

REGIONAL COUNCIL 9 – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

APRIL 23, 2020

9:00 am to 10:00 am

Due to the declared COVID-19 State of Emergency this meeting was held via ZOOM link or call-in.

MINUTES

Attendees

Members: Jim Cheng (Chair), Ed Scott (Vice Chair); Andy Wade (Treasurer), Tom Click, Pace Lochte, David Pettit

Absent: Felix Sarfo-Kantanka

Staff: Shannon Holland, Helen Cauthen

1. Welcome

Jim Cheng called the meeting to order at 9:01 am.

2. Public Comment

There were no members of the public present on the call. Public comment forms were available with Public Meeting Notices and the Agenda. Public Comments were to be provided by email by 7:00 am the morning of April 23, 2020. No public comments were received.

3. Meeting Minutes from December 12, 2019

Meeting Minutes were provided for information purposes only as action was not critical for addressing the current state of emergency.

4. Financials through February 29, 2020

Financial statements were provided for information purposes only as action was not critical for addressing the current state of emergency.

5. Review FY 2021 Capacity Building Budget due to DHCD by 5/29

Jim Cheng shared that the Region 9 Council must provide a Capacity Building Budget for FY2021 to DHCD by May 29 adding that the draft budget was provided for the committee to review and consider for a recommendation to the Council for approval at the April 30 Council Meeting.

David Pettit made a motion to recommend the FY2021 Capacity Building Budget as presented to the Council for approval at the April 30 Council Meeting. Ed Scott seconded the motion. The motion carried.

6. GO Virginia Economic Resilience and Recovery Grants

Jim Cheng advised that on April 17 the GO Virginia Board voted to create the GO Virginia Economic Resilience and Recovery (ERR) Grants program, as well as temporarily eased match requirements on remaining FY 20 Per Capita grants. He asked Shannon Holland to review the DHCD grant rollout presentation. Then he asked the committee to discuss ways that the Council could be responsive to regional economic COVID needs and drive ERR projects and prepare recommendations for the April 30 Council Meeting. Some of the questions discussed included:

- How can we accelerate Council's review and approval process?
- Should a special Task Force be appointed or should existing Task Forces be activated?
- Should we use the DHCD application for this program, as requested?
- How can review and approval process be compressed to be responsive to needs?
- Other questions?

After discussion, the following directions were established for staff and further discussion at the April 30

Council Meeting:

- Task Force – A separate task force should be set up to respond to the state of emergency and drive ERR related projects. Such a task force should focus on nimbleness and responsiveness to ensure the region is going in one direction quickly.
- Partners – The council can rely on these resources and activities currently existing:
 - Regional Economic Development Partners
 - Project Rebound – A new initiative led by the Charlottesville Regional Chamber in partnership with Economic Development leadership at Albemarle County, UVA and the City of Charlottesville is just underway to create workgroups on specific industries and topics affected by this emergency. Helen Cauthen is coordinating regional representation on these workgroups. Their report is due June 10, at this point.
- Suggested ERR priorities
 - Drive e-commerce, support ability to work remotely, and grow capacity in digital marketing resources to not only respond to current market but the shape of the markets in the future
 - Support initiatives that drive exponential growth in testing, PPE availability, sanitizing, etc., that will help industry get back to work safely and quickly.
 - Explore opportunities to support locally traded sectors
- ERR projects might include:
 - Talent Development Project from Central Virginia Partnership
 - Support for expanding Project Rebound or supporting recommendations from report
 - Projects supporting capacity and impact of existing activities such as networks of programs that are currently serving industry (i.e. through localities, SBDC's, CIC, etc.)
 - Opportunities from recommendations in Venture Hub/Rural E-ship reports

7. Other Business - Limited to Emergency Items Only

No other business was presented.

8. Adjourn

Tom Click made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:59 am. The motion carried.