



REGION 9 COUNCIL MEETING

April 13, 2026

9:30 am to 11:30 am

IN-PERSON

Laurel Ridge Community College – Hazel Hall

6480 College St., Warrenton, VA 20187

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82331037134>

For virtual connection issues, call 434-979-5610 ext. 106.

MINUTES

Attending: Rob Archer, Codebase Coworking (Chair); Roque Castro, Elysium LD Technology, Inc. (Vice Chair); Kim Blosser, Laurel Ridge Community College; Ike Broaddus, Fauquier County; Christina Clough, Pioneer Bank; Gizelle Curtis, Dominion Energy; Ethan Dunstan, Capital River Advisors; Ned Gallaway, Albemarle County; Christine Jacobs, Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission; Rahul Keshap, Shuru Law; Leslie Kidd, All Install; Cheryl Kirby, Atlantic Union Bank; Patrick Mauney, Rappahannock-Rapidan Regional Commission; Paige Read, Town of Culpeper; Francoise Seillier-Moiseiwitsch, Revalation Vineyards; Tina Weaver, Papa Weaver's Pork, Inc.

Attending Virtually: Jean Runyon, Piedmont Virginia Community College; Cathy Schafrik, Greene County (Secretary/Treasurer); Jennifer Schmack, Fluvanna County

Absent: Ray Knott, Blue Ridge Bank; Pace Lochte, UVA Economic Development; Jonathon Weakley, Madison County; Gary Wood, Firefly Fiber Broadband

Guests: Katharine Dulaney, CVPED; Tracey Greene, Madison County; Jack Honig, DHCD; Hope Lawrence, Venture Central

Virtual Guests: Kristy Dancy, CVPED; Miles Davis, CVPED; Ian Ginger, Orange County; Nancy Grden, Hampton Roads Roundtable; Rebecca Haydock, Venture Central; Rebecca Ivins, UVA Foundation; Emily Kilroy, Albemarle County; Doug Parsons, Fauquier County

1. Opening

- **Call to Order**

Rob Archer called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

- **Roll Call**

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

- **Public Comment**

No requests for public comments were received prior to or during the call for comments.

2. Consent Agenda – ACTION ITEM

Rob Archer noted that the 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, January 16, 2026**

There was no discussion offered.

- **Financials through February 28, 2026**

Cathy Schafrik, Treasurer, summarized the financials through February, as follows:

The Statement of Financial Position shows total current assets of \$230,201.19, checking and savings at \$91,842.31, accounts receivable at \$127,008.95, and accrued receivables of \$11,349.93. Total current liabilities are \$230,196.49, mainly from accounts payable to CVPED.

The Capacity Building budget reflects the budget revision that is outlined in the memo included as a Consent Agenda item. Through February, FY2025 Capacity Building expenditures total \$210,206.74, which is 84.08% of the \$250,000 annual budget. Major expenses continue to be salaries (\$160,680.59), general administration (\$25,255.29), rent (\$6,812.04), and audit (\$8,500.00). That leaves \$39,793.26, or 15.92%, remaining for the funding year.

As of February 2026, seven projects remain active and expenditures are within approved budgets, following grant reimbursement guidelines.

- **MEMO: Approval for FY 25 Budget Revision and FY 27 Budget (as approved at March 18, 2026 Executive Committee Meeting)**

Rob Archer shared that the capacity building budget revision request was advanced at the executive committee and are included for documentation or discussion. There was no discussion on this matter.

It was noted that the Capacity Building budget has been the same since the program's inception and a question was raised as to how that was affecting staff capacity, salaries and operational capacity. Shannon Holland answered that the 8% admin fees built into grants for contract management was helping to cover staff salaries and added that Region 9 is about nine months behind in spending down the previous year's fiscal funding. However, other regions are struggling with this challenge now. Ethan Dunstan added that he attended the Board Regional Council Committee in March and that lack of an increase in this allocation was discussed.

