



REGION 9 COUNCIL MEETING

January 26, 2024

9:30 am to 11:30 am

ALL-VIRTUAL

Virtual attendance details were provided in the Agenda

Attending: Ethan Dunstan, UVA Community Credit Union (Chair); Francoise Seillier-Moiseiwitsch, Revalation Vineyards (Treasurer/Secretary); Kenny Allison, The Coleman Group; Rob Archer, Codebase Coworking; Kim Blosser, Laurel Ridge Community College; Roque Castro, Elysium LD Technology, Inc.; Tom Click, Patriot Industries; Brian Cole, LexisNexis Reed Tech; Gizelle Curtis, Dominion Energy; Christian Goodwin, Louisa County; Christine Jacobs, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission; Ray Knott, Atlantic Union Bank; Pace Lochte, UVA Economic Development; Patrick Mauney, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission; Tony O’Brien, Fluvanna County; Paige Read, Town of Culpeper; Jean Runyon, Piedmont Virginia Community College; Andy Wade, Louisa County; Jonathon Weakley, Madison County; Tina Weaver, Papa Weaver’s Pork, Inc.

Absent: Bob Coiner, Town of Gordonsville; Brandon Payne, Ruckersville Self Storage

Staff: Helen Cauthen, Shannon Holland, Christie Taylor, Kristy Dancy,

Guests: Shawn Batten, VCW-Piedmont; Stephen Davis, CIC; Joseph Dennie, DHCD; Katie Dulaney, CVPED; Deborah van Eersel; Ruth Emerick TJPDC; Tracey Gardner, Madison County; Dan Gundersen, Camoin Associates; Rebecca Haydock, CVSBC; Denise Herndon, UVA Economic Development; Maureen Kelley, Nelson County; Hope Lawrence, CIC; Susan McNamara, Region 4; Sanda McCutcheon, CIC; Bryan Rothamel, Culpeper County; McKenzie Smith VCW-Piedmont; Alex Tranmer, Camoin Associates; Terry Woodworth, CIC

1. Opening

a. Call to Order

Ethan Dunstan called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

b. Roll Call

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

c. Public Comment

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

2. Council Business – ACTION ITEM

Ethan Dunstan noted that the three business items listed 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.

- Meeting Minutes, October 20, 2023
- Financials through October 31, 2023
- Dashboard/Director Report (new format)

Tony O'Brien made a motion to approve Council business as presented. Tom Click seconded the motion. A roll call was performed. The motion carried. Christian Goodwin abstained.

3. Elect Vice-Chair- ACTION ITEM

Ethan Dunstan reminded the Council that the current Vice-Chair, Jim Cheng, had to leave the Council to accept a role on the GO Virginia Board. Ethan Dunstan extended thanks to Jim Cheng for his service. Brian Cole, on behalf of the Nominating Committee, nominated Rob Archer to serve as Vice-Chair and to complete the term of Jim Cheng. Ethan Dunstan asked if there were any nominations from the floor. No other nominations were offered.

Christian Godwin made the motion to accept Rob Archer's nomination to serve as Vice-Chair. Ray Knott seconded the motion. A roll call was performed. The motion carried.

4. Revised Bylaws – ACTION ITEM

Ethan Dunstan thanked David Pettit for offering his pro-bono services to complete the Region 9 Bylaws Revision/Update as introduced at the October 20, 2023, meeting.

Brian Cole explained that the Bylaws presented are the same as those introduced at the October 20, 2023, Council Meeting. Brian Cole stated that the included memo was in response to questions raised in the October discussion about the Virginia code and virtual meetings.

Kenny Allison made a motion to accept the Bylaws as presented. Jonathan Weakley seconded the motion. A roll call was performed. The motion carried.

5. Updates from Committees, Task Forces, etc.

a. Nominating Committee

Brian Cole advised that the Nominating Committee had met on January 12th to discuss the vacancy of the Vice-Chair role and the vacancy of Jim Cheng's At-Large Private Sector Member seat. The committee discovered that the Council had not had the situation of a mid-term vacancy for an At-Large Private Sector Member seat before and that the Bylaws were silent on the process. David Pettit advised that the Council could craft a reasonable approach to the situation. Brian Cole stated that the committee recommends this issue be taken up by the new nominating committee to be appointed at the April meeting and that the appointment be addressed as part of the Annual Slate in June.

Ethan Dunstan commented that the committee could devise a plan for when a vacancy occurs earlier in the year when waiting for the normal appointment cycle may not work. Jonathan Weakley commented that appointments should align with the private sector area that was previously represented prior to the vacancy. Brian Cole said the committee plans to work on addressing these issues.

Ethan Dunstan asked if there were any additional comments or feedback. None was offered.

b. Chair

Ethan Dunstan participated in the Central Virginia Partnership's Audit Committee Meeting. He reported that the audit was approved and once the final draft is received from the CPA it will be uploaded for DHCD review by March 31 as required by the Support Organization contract.

Ethan Dunstan shared that he had signed a letter of support for reducing the GO Virginia match requirement to 2:1 for the program as recommended by JLARC. The letter was signed by all of the regional council Chairs. He noted that the Council had supported this approach in previous meetings and had sent a previous letter in support of match reduction under Ray Knott's leadership.

