cost extension through June 30, 2025.**

Implementation Progress Notes:

Lynchburg Career Accelerator: This quarter, we strengthened partnerships and expanded internship and employment opportunities through business meetings and workforce events like the LYH Connect Intern Fair. We provided students with career guidance through one-on-one and small group meetings and supported our 2Gen population with essential resources. Engagement in our programs grew, leading to new pathways with local businesses, including the launch of a Nuclear Tech Academy with Framatome. We also advanced our playbooks for scaling our programs and prepared to activate the Career Acceleration Tool next quarter. While we've built strong partnerships, challenges remain in engaging our 2Gen population and securing entry-level positions for participants without four-year degrees. With our extension, we are on track for completion and look forward to receiving and activating the Career Acceleration Tool in the next quarter.

Industry 4.0 for the Automated- Connected- Electrified (ACE) Workforce: This quarter the project team met on a biweekly basis and the project director met with GENEDGE at least every other week. Five companies completed technology assessments with GENEDEGE; they will move forward with implementation plans. Virtual delivery of Module 2 (Milestone from Q4 2024 that was postponed to Q1 2025) was not completed this quarter. The project team indicates the Project Technical Advisory Committee advised Module 1 should be the priority. **Project received no-cost extension through December 31, 2025, to deliver remaining modules.**

Developing IT & Cybersecurity Certification Pipeline to Advance Cluster Growth: The Certification Center received authorization from Pearson Vue to proctor 100+ exams as part of their IT/Cybersecurity suite. Radford University began proctoring exams and to this point have administered approximately 20 exams. Planning has begun for the first Talent Connector Event. This will be held on April 24th with the support of Radford University's Career and Talent Division. A virtual meeting was held with the three higher education institutions to discuss the upcoming events to close out the Spring Semester. Additional opportunities continue to share about the Certification Center and the Talent Connector Program. Milestone for Q4 2024 was conducted in Q1 2025 by attending Career Expos to reach employers and students regarding the availability of the Certification Center at Radford University. Marketing materials were completed for this effort and revised for Q2 2025 efforts.

Educating Engineers for the Region 2 Workforce: We have a planned expansion of the major, with a new faculty member, new space, and a new engineering major. We have met with at least three workforce and education partners to move partnerships forward and are still in active discussions with Framatome and CVCC particularly, with a new articulation partner of VWCC. We have forged an agreement with an internship

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GO Virginia Region 2 Quarterly Report

partnership with CloudFit. We have continued to teach and refine our more advanced engineering courses, now focusing on the 300- and 400-level courses that will be taught for the first time next year. All the faculty will attend the ABET accreditation conference in April with a goal of then being able to move that forward. We have facilitated numerous internships and have supported application of a number of our students for internships for this coming summer. **Milestones for this quarter are incomplete, with plans to complete in the coming months.**

🔴 **ACA Classical and CTE Institute:** The mechanical and electrical work necessary to support welding and fabrication equipment in the Appomattox facility is largely complete and awaits delivery of the equipment for installation. GO Virginia is funding electrical work, while the Tobacco Commission is funding mechanical (HVAC) work. The Tobacco Commission's approval of budget adjustments related to the electrical work took four months. This timing issue highlights a broader realization that this document's timeline is too ambitious. **Staff will meet with project lead to discuss contract extension.**

Area Two: Collaborative Sites and infrastructure

Status	Collaborative Sites and Infrastructure Implementation Projects: Aggregated Metrics							
		Metrics						
	Project	Acres advanced	Increased locality engagement	Prospects	Businesses attracted	Linear feet of sewer/water/gas	Acres developed	Contract end date
🟩	Falling Branch Corporate Park	-	N/A	N/A	N/A	0/2800/NA	N/A	07/01/2025

ECB Progress Notes:

🟢 **GMP Clean:** Clean Room installation began this quarter and is on pace for April start date. Cleanroom and FPLC are purchased- working with VT procurement on a lyophilizer and TFF. Company interviews are complete, we have spoken to nearly 50 associated groups about the need for cleanrooms, their readiness, and timelines. We are pausing interviews until cleanroom is operational and SOPs are developed for GMP manufacturing. Actively working to recruit companies to use cleanroom facility; need to finalize construction before starting in earnest. Operations are getting started, with FBRI team being organized to manage space & work with FDA on CMC audits. Inventory and needs

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assessment for future cleanroom space is complete. Project team identified sites for larger scale cleanroom are identified through stakeholder engagement. Business and Financial plan is complete.

