



REGION 9 COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 17, 2025

9:30 am to 11:30 am

IN-PERSON

North Fork Meeting Center

994 Research Park Blvd, Charlottesville, VA 22911

Virtual links in agenda posted at www.GOVirginia9.org/calendar

MINUTES

Attending: Ethan Dunstan, Capital River Advisors (Chair); Rob Archer, Codebase Coworking (Vice Chair); Kim Blosser, Laurel Ridge Community College; Ike Broaddus, Fauquier County; Roque Castro, Elysium LD Technology, Inc.; Tom Click, Patriot Industries; Brian Cole, LexisNexis Reed Tech; Gizelle Curtis, Dominion Energy; Christine Jacobs, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission; Cheryl Kirby, Atlantic Union Bank; Pace Lochte, UVA Economic Development; Patrick Mauney, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission; Jean Runyon, Piedmont Virginia Community College; Cathy Schafrik, Greene County; Jonathon Weakley, Madison County; Tina Weaver, Papa Weaver's Pork, Inc.

Absent: Ray Knott, Blue Ridge Bank; Ned Gallaway, Albemarle County; Paige Read, Town of Culpeper; Francoise Seillier-Moiseiwitsch, Revalation Vineyards (Treasurer/Secretary); Tom Thorpe, Afton Scientific; Andy Wade, Louisa County

Staff: Shannon Holland, , Christie Taylor

Guests: Christina Clough, Pioneer Bank; Kristy Dancy, CVPED; Katie Delaney, CVPED, Joseph Dennie, DHCD; Ashley Hernandorena, Albemarle County; Rachael Hobbs, UVA; Jack Honig, DHCD, Candace Spence, CVPED

Virtual Guests: Ian Ginger, Orange County; Matt Johnson, City of Charlottesville

1. Opening

- **Call to Order**

Ethan Dunstan called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

- **Roll Call**

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

- **Public Comment**

No public comment was submitted or presented.

2. Consent Agenda - ACTION ITEM

Ethan Dunstan, as Chair, stated that he was amending the Consent Agenda to include a budget revision request that was delivered to staff on the afternoon before the meeting. He asked if there was any objection and none was stated. Ethan Dunstan noted that the listed agenda items were to be voted on with one action unless there was a motion to discuss any item separately. No such motion was made.

- **Meeting Minutes, April 16, 2025**

There was no discussion on the meeting minutes offered.

- **Financials through April 30, 2025:**

Since the Treasurer was absent, Ethan Dunstan asked Shannon Holland to give the financial report. The report included:

- The Statement of Financial Position reflects a near-zero net asset position which is typical as funds are being actively deployed to pay liabilities.
- The FY 24 Capacity Building Budget reflects a budget revision. Based on the Council's latest guidance, that revision is also now outlined in the Director's Report. In that revision, \$8,150 was moved from Planning and Rent to cover \$350 of unexpected audit expense and \$2,000 to Contract Services and \$5,800 to Salaries to prepare for closeout in June. Through April 91% of the budget has been spent. Salaries and admin costs continue to be the largest expense category. The remaining funds total \$22,541.75 through April.
- Many projects are in early phases with low expenditure rates, while some, like Carver Food Business Accelerator, are nearing full deployment. The unused funds from the Talent Supply project closeout were moved to the Region 9 per capita grant fund.

- **Budget Revision:**

Shannon Holland requested approval for another Capacity Building Budget revision in anticipation of closing out the FY 24 funds. The request required Council approval because staff have already completed one budget revision this quarter. The revision would transfer all positive balances as of May 30, 2025, totaling \$3,362.24 to the Salaries category. This adjustment will cover May expenses, and the remaining balance of \$1,532.56 will be drawn to \$0 in June, thereby closing all expense items and allowing for FY 2024 Capacity Building Closeout.

- **Meeting Schedule 2026:**

Ethan Dunstan stated that the Bylaws require annual calendar approval. There was no discussion.

Tom Click made the motion to approve the Council business as presented. Christine Jacobs seconded the motion. A vote was performed. Motion carried.

3. Director Report

Shannon Holland reported that the Capacity Building Budget Revision was accepted by DHCD on May 1. As a reminder, the guidance as of the 4/17 Council Meeting is that staff may adjust this budget quarterly and the revision must be reported at the council meeting immediately following the change. The infographic is updated to reflect outcomes reported through the 2025 Q1 reporting period.

Christie Taylor reviewed the Project Spotlight on the Carver Food Enterprise Center and the Grant Dashboard.

4. Updates

- **Chair, Executive Committee**
No report.
- **Nominating Committee:**

Tom Click shared that the slate is presented in today's agenda. The Nominating Committee would like help with member recruitment earlier in the year. Private sector members were asked to expect an email from Shannon Holland to discuss intentions for serving again and help in identifying replacements upon conclusion of service. There was discussion on what gaps in representation are anticipated on the Council and manufacturing was identified.

