

**GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 17, 2020**

The GO Virginia Region 3 Executive Committee met on Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. utilizing Zoom virtual technology.

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lail called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Lail declared a quorum was present.

A. Executive Committee Members:

Present	Absent	Member
X		Tim Clark
X		Randy Lail, Chairman
X		Charles Majors, Vice Chairman
X		Karl Stauber
X		Sherry Swinson

B. Staff in Attendance:

Name	Organization
Bryan David	Weldon Cooper Center
Liz Povar	The Riverlink Group
Nancy Pool	The Riverlink Group
Deborah Gosney	Support Org/Fiscal Agency Representative
Lisa McGee	Support Org/Fiscal Agency Representative

C. Guests in Attendance:

Name	Organization
Sarah Capps	Tobacco Commission

3. STATE GUIDANCE FOR REGIONAL COUNCILS

Chairman Lail welcomed everyone to the GO Virginia Region 3 Virtual ZOOM Council meeting. Due to the nature of the Declaration of a State of Emergency due to the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) and pursuant to Code §2.2-3708.2, this meeting is being held by electronic communications, via the web platform ZOOM. The catastrophic nature of this declared emergency makes it impractical and unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location. The virtual platform was selected to abide by the restrictions on public gatherings as stated in the Governor's

Emergency Declaration and to protect the health of citizens. The required public notice and receipt of public comments was provided as outlined in the requirements of electronic meetings. The agenda items for this meeting are considered essential to the overall operation of GO Virginia Region 3.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No written or verbal public comments were received.

5. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Conflicts of interest potentially exist for activities benefiting and/or contracts issued to the following organizations and projects listed below:

Name	Organization(s)
6. A Charles H. Majors	Mid-Atlantic Broadband, Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, Danville Regional Foundation
P Randolph Lail	Mid-Atlantic Broadband

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Lail noted that the minutes of prior Executive Committee meetings were received via email prior to the meeting and included in the meeting packet. Chairman Lail noted that due to the COVID-19 restrictions for electronic meetings, there are three sets of meeting minutes to be adopted - February 18th, April 1st, and April 15th. **Karl Stauber made a motion that the minutes from the February 18th, April 1st, and April 15th Executive Committee meetings be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Charles Majors and by roll call vote all members voted affirmatively.**

7. FINANCIAL REPORT

Deborah Gosney asked members to refer to the Financial Report that was included in the meeting packet for period 04/30/20 to 05/31/20. Deborah noted the following:

FY20 Capacity Building GO VA Funds total \$361,111. Grant dollars expended to date is \$41,585.35 leaving a balance remaining of \$208,414.65.

GO-TEC, Phase 1, GO VA Project Funds total \$648,000. Grant dollars expended to date total \$612,862.56 leaving a balance remaining of \$35,137.44. Committed match budgeted for the project totals \$674,437 of which \$2,190,539.32 was submitted and approved. The project was overmatched by \$1,516,102.32 of which \$224,308.99 was qualified by DHCD to be carried forward to GO-TEC Phase 2A; the remaining overmatched amount applied to GO-TEC Phase 1 is \$1,291,793.33.

GO-TEC, Phase 2A, GO VA Project Funds total \$1,320,787. Grant dollars expended to date total \$721,088.22 leaving a balance remaining of \$599,698.78. Committed match budgeted for

the project totals \$1,479,635 of which \$865,332.01 has been submitted and approved leaving a balance remaining of \$614,302.99.

SOVA Innovation Hub - GO VA Project Funds total \$80,000. Grant dollars expended to date total \$60,000 leaving a balance remaining of \$20,000. Committed match budgeted for the project totals \$88,919.81 of which \$77,839.61 has been submitted and approved leaving a balance remaining of \$11,080.20. The remaining \$20,000 in grant funds will be used to conduct a third-party market research entrepreneurial study and acquire equipment to support computer science teacher training.

Regional Entrepreneurship Initiative - GO VA Project Funds total \$100,000. Grant dollars expended to date total \$28,587.53 leaving a balance remaining of \$71,412.47. Committed match budgeted for the project totals \$50,000 of which \$59,153.76 has been submitted; the project is overmatched by \$9,153.76.

Charles Majors made a motion that the Financial Report for period ending May 31, 2020 be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Sherry Swinson and by roll call vote all members voted affirmatively.

OLD BUSINESS

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Personnel Committee – Bryan David was introduced and congratulated as the new Region 3 GO Virginia Program Director.
- B. Bylaws Committee – The Bylaws amendments were presented at the May 20th Council meeting. It was suggested to delete the section about the State Board having to approve new members as this is no longer a requirement. No other changes and no additional comments or concerns were received. Liz was asked to share the draft Bylaws with DHCD staff for their review and comment. The Bylaws will be approved at the next Council meeting.
- C. Innovation Committee – At the July Council meeting the Innovation Committee leaders will present the near-final E & I Report drafted by Lauren Mathena with Mid-Atlantic Broadband and Sheri McGuire with Longwood Small Business Development Center. An update was reviewed by staff who noted it looks good and that the two organizations have worked well together.