Implementation Progress Notes:

Falling Branch Corporate Park: Installation of 12" water line was completed. Installation of 6' fiber optic conduit system is nearing completion, with approximately 300' feet remaining. Project grading and road grading are 70% complete. MSB issued updated construction schedule with April 19, 2025 completion date. The water line, grading, road, and stormwater will be complete by June 30, 2025. An extension will be needed for the sewer pump station and sewer force main. Weather was a barrier again this quarter as moisture readings remained too high for the contractor to be able to place fill. **Project team requested no-cost GOVA contract extension form.**

Area Three: Entrepreneurship and Business Development

Status	Project	Jobs created	Existing businesses expanded	New businesses created	Businesses served	Entrepreneurs engaged	Mentors engaged	Contract end date
	Entrepreneurship: Aggregated Metrics from Implementation Projects							
					Metrics			
	CS/root	6	N/A	10	N/A	535	45	03/30/2025
	Center for Entrepreneurship	2	N/A	N/A	16	N/A	N/A	03/14/2026
	Strengthening Entrepreneurs' Impact	71	22	1	53	79	45	11/30/2025

Implementation Progress Notes:

Center for Entrepreneurship: The Center for Entrepreneurship hosted an educational workshop on local loans available and connected two companies to extra resources at CERE and University of Lynchburg. The center updated the Advisory Board on March 6. The new meeting space for the Center was created at the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance. Ventur Magazine quarterly milestone was not complete, as Ventur is on hold while the Center hires a new marketing professional.

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GO Virginia Region 2 Quarterly Report

Period: January – March 2025

●**Strengthening Entrepreneurs' Impact:** ENP expanded with the Carilion Clinic Biodesign Program at Virginia Tech, integrating its students into the program. ENP was also highlighted in university presentations at Roanoke College and VT's National Security Institute. Jess Edwards supported 12 new entrepreneurs, including biotech students and faculty, with three startups (Helix Hydrogen, Living Room Studios, and NebulaNeuro) added to the "businesses served" metric. NebulaNeuro was accepted into the RAMP In Residence program. On Feb. 21, RBIA/RAMP hosted a roundtable with Roanoke County and Carilion Clinic to strengthen partnerships and discuss innovation ecosystem opportunities, with 19 attendees. A spring 2025 ON RAMP cohort was added beyond GOVA metrics, with four tentative participants. Facebook marketing was used for recruitment, and the program includes seven virtual sessions and one in-person session. On Jan. 28, two entrepreneurs pitched their ideas to a six-member mentor panel, with one new mentor added. A new Exit RAMP Fellows Program launched, providing alumni with UNC MBA support. Nine alumni received one-on-one support. A mentor SaaS platform was introduced, with a training event engaging 13 mentors and nine alumni. A sales workshop on Feb. 5 engaged two new alumni. A mentor-alumni networking event on March 5 attracted 30 attendees, recruiting seven potential mentors. A RAMP Mentor Orientation is scheduled for March 27.

●**CS/root:** This quarter cs/root made significant progress toward several grant outcomes. The project accepted its largest cohort of entrepreneurs. A total of 13 applicants resulted in 8 companies joining the spring 2025 cohort. Three new members of the cs/root board were added – Mary Miller, Matt Tolentino, and Ben Congleton – and we intend to increase the board to around 20 members, with two subcommittees being formed to help support fundraising and curricular offerings. The project has not officially met its goal to raise $100,000 in philanthropic support. The Department raised $47,500 in Q1 and has an additional $20,000 in pledged donations that are still in process. The project did not meet its milestone to establish new businesses in the VTCRC because the CRC has been slow to approve new entrants and companies would only have received benefits for a short time (till March 31st). **The CS/root project is now in closeout phase.**

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Speakers Bureau 2025

Council Member	Location	Date
Greg Feldman	RVA Regional Commission	March 27
Bif Johnson	Amherst County Board of Supervisors	April 1
Kimball Payne	Campbell County Board of Supervisors	April 1
Paul Denham	Appomattox County Board of Supervisors	April 21
Jacob Wright	Covington City Council	May 6
Eddie Amos	Central Virginia Community College	May 8

Thank you!

