



**REGIONAL COUNCIL 9
TASK FORCE (GROW EXISTING BUSINESS) + STRIKE FORCE MEETING
JULY 20, 2020
2:30 PM to 3:30 PM
Zoom Link or Call-In**

Due to the COVID crisis this meeting was held via electronic means details included with this agenda.

*Public Comments are welcome. To submit a public comment form, enclosed, complete the attached form and email to sholland@centralvirginia.org by 7 am the day of this meeting.

MINUTES

Attending Grow Existing Businesses Strike Force and COVID Strike Force Council Members: Jim Cheng, , Brian Cole, Jim Crozier, Ed Dalrymple, Ray Knott, Ed Scott, Alicia Pitorri

Absent Council Members: Tom Click, Pace Lochte

Other Council Members: None

Staff: Shannon Holland, Helen Cauthen

Guests: None

1. Welcome

Ed Scott, Chair

Ed Scott opened the meeting at 2:32 pm and he stated that the meeting was being held electronically via Zoom video and call-in due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor.

2. Roll Call

Shannon Holland, Director

Shannon Holland performed a roll call attendance and attendance is noted above.

3. Public Comment

Ed Scott

Ed Scott stated the meeting had been publicly noticed and a public comment form was made available. All public comments were to be emailed by 7 am today. Shannon Holland stated that no public comments had been received.

4. Approve Prior Meeting Minutes, as needed

Ed Scott

Ed Dalrymple made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes as presented. Jim Cheng seconded the motion. Jim Crozier abstained. The motion carried via a roll call vote.

5. Strike Force Update, as needed

Ed Scott

Ed Scott stated that there was no ERR FAST ACCESS or ECB FAST ACCESS less than 100,000 had been received for review since the last Strike Force meeting.

6. Project Review(s) and Vote(s), as needed

Ed Scott

Ed Scott noted that the applicant for the Propel Central Virginia ERR (>100,000) had withdrawn the application.

7. Inter-Regional Project(s) Review(s) and Vote(s), as needed

Ed Scott

Ed Scott noted that as the GO Virginia program has matured, there has been a surge Inter-Regional or Statewide applications pursuing competitive funds including requests for Letters of Support. Ed Scott requested feedback on three requests for Letters of Support and action requested from the GENEDGE project.

Discussions ensued regarding the following three projects and general recommendations were discussed to share at the Region 9 Council Meeting.

- VA Bio Connect, modeled and originally led by CvilleBioHub, is now being driven by Region 4 through VA Bio. The general discussion was that the Council should support the development and approval of this statewide proposal. One individual requested that the applicant clarify the source of match required, if any, from Region 9 during their presentation at the July 23 Council Meeting.
- SBDC Statewide Application led by Region 7 was discussed in depth. In general, it was recognized that due to the extraordinary circumstances related to COVID this project was meaningful as an ERR project. However, the group recommends that SBDC take steps to address the “dis-incentivizing” localities that can contribute match from withdrawing support if GO Virginia funds become available through this grant.
- MBD Middle Mile Broadband is led by Region 3 as an Enhanced Capacity Building Grant so it doesn’t require funding contributions from Region 9 but does have several regional localities listed as being served. Concern was expressed because the project has been in development outside of GO Virginia for several years and that this proposal left little time to evaluate this project and garner feedback from impacted counties. Though Region 9 includes broadband expansion as an opportunity for Growing Existing Businesses it’s unclear if this particular project would be a priority. The general thought was that though Region 9 supports the critical need for broadband expansion there is not enough time to evaluate benefits to Region 9 and we don’t know the level of support from regional localities. It was announced that Shannon Holland and Helen Cauthen would be attending a call later in the day to hear more from the applicant.
- GENEDGE “Retooling” statewide project requires a Region 9 Advisory Committee nominee. It was suggested that Tom Click would be a likely candidate to be approached to serve in this role.

8. Other Business

Ed Scott

No new business was presented.

9. Adjourn

Ed Scott

Jim Crozier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:27 pm. Ed Dalrymple seconded the motion.