



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

GO Virginia Region 2

Go Virginia Region 2 Council Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2019

3:00pm-5:00pm

Greenfield Education and Training Center

Daleville, VA

Members in Attendance: Marla Akridge, Fred Armstrong, Dr. Nathaniel Bishop, Ab Boxley, Dr. John Capps, Kenneth Craig, Sandy Davis, Dr. John Dooley, Watt Foster, William Fralin, Dr. Michael Friedlander, Mike Hamlar, Dr. Victor Iannello, Terry Jamerson, Dr. Pareena Lawrence, Floyd Merryman, Marty Muscatello, Dr. Ray Smoot, John Williamson.

Members Participating Remotely: Dr. Brian Hemphill.

Staff in Attendance: Dr. John Provo, Dr. Scott Tate, and Jennifer Morgan.

Public in Attendance: Carole Tarrant, Virginia Western Community College Educational Foundation; Gail Johnson, Alleghany Highlands Economic Development Corporation; Annette Patterson, The Advancement Foundation; Sam English, Valleys Innovation Council; Stephanie Seagle, Virginia Western Community College; Deborah Flippo, Draper Aden Associates; Aisha Johnson, City of Roanoke; John Lanford, Alleghany County; James Griffith, Alleghany County; Darlene Burcham, Town of Clifton Forge; Mary Anne Hollbrook, United Way of Southwest Virginia; Leann Vernon, United Way of Southwest Virginia; Christopher Whitlow, Franklin County; Patrick O'Brien, New River Valley Regional Commission; Healthy Fay, Botetourt County; Ken McFadyen, Botetourt County.

Chairman Smoot convened the meeting at 3:05pm.

Council Business

Chairman Smoot asked the Council to approve minutes from the November Full Council Meeting. Dr. Dooley moved to approve the minutes and Dr. Iannello seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed.

Staff presented to Council the moving to quarterly full Council meetings to align with State meetings. The schedule for the 2019 calendar year is as follows: May 7th, 10am-12pm; August 2nd, 10am-12pm; and October 22nd, 3pm-5pm.

Chairman Smoot nominated Matthew Stewart to replace Patrick Collignon on the Council and Tulane Patterson to replace E.W. Tibbs. Mr. Stewart was present and Chairman Smoot asked the nominee to introduce himself to the Council. Chairman Smoot asked the Council to vote on approving Mr. Stewart and



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Mr. Patterson to the Council. Mr. Williamson moved to approve Mr. Stewart to the Council and Mr. Hamlar seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed. Mr. Armstrong moved to approve Mr. Patterson to the Council and Mr. Merryman seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed. The Council recommended Mr. Stewart and Mr. Patterson to the state GO Virginia Board for final approval.

Chairman Smoot stated by terms of the Bylaws the chair of the committee can appoint members to the Executive Committee. Chairman Smoot appointed Beverly Dalton to replace E.W. Tibbs on Executive Committee.

By action taken at November’s meeting, the Council voted to move to staggered terms. Each member of the Council were asked to draw a one, two, or three year term, to be equally distributed amongst the regions. The results are below.

	Lynchburg	New River Valley	Roanoke/Alleghany
One Year Term, ending 1/20	Fred Armstrong	John Dooley	Do Halliwill
	Floyd Merryman	Brian Hemphill	Victor Iannello
	Georgeann Snead		Debbie Petrine
			John Williamson
Two Year Term, ending 1/21	John Capps	Sandy Davis	Marla Akridge
	Watt Foster	Marty Muscatello	Ab Boxley
	John Putney		Michael Friedlander
			Pareena Lawrence
Three Year Term, ending 1/22	Kennth Craig	Ray Smoot	Nathaniel Bishop
	Beverly Dalton	Matthew Stewart	William Fralin
			Mike Hamlar
			Terry Jamerson

Dr. Friedlander motioned to approve the new staggered terms and Mr. Boxley seconded. All were in favor and none opposed.

