

REGIONAL COUNCIL 9

APRIL 30, 2020

9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

Due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency this meeting was held via Zoom link and conference line. Details enclosed.

MINUTES

Attending Council Members: Jim Cheng, Cav Angels (Chair); Ed Scott, EcoSeptix Alliance (Vice Chair); Andy Wade, Louisa County (Treasurer); Brian Cole, LexisNexis; Chip Boyles, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission; Christian Goodwin, Louisa County; David Pettit, Flora Pettit; Ed Dalrymple, Cedar Mountain Stone; Hon. Jim Crozier, Orange County; Felix Sarfo-Kantanka, Dominion Energy; Jan Gullickson, Germanna Community College; Kurt Krueger, McGuireWoods; Liz Walters, Bingham & Taylor; Mansour Azimipour, A & K Development; Miles Friedman, Fauquier County; Pace Lochte, University of Virginia Economic Development; Patrick Mauney, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission; Paul McCulla, Fauquier County; Ray Knott, Union Bank & Trust; Shelby Bruguere, Dickie Brothers Orchard; Tom Click, Patriot Aluminum

Special Guest: Kim Blosser, Lord Fairfax Community College as Special Guest of the Council;

Absent Council Members: Frank Friedman, Piedmont Virginia Community College; Hon. Tony O'Brien, Fluvanna County

Staff: Helen Cauthen, Kristy Dancy, Shannon Holland

Guests: Candace Spence, Central Virginia Partnership; Catherine Renault, Innovation Policyworks; Erik Pages, Entrenworks; Phil Sheridan, Culpeper County; Greg Rosko, PVCC; Rachel Hobbs, UVA Economic Development; Roger Johnson, Albemarle County; Rose Deal, Culpeper; Tracey Gardner, Madison County; Valeria Palamountain, PVCC

Welcome

Jim Cheng called the meeting to order at 9:32 am.

- COVID 19 State of Emergency Statement:
Jim Cheng stated that this meeting is being held electronically via Zoom, instead of in person due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor and that agenda items and discussions would be limited to those directly related to addressing urgent matters that, if delayed, could result in irrevocable public harm from GO Virginia not advancing pipeline projects to respond to the economic crisis.
- Roll Call
Jim Cheng asked Shannon Holland to perform a roll call and confirm that a quorum was present. A quorum was present.

Public Comment

Jim Cheng noted that public comment forms had been included in the packet and posted with meeting notices to be submitted to staff by 7 am. Shannon Holland stated that no public comment forms had been submitted.

Meeting Minute January 30, 2020

Jim Cheng stated that he Meeting Minutes provided were for informational purposes only and that approval will be deferred.

Financials through February 29, 2020

Jim Cheng stated that he Financial Report provided were for informational purposes only and that approval will be deferred.

Appoint Nominating Committee

Jim Cheng stated that the Council Bylaws require the appointment of a Nominating Committee at the meeting immediately prior to the Annual Meeting and in the new Nominating Committee will meet between the May 15 and mid-June to select a Slate from the Nominations received by May 15. Also, he stated that Nominating forms are available on the Council website. Jim Cheng announced the new committee would include Jan Gullickson, Tom Click, Brian Cole, Patrick Mauney, and Jim Cheng and that terms would begin after the meeting.

Approve FY2021 Capacity Building Budget

Jim Cheng stated that the FY21 Capacity Building must be approved and submitted to DHCD by May 29 ahead of a June Board Meeting review. Jim Cheng added that the Executive Committee reviewed at its April 23 rd meeting and recommends it to the Council for approval.

David Pettit made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Ray Knott seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Present Rural E-ship Action Plan, Camoin 310

Jim Cheng introduced Erik Pages, Entrenworks, and Catherine Renault, Innovation Policyworks, to present the final Rural Entrepreneurship Action Plan Report. The slide show as included in the meeting materials.

Several Council Members commented on the report including:

- The E squared youth e-ship program in Culpeper has been successful because the hundreds of businesses and volunteers committed to supporting it.
- The availability of free secondary education curricula for youth e-ship and the existence of a resource called the Consortium for E-Ship Education including ways to align with SOLs.
- The PATH Foundation is funding Youth E-ship Councils in high schools throughout Fauquier County that will support continued growth of youth e-ship.
- The importance of having local / county based locations for convening entrepreneurs
- Appreciation that this report was customized and reflective of Region 9.