Ike Broaddus made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items as presented. Ethan Dunstan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. NOTICE ITEM – Administrative Changes to Bylaws

- MEMO: Introduction of Administrative Corrections to Adopted Amended and Restated Bylaws (as discussed at March 18, 2026 Executive Committee Mtg.)

Rob Archer explained that the Executive Committee discussed the enclosed Bylaw memo at their March meeting. The notice of change is for two administrative error corrections only. The Bylaw Memo will be on the agenda for action in June. No questions were raised.

4. Director Report

- **Report & Project Pipeline**

Shannon Holland highlighted that the remaining Per Capita Grant Funds balance is still just over \$2,000 as reported in January. The Tech Academies project is expected to return \$129,000. It was stated that the returned funds will likely be rolled into FY 2026 Per Capita Funds. Shannon Holland added that a statewide wine industry planning grant has been added as a new prospect on the project pipeline.

- **Infographic, Project Milestone Dashboard, and Project Spotlight**

Christie Taylor advised the Council that the infographic reflected the addition of the GO TEC project. The outcomes on the Infographic will be updated after 2026 Q2 reports are submitted on April 20. Four projects will roll off the subsequent Milestone Dashboard report, as they have closed. Rivanna Futures was featured as the project spotlight. Christie Taylor invited those interested in participating in a tour of the Tech Academies Lab to meet her after the meeting and for those interested in visiting Rivanna Station to let her know.

5. Council Updates

- **Chair & Executive Committee**

Rob Archer shared that the Executive Committee discussed governance items relating to the budget and bylaws. There was consensus on two-year terms for chairs to offer continuity and the Bylaws support this approach, so no change would be needed. The new Council Member Manual has been distributed. It was decided that Region 9 will celebrate its ten-year anniversary next year as it aligns with when the Council first convened and avoids competing with the 250th national celebration.

- **Nominating Committee**

Tina Weaver, Chair, Nominating Committee reported that the committee met in March and approved simplified nomination forms, which are posted on the website. The new Nominating Committee will have two private sector seats to fill, including one At-Large and one Chamber Nominated seat. Tina Weaver noted that both she and Ray Knott have terms ending. This committee recommends that new candidates be drawn from a diverse geographic representation or have experience in biosciences and/or light manufacturing.

- **Grow Existing Business (GEB)**

Leslie Kidd, on behalf of Ray Knott, GEB Task Force Chair, shared that the Task Force reviewed the Food & Beverage Accelerator proposal. Helen Cauthen of CVPED updated the group on the Innovation Corridor Planning Grant. The report will be reviewed for acceptance ahead of the June Annual Meeting.

- **Talent Development (TD)**

Jean Runyon, Chair, TD Task Force, reported that the Mobile AI Unit Competitive Grant was approved in March and is now in contract development. Christie Taylor will serve on the advisory committee for Region 9. With the TPI report delivered, we expect to review an implementation proposal at the June meeting.

6. Nominating Committee Appointments

Rob Archer noted that the Bylaws require the Chair to appoint a new Nominating Committee at the Council meeting before the Annual Meeting. Rob Archer thanked exiting Nominating Committee members Tina Weaver, Cathy Schrafrik, and Jean Runyon for their service. He then appointed Ethan Dunstan as Chair and Patrick Mauney and Christine Jacobs as members.

7. ACTION ITEM: Proposal Review

- **Venture Central Food & Beverage Accelerator Project Proposal**

Shannon Holland shared project updates following the GEB Task Force review. The Task Force requested:

- New Letters of Support from Madison, Nelson, and Orange, but none were received.
- Inclusion of geographic representation in cohort selection criteria, which has been implemented.
- Submission of a key personnel contingency plan, which was delivered.
- The Task Force asked that if a project were to be approved that outcomes be reported by location and type. The applicant team was accommodating.