2025 Growth & Diversification Plan Industry Work Groups

IT, Emerging Tech. & **Engineering** Services	**Life Science** & **Biotechnology**	**Manufacturing** (Transportation, Energy, Autonomy) & **Advanced Materials**	
Roanoke Higher Ed. Center		*VT CRC*	*LRBA*
Fri. April 25, 1-3 PM	Fri. May 9, 9-11 AM	Th. May 15, 3-5 PM	Th. May 22, 1-3 PM

RSVP

Who Should Participate?
- Business Executives & Owners,
- Operations & HR Directors,
- Business, Education, & Workforce Development Experts,
- Industry Associations & Advocacy Groups,
- Government & Economic Development Representatives

2025 GO Virginia Impact Survey

5-10 minutes

Purpose: Evaluate the program's impact on our target industries and collect feedback from regional stakeholders (public and private) to improve Region 2's strategic plan and *guide future funding prioritization.*

Audience: Council members, regional stakeholders (industry, education, talent, etc.)

https://virginiatech.questionpro.com/gova-impact

Virginia Chamber Statewide AI Landscape Assessment

Approved effective 3/1/2025

Region 2 Blueprint Virginia 2035 Tour Dates:

April 30, 2025 | 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Shenandoah Club: 24 Franklin Rd SE, Roanoke, VA 24011

May 7, 2025| 7:30 AM - 9:00 AM
300 Lucado Pl. Lynchburg, VA 24504

Board Policy #10 Helene Business Recovery Initiative

▶ Funding available to GOVA Regions 1, 2, and 3 to address business needs in response to Hurricane Helene

▶ Available until June 30, 2025

▶ Waived local match and traded sector project requirements

▶ **NRV Regional Commission Business Solutions project**

　　o Resource for businesses to prepare for future major weather events

　　o Collaboration between SBDC and county business solutions contacts

GO Virginia Region 2 Council Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2025, 1:00p.m.- 3:00p.m.

Fralin Biomedical Research Institute, Room G-101A/B, 4 Riverside Circle, Roanoke, Virginia, 24016.

Council members in attendance: Doug Agner, Eddie Amos (Chair), John Capps, Janice Crawford, Whitney Czelusniak, Paul Denham (Vice-chair), Greg Feldmann, Dr. Michael Friedlander, Don Halliwill, Vince Hatcher, Bif Johnson, Kim Payne, Luke Towles, Cathy Underwood, Richmond Vincent, Amy White, Justin Yalung.

Council members attending remotely: Nanci Hardwick, Debbie Petrine, John Putney.

Council members not in attendance: Fourd Kemper, Marty Muscatello, Amy Sebring, Jacob Wright.

Staff in attendance: John Provo, Scott Tate, Jemma Sabokrouh, Sarah Lyon-Hill, Rachel Jones, Alyssa McKenney, Emmalee Wagner, Julia Kell.

Public in attendance: Cody Anderson, Andrew McFarland, Erin Burcham, Katie Conner, Nichole Hair, Rebecca Rowe, Shara Gibson.

The meeting convened at 1:00p.m. and adjourned at 2:35p.m.

Financials Review

Alyssa McKenney reviewed the financial reports included in the board packet. Council has a remaining balance of $1,539,702 in per-capita funds. Alyssa then reviewed active project drawdown status.

Project Pipeline

Jemma Sabokrouh reviewed the project pipeline. There are 7 possible proposals that may come before council, including a site development planning project, CS/root AI focused initiative, a nursing program expansion, Project Skill Shift, AI professional development pilot program, SMR location analysis, and GOTEC in the New River Valley.

