



GO VIRGINIA REGION 9 COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 8, 2023

9:30 am to 11:30 am

ALL-VIRTUAL

Virtual attendance details were provided in the agenda.

MINUTES

Attending (all virtual): Ethan Dunstan, UVA Community Credit Union (Chair); Francoise Seillier-Moiseiwitsch, Revalation Vineyards (Treasurer/Secretary); Kenny Allison, The Coleman Group; Rob Archer, Codebase Coworking; Roque Castro, Elysium LD Technology, Inc.; Tom Click, Patriot Industries; Brian Cole, LexisNexis Reed Tech; Christian Goodwin, Louisa County; Ray Knott, Atlantic Union Bank; Patrick Mauney, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission; Tony O'Brien, Fluvanna County; Brandon Payne, Ruckersville Self Storage; Paige Read, Town of Culpeper; Andy Wade, Louisa County; Jonathon Weakley, Madison County; Tina Weaver, Papa Weaver's Pork, Inc.

Absent: Kim Blosser, Laurel Ridge Community College; Jim Cheng, CAV Angels; Gizelle Curtis, Dominion Energy; Christine Jacobs, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission; Pace Lochte, UVA Economic Development; Jean Runyon, Piedmont Virginia Community College

Staff: Helen Cauthen, Shannon Holland, Christie Taylor

Guests:

Kristen Costello, Dewberry; Rose Deal, Orange County; Joseph Dennie, DHCD; Sara Dunnigan, DHCD; Wilson Flohr, Region 4; Marc Gribben, JLARC; Hannah Garfinkel, JLARC; Rachael Hobbs, UVA Economic Development; Craig Honick, Good People Research; Bryan Rothamel, Culpeper County; Candance Spence, CVPED; Sam Spencer

1. Welcome

Ethan Dunstan called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Ethan Dunstan welcomed attendees to the Region 9 Council's first All-Virtual Meeting under the new policy allowing two virtual meetings per year and encouraged active participation. New Council Members were welcomed and introduced themselves: Roque Castro, Brandon Payne, and Tina Weaver.

2. Roll Call

A roll call was performed. A quorum was established, as noted above.

3. Public Comment

Opportunities for public comment were made available for the meeting, however, no comments were received.

4. Approve Council Business – Action Item

Ethan Dunstan noted that the four business items listed on the agenda had been grouped together with the intention that the Council would discuss and act with one vote unless a motion was made to remove any item from the discussion. No such motion was made.

a. Meeting Minutes, June 29, 2023

There was no discussion about the minutes.

b. Treasurer's Report – Financials

Francoise Seillier-Moiseiwitsch gave the financial report, beginning with the Statement of Financial Position. Through May 31 there was \$246.30 in the GO Virginia checking account and \$159,663.19 in Accounts Receivable which is in-line with previous reports. The final closeout for the FY 2022 Capacity Building funds was also discussed. The FY 2022 funds only covered part of the May expenses so once the FY 2023 Capacity Building budget is opened it will be used to pay the remainder of May expenses. Budgets for each active project were presented. Staff reported that a reimbursement of about \$247,000 was completed in July for the Accelerating Sites project and many projects submitted reimbursement requests with their July quarterly reports that are not reflected yet in these numbers.

c. Dashboard

Ethan Dunstan referred to the Dashboard document. As of July 1, the Council has an additional \$1 million dollars in Per Capita Funds for FY 2024. Along with remaining funds from FY 2023, there is just under \$1.4 million to be awarded this year.

d. Director Report

Referring to the Director Report, Shannon Holland highlighted that Venture Central is expected to request a further contract extension and budget revision. She added that staff has been working with their new Executive Director, Rahul Keshap, on a regular basis and feel that there is a path forward for using the funds in the scope of the grant while maximizing the federal grant that Venture Central has obtained with GO Virginia as a partial match.

