**REGION 9 COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**

**JUNE 27, 2024**

**9:30 am to 11:30 am**

**North Fork Meeting Center**

**994 Research Park Blvd., Charlottesville, VA 22911**

In-Person Meeting; virtual link was provided in agenda.

**Attending**: Ethan Dunstan, Capital River Advisors (Chair); Rob Archer, Codebase Coworking (Vice Chair); Francoise Seillier-Moiseiwitsch, Revalation Vineyards (Treasurer/Secretary); Kim Blosser, Laurel Ridge Community College; Tom Click, Patriot Industries; Bob Coiner, Town of Gordonsville; Brian Cole, LexisNexis Reed Tech; Christian Goodwin, Louisa County; Gizelle Curtis, Dominion Energy; Cheryl Kirby, Atlantic Union Bank; Pace Lochte, UVA Economic Development; Patrick Mauney, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission; Tony O’Brien, Fluvanna County; Brandon Payne, Ruckersville Self Storage; Paige Read, Town of Culpeper; Jonathon Weakley, Madison County; Tina Weaver, Papa Weaver’s Pork, Inc.

**Absent:** Roque Castro, Elysium LD Technology, Inc.; Christine Jacobs, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission; Ray Knott, Atlantic Union Bank; Jean Runyon, Piedmont Virginia Community College; Andy Wade, Louisa County

**Staff:** Helen Cauthen, Shannon Holland, Christie Taylor, Kristy Dancy (virtual)

**Guests:** Cody Anderson, DHCD; Stephen Davis, CIC; Joseph Dennie, DHCD; Katie Dulaney, CVPED; Ned Galloway, Albemarle County Board of Supervisors; Tracey Gardner, Madison County; Rebecca Haydock, Venture Central; Ashley Perry Hernandorena, Albemarle County; Craig Honick, Good People Research; Emily Kilroy, Albemarle County; Hope Lawrence, Venture Central; Sarah Morton, VCW-Piedmont; Julie Perry, Orange County; Candance Spence, CVPED; Jennifer Schmack, Fluvanna County.

**Guests (virtual):** Kristen Costello, Dewberry; Ruth Emerick, TJPDC; Mary Foley, CvilleBioHub; Dan Gunderson, Camoin Associates; Matt Johnson, City of Charlottesville; Ernie Reed; Carlton Schutt, MEC-Fauquier; Alex Tranmer, Camoin Associates; Deborah van Eersel, UVA Foundation

1. **Opening**
   * **Call to Order**

Ethan Dunstan called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

* + **Roll Call**

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

* + **Public Comment**

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

1. **Consent Agenda - ACTION ITEM**

Ethan Dunstan noted that the four 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, April 25, 2024:** No questions or comments were presented.
  + **Treasurer’s Report – Financials through April 30:** Francoise Seillier-Moiseiwitsch reported that finances are as projected, and the FY 2023 Capacity Building funds will be fully used in June. Staff are beginning the process to open the FY 2024 Per Capita funds in June.
  + **FY 2025 Meeting Schedule:** There were no requests for changes.
  + **Director Report and Infographic**: Shannon Holland shared that the talent projects will be presenting at the August meeting to discuss the challenges they are experiencing with contracted outcomes. The infographic will be updated for each meeting to serve as the dashboard.

***Christian Goodwin made a motion to approve Council business as presented. Tom Click seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.***

1. **Updates from Committees, Task Forces, and Chair** 
   1. **Executive Committee:** No update was presented.
   2. **Nominating Committee**: No updated was presented.
   3. **Task Forces:** No update was presented.
   4. **Chair:**

Highlights from the Chair include:

* + - All 3 Project VITAL proposals were approved by the GO Virginia Board subject to an MOU being signed between several state agencies. This should be done within 30-60 days.
    - Effective July 1, the match requirements for all projects is reduced from 1:1 to 2:1. The minimal local government contribution is still in effect at 20%.
    - The GO Virginia Board appointed Leah Fremouw as the new Vice Chair of Regional Council Engagement.
    - A new policy for funding projects targeting healthcare was approved. There are criteria that must be met to allow a region to move forward if the Council so desires. Gizelle Curtis asked if Region 9 met criteria. Shannon Holland summarized the policy. Some RRRC counties meet the distressed criteria, but projects also must demonstrate businesses are not coming to the region because of healthcare shortages, and occupations targeted must be linked to the region’s target sectors.
    - There will be a GO Virginia Board Retreat in Danville on September 9 and 10. The Chair and Vice Chair are generally invited.

1. **Slate – ACTION ITEM**

Brian Cole, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the Slate, as included in the packet:

Public Sector and Private Sector Appointments included:

* Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission appointed Cathy Schafrik, County Administrator from Greene County and Ned Galloway, Board of Supervisors member from Albemarle County.
* Economic Development leaders from the Rappahannock Rapidan Regional Commission footprint re-appointed Paige Read for another 3-year term.
* Cheryl Kirby was appointed by Virginia Career Works.