Vote to Accept Rural E-ship Report

Ed Scott made a motion to accept the final report as presented. Shelby Bruguiere seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Chair Update

- Review GO Virginia Economic Resilience and Recovery Grants
- Review Per Capita Grants – Temporary Match Easing

Jim Cheng asked Shannon Holland to lead the presentation included in the meeting packet regarding the new GO Virginia Economic Resiliency and Recovery (ERR) Grant Program and the temporarily relaxed Per Capita grant match requirements.

- Appoint Task Force

Jim Cheng stated that the Executive Committee met on April 23 and had two recommendations for responding to the COVID crisis and the opportunity offered by the new ERR grant program. The Executive Committee recommends that Strike Force be named to lead the development of grants and even to possibly review and approve those grants. Jim Cheng stated that he, Ed Dalrymple, Ray Knott, Pace Lochte, Tom Click, and Ed Scott were willing to serve on such a Strike Force if the Council would vote to create it.

David Pettit made a motion to create the strike force. Mansour Azimipour seconded the motion.

Discussion ensued on whether this strike force could be assigned authority to review ERR grants less than \$100,000 and ECB grants less than \$100,000 in order to be responsive to the crisis. David Pettit shared that the Bylaws precluded the Executive Committee from approving grants and that the Bylaws could not be changed without public notice. However, when those Bylaws were written the circumstances were far more extreme than anyone could have projected. Other options could include the Chair calling Special Council Meetings to review and approve projects. Additional discussion ensued around how long such a Strike Force should exist and be empowered to approve projects. Based on the discussion David Pettit asked Mansour Azimipour if he could revise the motion. Mansour Azimipour consented.

David Pettit revised the motion to create a strike force to solicit, identify and approve projects for ERR of less than

100k and ECB less than 100k pursuant to newly simplified DHCD grant review procedures and that authority should expire when such procedures are not in effect and the existence and authority of the Strike Force should be reviewed at the next Council Meeting. Jim Crozier seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Jim Cheng stated that at the April 23rd Executive Committee priorities for ERR grants were suggested including:

- Drive e-commerce, support ability to work remotely, and grow digital marketing capacity
- Drive exponential growth in testing, PPE availability, sanitizing, etc., that will help industry get back to work safely/quickly.
- Explore opportunities to support locally traded sectors as suggested by DHCD

Liz Walters recommended an additional priority:

- Helping connect the large number of displaced workers with available positions and/or help connect to retraining opportunities in in-demand career fields

Jim Cheng said that staff was seeking approval from the Council for suggestions to accelerate review and approval of ERR Fast Track (<100k) and ECB grants (<100k) for which they were asking approval. The suggestions were:

1. Staff can simplify application
2. Accept these applications on a rolling basis instead of previously stated deadlines
3. Accelerate Council review to 1 to 5 business days

Ed Dalrymple made a motion to approve the staff recommendations as submitted. Mansour Azimipour seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Crafting Higher Paying Jobs Project Update

Jim Cheng introduced Dean Valerie Palamountain to present the “Crafting” project updated requested by Council at the January meeting. The Crafting project has met or exceeded metrics but due to the extenuating circumstances of COVID-19 has determined that establishing on-site training facilities is no longer feasible. Dean Palamountain stated that the project expects to complete reporting and remittances by June 30, the contract end date, however, there will be approximately \$180,000 to \$190,000 of funds that will not have been spent. Shannon Holland explained that DHCD has advised in the past that those funds would go back in the Region 9 Per Capita funds for future grants.

Other Business- Limited to Emergency Issues

Jim Cheng asked Shannon to discuss a time sensitive issue that had just come up on the GWC PTEC project. Shannon Holland shared that due to COVID related issues the GWC PTEC project is expected to request a contract extension from 4/23/2020 to 12/31/2020 in order to reallocate remaining un spent budget - around 80k for renovation of welding school to more appropriately leverage new partnership with Germanna in taking over the welding school and to ensure contract project metrics are met, i.e. students trained and certified.

Mansour Azimipour made a motion to approve the extension as presented. Paul McCulla seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Upcoming Date

- Region 9 Council Meeting, June 19, Annual Meeting
- Region 9 Application Deadlines - May 26 / September 8
- GO Virginia Board Meeting, Richmond, VA – June 23

Adjourn

Felix Sarfo-Kantanka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:13 am. Tom Click seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Region 9 Council Meeting via ZOOM or Call-in: Information below

Topic: Region 9 Council Meeting

Time: Apr 30, 2020 09:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93820894179?pwd=RytOUFhkSTdOUk4rTk9RUmRaY0hGQT09>

Meeting ID: 938 2089 4179

Password: 123099

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Dial by your location

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