Kenny Allison made a motion to approve Council Business. Ray Knott seconded the motion. A roll call vote was completed. The motion carried. Tina Weaver abstained.

5. Updates from Committees, Task Forces, etc.

a. Executive Committee – There were no updates.

b. Nominating Committee

Patrick Mauney reported that Jim Crozier retired effective July 5, so per the bylaws the RRRC will identify a member to replace and complete his term. The Commission meets on August 23rd and is anticipating a nomination from that.

c. Statewide Grants

Shannon Holland reported that she will be attending the VABioConnect grant advisory board meeting later this month. She also shared a Region 7 project that might present opportunity in Region 9. The Virginia Alliance for Semiconductor Technology (VAST) project, led by Virginia Tech

in partnership with five other institutions including UVA will address workforce, training, internships, and certifications in the semiconductor or nanotechnology sector in Virginia.

d. Chair

Ethan Dunstan reminded Council members to complete their Conflict of Interest (COIA) training per the email Shannon Holland had sent by September 1. He reminded the Council that members must complete this training every two years to stay in compliance.

Ethan Dunstan shared that CvilleBioHub reached out to the Council for a Letter of Support for a federal grant for a project called CvilleBioLAUNCH. It is a multi-year federal grant opportunity to support an incubator/accelerator. Since the project is in line with the Growth Plan, a letter was provided. CVPED and VEDP also provided letters.

e. Other Business

There was no other business.

6. Bylaws Review Update

Brian Cole reported that Council is waiting to hear from David Pettit with the draft version of the revised bylaws. This will remain an agenda item until they are ready for review.

7. INNOVATIVE Framework Presentation

Jason El Koubi, CEO of Virginia Economic Development Partnership, gave a presentation on VEDP's new Innovative Framework.

- Following the presentation, Roque Castro asked about access to capital. Jason El Koubi answered that early-stage access is included in the innovation focus. For larger companies, there is not currently a structure to be an investor. As sector depth improves, investment opportunities may get more sophisticated. Things like EV are massive capital investments and to win those the package needs to be aggressive.
- Sara Dunnigan commented that creating a resource-rich ecosystem is important and she is excited to see state government organizing its support in a similar way.

8. GO Virginia Program – Match Update

Joseph Dennie, GO Virginia Program Administrator for Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) presented the update on the new GO Virginia Match Guidelines.

9. 2023 Growth Plan Update – Presentation/Discussion

Shannon Holland gave an update on the work accomplished for this next Growth Plan Update. She solicited input on validating the target sectors and reviewing future grant opportunities. Discussion highlights included:

- Patrick Mauney commented that any incremental change, such as adding Ag Tech to Food & Beverage, is a good move to enable Council to make decisions needed down the road.
- Francoise Seillier-Moiseiwitsch asked if Food & Beverage Manufacturing cluster would include packaging. Shannon Holland answered that food processing is likely included in the category and will confirm by looking at the NAICS codes.

- Sarah Dunnigan commented that the cluster-based approach is helpful for addressing emerging industries like Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA), drones, and Ag Tech.
- Ray Knott added that Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) has significant potential in our region.
- Kenny Allison asked if staff are connected to the Minority and Veteran Farmers organization. Francoise Seillier-Moiseiwitsch mentioned Eugene Triplett as a contact along with the Vineyards Association and the Winery Association.

10. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)

Patrick Mauney thanked Council members who were able to participate in the June meeting. This week they are in Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission (TJPD) region having meetings. Surveys will be sent to Council members and participation is appreciated. Council should anticipate a meeting later this year to go over the super-regional strategy.

11. Project Pipeline

Shannon Holland reported there are three planning grants in the conversation stages. Two are for sites and one is for a cluster scale-up plan. There are currently no commitments to the September 20 deadline. She asked for Council Members to let her know if there is a potential applicant she should be talking with.

12. Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Adjourn

Kenny Allison made a motion to adjourn. Francoise Seillier-Moiseiwitsch seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 AM.