Private Sector Nominations and included:

* Francoise Seillier-Moiseiwitsch nominated by the Madison Chamber
* Rob Archer for At-Large
* Tom Thorpe, CEO of Afton Scientific, to complete the At-Large term of Jim Cheng.

Officers and Executive Committee Nominations:

Brian Cole shared that the Nominating Committee discussed the fact that the Council has matured to the point where many founding and long-term members are ineligible for new terms and are or will be rolling off the Council. This can have a major impact on leadership development. Therefore, they decided to nominate the same Officers and Executive Committee, as permitted by the Bylaws, to allow the council to be thoughtful over the next year on how it builds out the leadership pipeline going forward.

Ethan Dunstan said he would like to approve the Slate with two motions, one to Accept Public and Private Appointments and another to approve the Private Sector Nominations as well as the Officers and Executive Committee Nominations. He asked if there was a request to do otherwise. No comments were offered.

***Tony O’Brien made a motion to accept the Public and Private Sector Appointments as presented. Rob Archer seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.***

Ethan Dunstan asked if there were any nominations from the floor for Private Sector Slate or the Officers and Executive Committee. No nominations were made.

***Tom Click made a motion to close nominations and approve the private sector slate and the officer Executive Committee slate, as presented. Jonathan Weakley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.***

1. **Annual Report Presentation**

Shannon Holland presented highlights of the Council successes over the past year as captured in the Annual Report. She thanked the Council, the Partnership, and DHCD staff for their support. Pace Lochte commended Shannon for being exemplary at the state level, which generates creativity and success for our regional projects. The Council thanked Shannon for her dedication and hard work.

1. **CEDs & Super Regional Strategies**

Dan Gundersen, FM, HLM, Senior Vice-President and Alex Tranmer, Director Strategic Planning, of Camoin Associates reviewed the final update of the CEDS and Super-Regional Strategies. Ethan Dunstan thanked Patrick Mauney, Christine Jacobs, and Ruth Emerick for leading the effort. Helen Cauthen, Central Virginia Partnership, also extended her appreciation and noted that a CEDs plan is essential for applying for grants.

There was discussion on how the Defense Industry, an identified emerging sector in the Super Regional Strategies Report, is not GO Virginia funding eligible. However, adjacent industries, such as IT, cybersecurity, financial and business services or manufacturing are eligible target sectors. Therefore, there is a path to support start-ups in knowledge work supports growth in defense without fostering a reliance on federal dollars. Rebecca Haydock added that in the deep tech sector, success is rooted in commercial enterprise, not federal jobs. Food and beverage manufacturing was the leading location quotient (LQ) for Region 9, and technology and bio-ag could bring a unique niche to boost production. Patrick Mauney commented on how the superregional strategy was novel and highly collaborative. Jonathan Weakley said the SWOT analyses were helpful and the process was highly interactive with localities.

1. **Memo: Growth Plan Update to include CEDS & Super Regional** **Strategies - ACTION ITEM**

A memo in the meeting materials outlined a recommended approach to incorporating findings from the CEDS and Super Regional Strategies Reports into the Growth Plan for Region 9. The memo suggests the Council consider accepting these plans and that no physical update would be required to the Growth Plan since it already identifies these plans as having future grant opportunities once published.

***Bob Coiner made the motion to accept the CEDs plans and Super Regional Strategies. Kim Blosser seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.***

1. **Project Updates**

**Regional Entrepreneurship Investment Strategy (REI)**

Stephen Davis, President, Community Investment Collaborative (CIC) and Craig Honick, Good People Research, provided an update on the REI plan in development. Key findings were shared with early recommendations. Stephen Davis conveyed the nature of entrepreneurs is to find answers, but the region needs a way for answers and resources to be delivered faster, so new businesses can succeed or fail faster. Right sizing the project by county, and within the culture and industry, was noted as an important goal of implementation, as no locality in our region should become Silicon Valley or Austin, but rather maintain its unique character while enhancing the capacity for entrepreneurship.

In discussion, a suggestion was, made to consolidate the 13 findings. There was discussion on land use and governance as barriers to entrepreneurship, and how the Council could do more outreach and education around these issues. CvilleBioHub was provided as the model example of entrepreneur-led efforts, and the goal for other industries in sector-led peer support groups. Venture Central was identified as an existing asset that may be able to house regional entrepreneurship support and coordination.

1. **Project Pipeline**

Shannon Holland shared that the Talent Pathway Initiative deadline is September 10, 2024, and she continues to work on leads to develop potential grant leaders.

1. **Other Business**

Ethan Dunstan announced that in FY25 he wants to see the Council do more presentations and attend meetings to promote opportunities and educate about the role of GO Virginia. He encouraged members to consider hosting and helping.

1. **Adjourn**

With no further business before the Council the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.