

**GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 17, 2021**

The GO Virginia Region 3 Executive Committee met on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 utilizing Zoom virtual technology.

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. Call To Order And Chairman's Opening Comments

Chairman Lail called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

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.

2. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum

Chairman Lail declared a quorum was present.

A. Region 3 Council Members:

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

B. Region 3 Staff in Attendance:

Name/Organization	Organization
Bryan David-UVA Weldon Cooper Center	Region 3 Program Director
Liz Povar-Riverlink Group	Region 3 Contract Staff
Nancy Pool	Region 3 Contract Staff
Deborah Gosney-Southside PDC	Region 3 Support Org/Fiscal Agent
Lisa McGee-Southside PDC	Region 3 Support Org/Fiscal Agent

C. Guests in Attendance:

Name	Organization
Brandon Hennessey	Longwood University Small Business Development Center

3. Public Comments

No written or verbal public comments were received.

4. 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, Future of the Piedmont
Randolph Lail	Mid-Atlantic Broadband

5. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Lail noted that the minutes of the November 18, 2020 Executive Committee meeting were received via email prior to the meeting and included in the meeting packet. **Tim Clark made a motion that the minutes from the November 18, 2020 Executive Committee meeting be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Karl Stauber and by roll call vote all members voted affirmatively. (Ayes: Clark, Lail, Stauber, Swinson. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. [Mr. Majors was not present at the time of the vote.]**

6. Financial Reports

Deborah Gosney reviewed the Financial Reports that were included in the meeting packet for period January 1, 2021 – January 31, 2021. In addition, she noted that the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Planning Study project has closed out with a \$22,037.88 balance remaining. This balance will be returned to the Per Capita pool. Mrs. Gosney will adjust the Per Capita Funding Matrix and send to Randy Lail, Bryan David, Liz Povar, and Nancy Pool. **Sherry Swinson made a motion that the Financial Reports for period ending January 31, 2021 be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Tim Clark and by roll call vote all members voted affirmatively. (Ayes: Clark, Lail, Majors, Stauber, Swinson. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.)**

OLD BUSINESS7. Approved Projects Updates

Bryan David provided updated Project Progress Reports for review prior to the meeting as identified below.

- Bridge to Recovery – Tracking as expected
- GO TEC 2B – Moving along well considering COVID conditions. Project schedule may be impacted.

- Chair Randy Lail requested that Mr. David prepare a spreadsheet to track the progress of the middle schools who have adopted plans to become career connections labs.
- Common Platform (Major Clarity) – Tracking as expected.
- Genedge – (larger scale and businesses within their pervue) – Tracking as expected.
- Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation (MBC) – Working with EDA on providing additional information.
- Virginia Small Business Development Centers – Tracking as expected.

8. Closed Session

Pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 et seq of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, I move that the Executive Committee of the GO Region 3 Council convene in closed session to discuss or consider pursuant to Sections 2.2-3711 A.1, A.29, and A.48, respectively, of said Act, grant proposals under development for the GO Virginia Region 3 Council to be submitted for consideration to the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board.

Tim Clark made a motion that the Executive Committee enter closed session for discussion of topics as addressed in the Code allowance.; the motion was seconded by **Sherry Swinson** and by roll call vote all members voted affirmatively. (Ayes: Clark, Lail, Majors, Stauber, Swinson; Nays: None; Abstentions: None)

Having convened and concluded a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 et seq of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, members of the GO Region 3 Executive Committee certify the following pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 et seq of said Act: 1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter, 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.

By roll call vote, all members voted affirmatively. (**Ayes: Clark, Lail, Stauber, Swinson; Nays: None; Abstentions: None.**)

Committee member Karl Stauber discussed his desire to have the Council return to presenting who the Region is and what they do. Charles Majors supported that discussion and suggested hosting a virtual All Hands Meeting. Bryan David noted that he would consider that and consult with Letterpress Communications. Mr. David suggested the topics may include projects in process, the Growth and Diversification Plan and Cooper Center demographic and economic trends. Mr. Stauber suggested this may be an opportunity to “reactivate” previously active advisory committees.

Liz Povar provided an update of the E & I Implementation Project discussions with State Board.

NEW BUSINESS

9. Committee Reports

No Committee Reports were reviewed.