Ethan Dunstan acknowledged the legislative and state budget updates that the Council has received from Chris Lloyd, McGuire Woods. As a private sector leader and Chair, Ethan Dunstan stated he plans to write a letter that will support not sweeping \$28 million of unallocated GO Virginia funds. Per Chris Lloyd, if implemented, such a sweep could require rescission of already allocated regional funds. For example, at a minimum for Region 9, this could mean a rescission of 1.3 million of Per Capita Funds plus \$250,000 of TPI that would be taken back. This is occurring after legislative promises last year to not tap unallocated funds going forward. There is budget language that has been introduced to take out this \$28 million programmatic clawback --though no updates yet.

Tom Click asked that a form be shared to help private sector members engage with their legislators.

Rob Archer said he supported a letter written by Ethan Dunstan representing the GO Virginia Region 9 Council.

Jonathan Weakley asked for clarity where the \$28M figure came from. Shannon Holland stated that it was not clear to her.

6. JLARC Update Presentation

Joseph Dennie, GO Virginia Program Administrator, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) presented on the JLARC report. Presentation available at: <https://www.govirginia9.org/calendar/2024-events/>

Ethan Dunstan asked about comments in the report about program outcomes being unreliable. Joseph Dennie clarified that early in the program outcomes were project specific and there was a lack of uniformity. He said that DHCD has already been addressing this issue over the last few years.

Andy Wade asked if the JLARC report influenced the budget proposal to call back \$28 million from GO Virginia. Joseph Dennie said he couldn't rule it out but added that several other programs may be losing funding, as well. Andy Wade added that we should include the positive impact of the Region 9 projects in communications with legislators.

Gizelle Curtis asked how the funds that may be taken back are allocated to our region. Shannon Holland clarified that Region 9 receives \$1 million annually based on population and we can only carry over that amount each year. At this time Region 9 has about \$1.3 million in unobligated funds and there is one project in development that could sweep those funds by fiscal year end.

Rob Archer asked if there should be any concern for the \$1 million to be issued in July. Joseph Dennie said he is not concerned at this time.

7. Project Update Presentations

a. Regional Entrepreneurship Investment Strategy (REI)

Stephen Davis, President, Community Investment Collaborative (CIC) presented. Presentation available from; <https://www.govirginia9.org/calendar/2024-events/>.

Stephen Davis provided a presentation that covered both the Rural Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Building (REEB) grant and the Regional Entrepreneurship Investment (REI) Strategy.

Rural Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Building Grant - Stephen Davis noted that the first cohort graduation under the grant occurred the night before.

Ray Knott asked about barriers and obstacles experienced on the grant. In response, Stephen Davis said it was building groups of target industry entrepreneurs but that should improve with time.

Regional Entrepreneurship Investment Planning (REI) - Stephen Davis shared that an emerging theme of the feedback meetings had been that the entrepreneurs that built companies in our region because they wanted to be or stay in this region. He also added that there had been staffing changes on the project. Rebecca Haydock would replace Rahul Keshap in leading Venture Central and Hope O'Brien would replace Sandra McCutcheon as program manager for the REI grant.

Ethan Dustan asked about Rahul Keshap's departure. Stephen Davis shared that in the fall, CIC and Venture Central entered a shared services agreement and this transition was planned. Rebecca Haydock is taking the role on a part-time basis until the REI wraps up and a determination for the best fit for Venture Central in the ecosystem is made. Rebecca Haydock added that her role is focused on completing Venture Central's USDA Build to Scale grant. Rob Archer commented that this is a great example of working together.

Stephen Davis asked the Council to complete and share the REI business survey. Tony O'Brien congratulated Hope Lawrence as a Fluvanna community member on her role with the REI grant team.

b. Accelerating Regionally Significant Sites

Presenters: Helen Cauthen, President, Central Virginia Partnership; Bryan Rothamel, Director of Economic Development, Culpeper County; Andy Wade, Director of Economic Development, Louisa County. Presentations available from: <https://www.govirginia9.org/calendar/2024-events/>



Helen Cauthen, President, Central Virginia Partnership, introduced the presentation as the grant leader. She noted that in developing a GO Virginia sites project, a priority had been to ensure that the entire region supported the sites advanced.

Bryan Rothamel, Culpeper County, shared the water utility design study work done as the result of this grant. He noted that Red Ace, one of the sites included in the study, has been purchased by Data Bank for a data center that will result in significant capital investment.

Andy Wade, Louisa County, shared the progress of the Shannon Hill site to a Tier 4+ as the result of this and other GO Virginia funding. He also noted the early GO Virginia support was critical in leveraging other state and federal dollars for the sites, such as \$11.59 million from the Virginia Business Ready Sites program.

Helen Cauthen said site development remains a top three priority for the Partnership over the next five years.

c. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): Update and Super Regional Strategies Discussion

Alex Tranmer, Director of Industry and Workforce, Camoin Associates and Daniel Gundersen, FM, HLM, Senior Vice President, Camoin Associates presented. Presentation available from:

<https://www.govirginia9.org/calendar/2024-events/>

The Camoin CEDS team gave an update of the CEDS process and feedback session on the potential super regional strategies. Alex Tranmer asked that Council members consider providing feedback on the presentation using their Padlet tool. A link would be shared.

8. Project Pipeline

Shannon Holland informed the Council she has a meeting with CvilleBioHub on Monday to review a sizeable grant that will use all remaining funding and possibly tap into state competitive funds.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Adjourn

Rob Archer made a motion to adjourn. Kenny Allison seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.