

**GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 COUNCIL
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 15, 2020**

The GO Virginia Region 3 Council met on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. utilizing Zoom virtual technology.

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lail called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL AND CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Chairman Lail declared a quorum was present.

A. Region 3 Council Members:

Members	Present	Absent	Members	Present	Absent
W. Scott Burnette	√		Jeff Reed	√	
Rebecca Carter	√		E. Larry Ryder	√	
Timothy J. Clark	√		Roger Scott	√	
Angeline Godwin		√	Karl N. Stauber	√	
Amy Griffin	√		Sherry Swinson	√	
Winston Harrell		√	Denise Taylor-Forrest	√	
E. Randolph Lail	√		C. R. "Bob" Timmons	√	
Charles H. Majors	√		Lauren Willis	√	
James McClain II	√		Nicole Young	√	
John Parkinson	√				

B. Region 3 Staff in Attendance:

Name	Organization
Bryan David	Region 3 Program Manager, UVA-Weldon Cooper Center
Liz Povar	The Riverlink Group
Nancy Pool	The Riverlink Group
Deborah Gosney	Region 3 Support Org/Fiscal Agency Representative
Lisa McGee	Region 3 Support Org/Fiscal Agency Representative

C. Guests in Attendance:

Name	Organization
Becky Carter	Buckingham County
Brandon Hennessey	Longwood Small Business Development Center
Brian Brown	Halifax County IDA
Jeff Kohler	Patrick Henry Community College
Joe Hines	Timmons
Lauren Mathena	Mid-Atlantic Broadband
Liz Smith	Mid-Atlantic Broadband
Sara Dunnigan	DHCD-GO Virginia
Sarah Capps	Tobacco Indemnification and Revitalization Commission
Sheri McGuire	Longwood Small Business Development Center
Tad Deriso	Mid-Atlantic Broadband
Tracy Mallard	Halifax County IDA

3. STATE GUIDANCE FOR REGIONAL COUNCILS

Chair Randy 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)
Charles H. Majors	Mid-Atlantic Broadband, Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, Danville Regional Foundation
Randolph Lail	Mid-Atlantic Broadband
Angeline Godwin	Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, Patrick Henry Community College
Jeff Reed	Virginia's Growth Alliance

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Randy Lail noted that the minutes of the January 22, 2020 Council meeting were received via email prior to the meeting and included in the meeting packet. **Scott Burnette made a motion that the minutes from the May 20, 2020 Council meeting be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Larry Ryder 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 05/31/2020 to 06/30/2020. Deborah noted the following:

FY20 Capacity Building GO VA Funds total \$361,111. Grant dollars expended to date is \$95,997.02 leaving a balance remaining of \$154,002.98.

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 \$924,340.23 leaving a balance remaining of \$396,446.77. Committed match budgeted for the project totals \$1,479,635 of which \$1,033,749.72 has been submitted and approved leaving a balance remaining of \$445,885.28.

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. Options are being considered for the expenditure of the remaining grant and match dollars.

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 and approved, thus the project was overmatched by \$9,153.76.

Roger Scott made a motion that the Financial Report for period ending June 30, 2020 be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Scott Burnette and by roll call vote all members voted affirmatively.

OLD BUSINESS

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. **Executive Committee** – Chair Randy Lail reported that two Letters of Endorsement were written by Region 3 staff - one addressed to the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research in support of the Defense Manufacturing Training and Technology Alliance (DMTTA) and the second to GO Virginia Region 4 in support of the Virtual Virginia Workforce application being submitted by the Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing, ODU and the Virginia Modeling & Simulation Center. Chair Lail also noted that Executive Committee minutes will now be forwarded to the Council to inform Council members of activities and initiatives taking place throughout the region. Liz Povar noted that as more organizations request letters of support from GO Virginia Region 3, the Council should consider an efficient process to address, with consideration given to alignment with Region 3 priorities and consideration of delegating the responsibility to the Executive Committee.
- B. **Nominating Committee** – Committee Chair Tim Clark reported that Amy Griffin has retired from the Cumberland County school system and is agreeing to continue to serve on the Region 3 Council which is especially needed to have geographically diverse representation. The Executive Committee will discuss at the August meeting how to fill the required PreK-12 vacant slot. This discussion will include consideration given to increasing the size of the Council.
- C. **Bylaws Committee** – Vice-Chair Charles Majors reported that the required process and timeframe required for Bylaws amendments has been met. There is one additional small change which is to delete the statement that “Council membership is subject to State Board approval.” Vice-Chair Majors noted that the State Board has changed their policy to acknowledging that this is no longer necessary, thus the need to remove the statement in our Bylaws. **Vice-Chair Charles Majors made a motion to approve the Bylaws amendments as presented; the motion was seconded by Tim Clark and by roll call vote all members voted affirmatively.**
- D. **Communications Committee** – Committee Chair Sherry Swinson reported that a one-year contract extension between Letterpress Communications, Region 3’s communications vendor, and Southside PDC has been executed for FY21 activities. This contract extension now includes two work performance budget categories - normal monthly activities and special events activities.
- Sherry encouraged everyone to view the You Tube interview, hosted by Letterpress, with Bryan David, Region 3’s recently hired Program Manager.
- E. **Innovation Committee** – Committee Member Roger Scott reported that the Innovation Committee is responsible for the oversight of the work of an approved project team that was contracted to create innovation and an entrepreneurial investment strategy for Region 3. The baseline evaluation of the Region’s current innovation assets and strategies was complete