Staff noted to Council a final draft report on TEconomy that will be presented to the state GO Virginia Board at their next meeting. This presentation is included in the packet materials. Chairman Smoot asked for an in depth briefing at the next GO Virginia Council meeting.





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Project Review

Project One: Ignite, The United Way of Southwest Virginia

Council Questions and Discussion:

Dr. Scott Tate (OED) provided a summary of staff review and expert feedback of the project. Leann Vernon (Applicant) provided a summary of the project. Ignite facilitates regional collaboration between schools and employers to equip and retain the next generation of the local workforce. This project is currently funded in GO Virginia Region 1 and seeks to expand to all Pulaski, Giles, and Radford middle and high school students. Reviewers stated this project is comprehensive and focused on a system of change with strong partnerships and support letters from industry and school systems. Concerns center on if the program is too young to have clear evidence of impact and if the connection is strong enough to higher wage jobs in target sectors in terms of industry experience opportunities and occupational awareness. Dr. Iannello and Mr. Fralin were concerned about matching students with companies within the region. Dr. Capps asked applicant how this project would expand. Ms. Vernon stated that all school districts will be required to facilitate this type of program in the future and this program is giving the region a leg up on linking schools and employers to facilitate strong relationships. Mr. Williamson motioned to approve the project and Ms. Davis seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed.

Project Two: Expanding the Business Development and Entrepreneurial Ecosystem, The Advancement Foundation

Council Questions and Discussion:

Dr. Scott Tate (OED) provided a summary of staff review and expert feedback of the project. Ms. Annette Patterson (Applicant) provided a summary of the project. This project is a resubmission based on previous Council feedback. TAF's Innovation Mill (The Mill) focuses on leveraging business resources, entrepreneur resource partners, industry experts, and partners to increase business readiness and success rate for new high growth companies. Reviewers stated this project addresses the top end of the funnel - a centralized system that will recruit new and early stage companies to fill and support the growth within the entrepreneurial pipeline. However, reviewers also stated this project is a lot to coordinate and manage and the goal of 50 firms in two years may



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be aggressive/ambitious for the region. Dr. Dooley, Dr. Lawrence, Dr. Iannello, and Mr. Fralin stressed concerns over the ability to find and serve 50 high growth companies in the region and match each company to a mentor. Dr. Dooley and Dr. Iannello asked if this project could be completed on a smaller scale for half of the funding commitment. Ms. Patterson stated it could. Dr. Iannello motioned to fund the project at one half the requested amount for one half the time and to consider the project again in one year. Mr. Hamlar seconded the motion. All favored and Dr. Dooley opposed.

Project Development and Existing Grantees

Staff shared with Council that staff has received two letters of interest and three possible regional projects on behalf of the Council.

Staff presented to Council that all current grantees submitted their quarter four reports to staff and to DHCD with minor issues. Mr. Fralin noted the Drone Zone and RAMP should not be considered “green” for they are behind in some of their metrics and requested a updated report prior to the next Council meeting.

Staff presented to Council a memo related to the remittance process for grantees. Chairman Smoot noted the frustration between grantees, DHCD, and staff in reimbursing grantees on their receipts to effectively run their grants. Mr. Fralin noted the memo mentioned Virginia Tech advancing money to grantees to then process reimbursements and “clawback” the money later. He and Mr. Hamlar did not feel comfortable allowing this and want the Council to vote on this. Chairman Smoot asked for a suspension of advancing project funds pending further review by the Council and asked staff to dive deeper into the risks and benefits of supporting this.

Public Comment

Chairman Smoot called for public comment. Darlene Burcham, Town of Clifton Forge suggested the Council elect a member from the K12 school system on to the Council to represent K12 issues. She also stated that all local governments deal with grants on a reimbursement basis and this should be normal and understood for grantees.

Reference

Staff noted to the Council that some are due for Conflict of Interest training and to be aware of an email following the meeting mentioning Conflict of Interest.

Chairman Smoot adjourned the meeting at 5:11pm.



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