9. BROADBAND UPDATE

Liz Povar reviewed the broadband status report prepared by DHCD that covered all the localities in the GO Virginia Region 3 footprint. She noted that the City of Martinsville and Danville were now included in the report and are mostly well served by broadband. On June 23rd, Commonwealth Connect's Kyle Rosner will facilitate a meeting with four localities – Charlotte, Lunenburg, Nottoway, and Prince Edward for the purpose of updating them on best practices and upcoming grant opportunities. Jeff Reed of Virginia's Growth Alliance and Melody Foster of

Commonwealth Regional Council are also invited. The VATI deadline is rapidly approaching and Kyle will encourage applications. It was suggested to convene an All Hands Meeting/Broadband Summit with the local, regional, state, public, and private partners to share knowledge about broadband strategy and implementation within the Region. It was agreed that this meeting take place after the General Assembly reconvenes in August for budget review. Planning for the meeting should begin now so logistics can be handled; Bryan David will take lead to talk with Kyle Rosner for his input prior to planning

10. APPROVED PROJECTS UPDATE

- A. SOVA Innovation Hub – The project is complete with a remaining balance of \$20,000. A decision needs to be made soon on the expenditure of these remaining funds so the project can be officially closed out.
- B. GO TEC 1, 2A, 2B – The Project Review Committee made a recommendation that the Executive Committee approve Phase 2B to be presented for approval at the State Board meeting on June 23rd and also recommended the Executive Committee support a request for a slight (less than 10%) reduction in match for Phase 2B. Phase 1 and 2A outcomes have mostly been achieved. The two areas of underachievement were associated with student enrollments which were impacted by COVID. Staff was asked to talk with DHCD prior to the State Board meeting to discuss any concerns related to milestones that may be impacted by COVID. The Executive Committee discussed ways to ensure continued communication with K-12 leaders and staff during the expected impact of COVID on reopening schools. **Karl Stauber made a motion to approve reducing Phase 2B match from 3.6 million to 3.0 million and to ask the State Board to release GO Virginia funding for phase 2B; the motion was seconded by Charles Majors and by roll call vote all members voted affirmatively.**
- C. Operation Last Mile – The contract has been issued to be signed by all parties.
- D. IALR Major Clarity – The contract has been issued to be signed by all parties.
- E. SVRA/VGA Road to Recovery - The Road to Recovery project represents a \$925,000 request of the \$1,000,000 of ERR funds. Randy led a pitch call with the State Board; a total of approximately ten questions were asked and effectively answered by the project team. Liz presented the additional questions proposed by DHCD which were also answered by the team. The State Board will consider this application at its June 23 meeting.

11. CLOSED SESSION

Call For Closed Session - **Pursuant to Section §2.2-3712 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and upon motion by Tim Clark, seconded by Charles Majors the GO Virginia Region 3 Executive Committee unanimously approved to enter into CLOSED Session to discuss recommendations made for new project applications, active project pipeline status, and personnel updates pursuant to the closed meeting exemption at §2.2-3711.29 of the Code of Virginia; by roll call vote all members voted affirmatively.**

Return to Open Session - **Tim Clark motioned** having convened and concluded a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, members of the GO Virginia Region 3 Council certify the following: 1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law were discussed in the meeting, and 2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the public body; **Charles Majors seconded the motion and by roll call vote all members voted affirmatively.**

NEW BUISNESS

Staff will consider options of meeting in-person versus virtually via Zoom or utilizing the combined hybrid approach for the July 15 Full Council meeting. SPDC staff will send an email to poll council members to collect input on their preferences.

Charles Majors was contacted by the new owners of a group of newspapers in Western Virginia to provide a point of contact for positive news from this Region. After discussion the Executive Committee concurred that this affords an opportunity for positive coverage; Bryan David will follow-up to determine the most efficient way to handle this.

Amy Griffin, Region 3 Council member representing the K-12 sector, is retiring June 30th. Liz was asked to contact her and determine her interest in remaining on Council.

It was suggested that the community college Presidents in the region meet with Council members to update on the impact of COVID on their schedules and programming. This would enable the Council to "meet" the two new Presidents. Bryan and Liz will follow-up with Angeline Godwin of PHCC and bring a recommendation back to the Executive Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURN

There being no additional business matters to go before the GO Virginia Region 3 Executive Committee, Chairman Lail adjourned the meeting at 12:03 p.m.


Deborah B. Gosney, Southside PDC
Support Organization/Fiscal Agent


Ernest "Randy" Lail
Chairman