Administrative Updates

Quarterly Project Reporting

Rachel Jones reviewed active project status, noting there are 2 current projects listed in yellow, meaning they did not meet one or more quarter 3 milestones and staff is monitoring. Industry 4.0 for the Automated- Connected-Electrified (ACE) Workforce is listed in yellow as the project has fallen behind in metrics reporting for students trained. Project team in process of submitting a no-cost extension request in order to complete the delivery of their modules. Lynchburg Career Accelerator is also listed in

yellow due to a delay in the completion of their career acceleration tool. Project is in process of submitting a no-cost extension request in order to complete the tool, as well as two additional playbooks focused on program pausers and 2nd generation participants.

Tableau Dashboard Review

Rachel Jones shared state staff's newly created tableau dashboard, highlighting program impact from across the state. This is a work in progress as only data from closed implementation grants have been uploaded at this time.

Special Update

G&D Plan Discussion

Sarah Lyon-Hill reviewed the process of updating the Region 2 Growth & Diversification Plan noting there will be employer workgroup roundtables held in the Spring. Sarah requested council members to indicate whether or not they are willing and available to participate.

Council Business

Speakers Bureau

Chairman Amos requested council members to volunteer for the upcoming speaker's bureau 2025 session. Members who wish to participate should reach out to staff or chairman Amos.

Council Membership

Chairman Amos offered the names of Rich Diddams, Liberty University, and Caley Edgerly, Sonny Merryman, to fill the vacancies existing in the Lynchburg sub-region. There were no questions or comments.

Greg Feldmann motioned to nominate Rich Diddams and Caley Edgerly. Vince Hatcher seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

Vice-chair Paul Denham recommended the reappointment of Eddie Amos as chair for an additional 1-year term.

John Capps motioned to reappointment Eddie Amos as chair. Richmond Vincent seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

Chairman Amos then informed the council that the executive committee has filled an existing vacancy with Whitney Czelusniak joining the committee.

Minutes

Council reviewed minutes from the Region 2 Council Meeting held on October 30, 2024. Chairman Amos asked if there were any corrections, additions, or questions regarding the minutes; there were none.

Greg Feldmann motioned to approve the minutes. John Capps seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:35p.m.

Board Policy #10

TITLE: Helene Business Recovery Initiative (HBRI)

EFFECTIVE DATE: 11/01/2024 – 06/30/2025

AUTHORITY: § 2.2-2486 - §2.2-2489 of the Code of Virginia

POLICY STATEMENT: It is the policy of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board that the Helene Business Recovery Initiative (HBRI) be created herein.

$1.5M in FY25 Competitive Funds will be used to create HBRI. HBRI funding shall be available on a competitive basis for the following GO Virginia Regions: Region 1, Region 2, and Region 3.

To accelerate the deployment of resources, DHCD shall be granted the power to administratively approve applications that meet the guidelines to be developed for HBRI. The agency may approve projects awards up to $250K and applications will be accepted on a rolling basis for these projects.

HRBI funds originally sourced from the Competitive Fund that are not obligated when this program sunsets will be returned to the Competitive Fund.

Local match requirements for projects qualifying under HBRI shall be waived in their entirety without the need for completion of a GO Virginia match waiver document. Projects shall require the participation of two or more localities as defined in existing GO Virginia Regional Collaboration and Local Participation administrative guidance.

The Board hereby waives match limits to the use of the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission otherwise established by Board Policy #12 for those projects qualifying under HBRI.

Projects qualifying under HBRI may target traded or non-traded industries without regard for a Regional Council's declaration of those industries in their Economic Growth and Diversification Plan.

DHCD staff shall develop guidelines and scoring criteria for the administration of HBRI.

APPROVAL AND REVIEW: This Board policy was reviewed and approved on 12/11/2025.

SUPERSESSION: This Board policy replaces Board Policy #10 governing the expired Economic Recovery and Resilience Program.

DHCD DIRECTOR: Bryan Horn