- **Task Forces**

There were no updates.

- **GO Virginia Board Regional Council Committee**

Rob Archer reported that this summer, DHCD staff will deploy a survey to gather regional council members' opinions on performance and suggestions for improvement. The GO Virginia Board Retreat is scheduled for September 9th at RJ Reynolds Community College. It is customary for the regional council Chair and/or Vice Chair to attend. The Board is considering expansion of funding for planning grants. DHCD presented data from an internal evaluation to aid in that decision. Many of the regional council representatives expressed appreciation of the data but felt the conclusions missed the mark on articulating impact and need for more planning funds. Another Board committee is reviewing this issue so there is likely more to come on that topic.

5. Slate

Tom Click, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, previewed the proposed slate of nominees for the GO Virginia Region 9 Council. He thanked the Nominating Committee: Tina Weaver, Cathy Schafrik, and Jean Runyon. Tom Click noted that nominees were selected to represent both the private and public sectors, bringing a range of experience and regional perspectives to the Council's work.

Private and Public Sector appointments nominated:

- Gizelle F. Curtis with Dominion Energy, for a 3-year term.
- Jennifer L. Schmack, with Fluvanna County, for her first term.
- Dr. Jean Runyon, President of Piedmont Virginia Community College, for a new 3-year term.
- The Honorable Ike Broadus of Fauquier County, for a 3-year term.
- Jonathon Weakley, Administrator for Madison County, for a 3-year term.

Private Sector and Executive Committee nominees include four new members:

- Gary Wood, CEO & President, Firefly Fiber Broadband.
- Leslie Kidd, Co-Owner, All Install.
- Christina Clough, Vice President, Pioneer Bank.
- Rahul Keshap, Principal at Shuru Law, who would complete an unfinished term through June 30, 2026.

Officers and Executive Committee nominated:

- Chair: Rob Archer
- Vice Chair: Roque Castro
- Treasurer/Secretary: Cathy Schafrik
- At-Large Members: Ethan Dunstan (Immediate Past Chair) and Paige Read

Task Force Members and Chairs nominated:



Jean Runyon for Talent Development; Ray Knott for Growing Existing Businesses; Rahul Keshap for Entrepreneurship; and Jonathon Weakley for Sites. Jonathan Weakley was not confirmed before the slate was presented so a nomination from the floor will be needed.

6. Slate – ACTION ITEM

Ethan Dunstan asked if there were any objections to approving the slate as presented with any nominations from the floor with one action by the Council. No such objection was made.

Ethan Dunstan called for nominations from the floor as follows:

The private and public appointments are selected via a prescribed method in the bylaws so there were no nominations from the floor.

There were no nominations from the floor for Private Sector Members.

There were no nominations from the floor for Officers and Executive Committee.

Tom Click nominated Jonathon Weakley from Madison County to serve as the Sites Task Force Chair.

Tom Click made a motion to close nominations. Patrick Mauney seconded the motion. A vote was performed. Motion carried.

Cathy Schafrik made the motion to vote to accept and approve the nominations as presented including nominations from the floor. Kim Blosser seconded the motion. A vote was performed. Motion carried.

Ethan Dunstan thanked the nominating committee for their work and suggested that if members were interested in serving on the Nominating Committee to please reach out to Shannon Holland. Tom Thorpe was thanked for completing the term of Jim Cheng. Brian Cole and Tom Click were recognized for their roles as inaugural and subsequent Chair of the Region 9 Council.

7. Annual Report Presentation

Shannon Holland presented on the Annual Report to the Growth Plan. The presentation highlighted progress on action items, outcomes achieved, funds leveraged, other program impacts, and Council achievements. Council members, staff, and partners were thanked for their support and commitment to the mission of the program.

8. Project Pipeline

Shannon Holland reminded the Council that Region 9 is allocated \$1,000,000 of regional grant funds each fiscal year. From this, the Council can elect to award up to \$250,000 for planning grants. She noted that when planning grants are awarded, it is expected that an immediate and subsequent implementation grant will follow unless the results of the planning grant indicate otherwise. Referring to the project pipeline document in the meeting packet, Shannon Holland emphasized that four current planning grants should generate implementation grants and that it is possible that projects would need to compete for the \$1 million in funding available. Other proposals that didn't have planning grants could also arise.

A discussion on the potential impact of federal cuts and how GO Virginia could help mitigate those losses. The discussion indicated that Region 9 localities are not as significantly impacted as other regions at this time but that could change. It was discussed that Entrepreneurship and Talent Development projects might help federal employees pivot into new opportunities.

9. Other Business

Ethan Dunstan thanked Rob Archer for stepping into the Chair role. The Council thanked Ethan Dunstan for his service.

10. Adjourn

Brian Cole made the motion to vote to adjourn the meeting. Jonathan Weakley seconded the motion. A vote was performed. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.