10. Carbon Credit Offsets Aggregation Project

Updates to the Carbon Credit Offsets Aggregation Project were provided for review prior to the meeting, including the development of a proposed GO Virginia Region 3 Enhanced Capacity Building (ECB) Project involving the aggregation of carbon credits via a “special purpose” economic development authority being continued by staff. Bryan David shared that Deborah Gosney initiated communication with the Economic Development Administration (EDA) on this project with EDA expressing interest; he will follow through by telephone. He further noted that Microsoft, a key business located in Mecklenburg County, has committed to becoming carbon negative.

Further, the update included recommendations authorizing Mr. David to proceed in partnership with Mrs. Gosney to prepare and coordinate an Enhanced Capacity Building grant application for the project for consideration by the Project Review Committee and the Region 3 Council.

Additionally, the recommendation includes authority for Mr. David to take necessary actions to assist and support Mrs. Gosney with the preparation and submission of grant applications to the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission and the USDA Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund as presented.

Sherry Swinson made a motion to accept the recommendations and approve as presented; the motion was seconded by Tim Clark and by roll call vote all members voted affirmatively. (Ayes: Clark, Lail, Majors, Swinson. Nays: None. Abstentions: None. [Mr. Stauber was not present at the time of the vote.]

11. GO Virginia Region 3 Healthcare Occupations

The availability and quality of health care, health outcomes, the status of health care workforce development, and the supply and demand for health care occupations were reported for review by the Committee. Brandon Hennessey with the Longwood Small Business Development Center was available to answer questions concerning the reports he prepared. Further, Mr. Hennessey was able to provide real time answers to questions raised during the Executive Committee’s discussion regarding industry and job inquiries.

Following this discussion, the Executive Committee agreed to have the Region 3 Council take up this matter at its April 17th meeting with a recommendation that a letter from the Chairman with supporting information be sent to Department of Housing and Community Development GO Virginia staff requesting the Stakeholder Workgroup’s recommendation on health care sector investments be revisited by the GO Virginia State Board. Further, Charles Majors suggested discussions with members of the GO Virginia State Board and volunteered to undertake this task.

12. GO Virginia Region 3 Investment Strategy to Support Broadband Deployment

Following discussions regarding broadband deployment and its impact on the ability to achieve economic development success, Bryan David was tasked with revising the Request for Proposals originally issued in 2020. Mr. David will provide this update to the Executive Committee at its meeting March 17th.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR’S REPORT

13. Region 3 Growth and Diversification Plan Update

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) GO Virginia staff released draft guidance on the required 2021 update for the Region 3 Growth and Diversification Plan. Highlights include that the due date has been extended to October 15, 2021, and DHCD staff will provide workforce and economic data packages for each region.

Bryan David will evaluate the alignment of the Region 3 Growth and Diversification Plan with this guidance and report to the Region 3 Council at the April 21, 2021 meeting. Further, he will also prepare a timeline to complete this update by the October deadline.

14. Economic Resilience and Recovery (ERR) Program Guidelines Update

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) GO Virginia staff released updated Economic Resilience and Recovery (ERR) Program guidelines related to COVID-19 vaccination programs undertaken by employers. This update permits projects to be funded under the ERR program which support employer coordinated vaccination efforts consistent with the Virginia Department of Health COVID-19 Vaccination Response Plan.

15. Support Organization Grant Administration Allowance Administrative Guidelines

The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) GO Virginia staff released Support Organization Grant Administration Allowance Administrative Guidelines. These guidelines provide support organizations “...clarity on the process for determining and applying support organization administrative costs to projects approved by the regional councils.”

Deborah Gosney participated in the drafting of these guidelines. Of note is an earlier version excluding indirect costs incurred by the SPDC in managing Region 3 grants. This would have severely impacted the financial viability of SPDC providing support services to the Region 3 Council. Fortunately, the exclusion of indirect costs was omitted in the final draft. Mrs. Gosney provided direct input along with other support organization leaders to DHCD staff about the impact of excluding indirect costs and DHCD responded favorably to their input. Bryan David provided a copy of the reference draft guidance for the Committee members’ reference.

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 11:50 a.m.

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Deborah Gosney

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

DocuSigned by:

RANDY LAIL

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Ernest “Randy” Lail
Chairman