On behalf of the Grow Existing Business Task Force, Leslie Kidd reported that members reviewed the Venture Central Food & Beverage Accelerator proposal. They are requesting \$262,192 with \$131,308 in match, of which \$120,000 of local match is cash.

Because this request targets Single-Region Competitive funds, the GO Virginia Board's scoring rubric was used as a guide for evaluation. Members agreed that the project demonstrated strong regional collaboration. The proposal noted which localities it was targeting, and for those localities that aren't supporting, suitable reasons were delivered. The sustainability plan delivered was strong. Members made some suggestions about possible overreliance on banking and CRM support. However, it was very likely that the PATH Foundation and its funders would support it, as it aligns with some of their priorities. The outcomes were reasonable and the approach to the ROI made sense. The budget was clear and no issues were noted.

The Task Force agreed that this proposal would score above the 75 target and recommended it to advance with the contingencies Shannon discussed.

Roque Castro made a motion to advance the Food & Beverage Accelerator Implementation Proposal. Leslie Kidd seconded the motion. A vote was performed. Francoise Seillier-Moiseiwitsch abstained. Motion carried.

Shannon Holland noted that next steps would be for staff to submit the proposal for the Board workgroup process with a potential approval at the June Board Meeting.

8. Presentation & Discussion: Implementation Strategies for Big Ideas

Purpose: To share Region 5's approach to implementing the Hampton Roads Playbook to support discussion of implementation strategies for the soon to be published Innovation Corridor Roadmap (Region 9)

Presentation: The Hampton Roads Playbook (GO Virginia Region 5) Nancy L. Grden, President & CEO, Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable, GO VA Region 5 Council Support Organization

With the meeting ahead of schedule and the guest speaker running late, Jack Honig from DHCD gave an overview of the Hampton Roads (HR) Playbook presentation. Highlights included:

- Hampton Roads has geographic diversity with 17 cities and towns
- The Playbook began as a planning grant to assess major industries and regional strengths.
- Led by the Hampton Roads Alliance, the Playbook singled out four sectors for growth.
- It highlighted funding opportunities through GO Virginia and other funding sources.
- This led to several funded projects and coordinated efforts among organizations.

The Innovation Corridor Roadmap Planning grant, led by CVPED, will produce a report like the Playbook, with recommendations for Council review in mid-May and delivery at the Annual Meeting. The Roadmap will highlight both short- and long-term regional opportunities. Bioscience recommendations may be geographically limited while IT, cybersecurity, and light manufacturing tied to national security are expected to have broader regional impact.

Nancy Grden, from the Hampton Roads Roundtable, attended virtually and discussed the importance of regional collaboration through the Hampton Roads Alliance's ownership of the Playbook. This aligns the Growth & Diversification Plan with the activities of key organizations across the 17 cities in Hampton Roads. Recent cooperation among 10 major groups has helped shift the region's focus from individual city interests to leveraging shared assets. The Playbook emphasizes actionable steps rather than static strategies, addressing concerns about dependence on defense, maritime, and energy sectors by considering national and global trends. Notably, a \$99,000 planning grant resulted in \$100M workforce investments.

9. Other Business

Ethan Dunstan shared notes from the Board Regional Council Committee meeting. The GO Virginia program faces a \$10M revision. The State board is looking at what this means and devising a plan. Site planning grants are no longer included as part of the annual \$250,000 planning grant allocation cap. The Council assessment indicated strong alignment, staff as strength, high engagement, and will be reviewed in greater detail with Council.

10. Adjourn

Ethan Dustan made a motion to adjourn. Rahul Keshap seconded the motion. The motion carried and meeting adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

*Council Member Virtual Participation - To comply with law and policy, the following is reported:

| Council member | Joined from | Reason |
|------------------|---------------------|------------|
| Jean Runyon | Seattle, WA | Conference |
| Cathy Schafrik | Green County, VA | Personal |
| Jennifer Schmack | Fluvanna County, VA | Medical |

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