through the TEconomy Study. This study in combination with the State Board's emphasis to create a viable entrepreneurial ecosystem, resulted in Region 3 including this initiative in its Growth & Diversification Plan. Through a selective procurement process, Longwood Small Business Development Center (LSBDC) and Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation (MBC) were selected to prepare the Entrepreneur & Innovation Strategy Study. The Innovation Committee viewed the presentation of the Report a week ago and today a high-level summary presentation was delivered by Lauren Mathena, MBC, Sheri Mcguire, LSBDC, and Brandon Hennessey, LSBDC. Following the PowerPoint presentation, Liz Povar reported that in August, the Innovation Committee will meet with the Executive Committee to consider the best ways to utilize the Report. She encouraged Council members to take the next 30 days to review the report and email thoughts, questions, input to staff. The report will also be shared with DHCD and a nationally recognized entrepreneur to think about how to implement. The PowerPoint presentation will be circulated to Council members. Staff is willing to schedule zoom meetings with Council members for deeper dive discussion.

9. APPROVED PROJECTS STATUS

Liz Povar, reported that all the projects collectively are on schedule. The GO-TEC 1 and GO-TEC 2A were recently reviewed and approved by the State Board as meeting sufficient outcomes to allow transition to the GO-TEC Phase 2B MOU. She noted that contingency plans are in place by GO-TEC project leaders to accommodate program delivery over the next school year under the COVID environment.

10. 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 Roger Scott, 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; **Scott Burnette seconded the motion and by roll call vote all members voted affirmatively.**

Action on Closed Session Items

Lauren Willis motioned to approve the ECB Per Capita application for the Mid-Atlantic Broadband Middle Mile Expansion Project as recommended by the Project Review Committee; the motion was seconded by Scott Burnette and roll call vote resulted in:

Members	Vote	Members	Vote
W. Scott Burnette	Yes	Jeff Reed	Abstain
Rebecca Carter	Yes	E. Larry Ryder	Yes
Tim Clark	Yes	Roger Scott	Yes
Angeline Godwin	Yes	Karl N. Stauber	Yes
Amy Griffin	Yes	Sherry Swinson	Yes
Winston Harrell	Yes	Denise Taylor-Forrest	Yes
E. Randolph Lail	Abstain	C. R. "Bob" Timmons	Yes
Charles H. Majors	Abstain	Lauren Willis	Yes
James McClain II	Yes	Nicole Young	Yes
John Parkinson	Yes		

Roger motioned to support the State Competitive application for the Region 5 SCIPP International Cybersecurity Job Creation Project as recommended by the Project Review Committee; the motion was seconded by Tim Clark and roll call vote resulted in:

Members	Vote	Members	Vote
W. Scott Burnette	Yes	Jeff Reed	Yes
Rebecca Carter	Yes	E. Larry Ryder	Yes
Tim Clark	Yes	Roger Scott	Yes
Angeline Godwin	Yes	Karl N. Stauber	No
Amy Griffin	Yes	Sherry Swinson	Yes
Winston Harrell	Yes	Denise Taylor-Forrest	Yes
E. Randolph Lail	Yes	C. R. "Bob" Timmons	Yes
Charles H. Majors	Yes	Lauren Willis	Yes
James McClain II	Yes	Nicole Young	Yes
John Parkinson	Yes		

NEW BUSINESS

11. BROADBAND STAKEHOLDERS SUMMIT

Chair Randy Lail reported work is being done to organize a summit to include local officials throughout Region 3 as well as internet service providers. Discussions have also been made with Kyle Rosner, Commonwealth Connect. The goal is to bring stakeholders together to discuss productive strategies that will produce positive results for broadband deployment throughout Region 3. The state is interested in how Region 3 can position themselves as conveners for this

very important initiative. A suggestion was made to invite Senator Warner as a supporter of broadband initiatives.

12. CONTRACT EXTENSION

Bryan David asked that the Council consider extending the MOU with the Southside PDC in its capacity as the Region 3 Support Organization/Fiscal Agent, and The RiverLink Group in its role as contract manager, until the October meeting; the current MOU Agreements expired June 30, 2020. The FY21 MOU Agreements can be prepared and submitted for approval by the Executive Committee at the August meeting and ratified by the Council at the October meeting. **Scott Burnette made the motion to extend the SPDC and Riverlink FY20 MOU Agreements to October 2020; the motion was seconded by Jeff Reed and by roll call vote all members voted affirmatively.**

13. COUNCIL MEMBER UPDATES

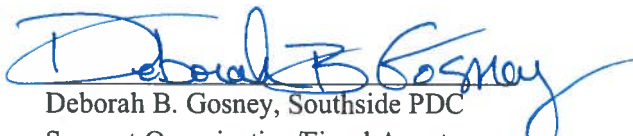
Bryan reported that the transition of duties between he and Liz is going well. Bryan has been with the Region for approximately a month. He extended a thank you to SPDC staff for their support and assistance through the transition. He emphasized that Liz has set high standards and has built an impressive organization containing strong community leaders. He asked for patience and forgiveness as he continues to learn the intricacies of the position and expressed excitement about returning to Southern VA He thanked Council for giving him the opportunity. Liz commented that she has enjoyed working with Bryan through the transition.

Charles Majors reported that he was asked to participate in Region 7's request from Longwood Small Business Development Center for funds to maintain operations.

Scott Burnette commented that as a hospital administrator he wanted to emphasize that COVID is back on the rise. People are not adhering to social distancing and masking. The Governor announced that random checks will be made throughout the Commonwealth. Scott emphasized that masks do work.

OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURN

There being no additional business matters to go before the GO Virginia Region 3 Council, Chairman Lail adjourned the meeting at 3:29 p.m.


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


Ernest "Randy" Lail
Chairman