

**GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 FULL COUNCIL MEETING  
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, January 20, 2021**

The GO Virginia Region 3 Council met on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. utilizing Zoom virtual technology.

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

1. Call To Order And Chairman's Opening Comments

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.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 Zoo. 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:

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

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
Andrea Devening	Department of Housing and Community Development
Sara Dunningan	Department of Housing and Community Development
Linda Hutson Green	Southern Virginia Regional Alliance
Lauren Mathena	Mid-Atlantic Broadband
Sheri McGuire	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
Randolph Lail	Mid-Atlantic Broadband
Angeline Godwin	Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, Patrick Henry Community College
Jeff Reed	Virginia's Growth Alliance

5. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Lail noted that the minutes of the October 28, 2020 Council meeting were received via email prior to the meeting and included in the meeting packet. **Bob Timmons made a motion that the minutes from the October 28, 2020 Executive Committee meeting be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Scott Burnette and by roll call vote all members voted affirmatively. (Ayes: Burnette, Clark, Godwin, Griffin, Lail, Majors, McClain, Parkinson, Reed, Ryder, Scott, Stauber, Swinson, Taylor-Forrest, Timmons; Nays: None; Abstentions: None)**

6. Financial Reports

Deborah Gosney reviewed the Financial Reports that were included in the meeting packet for period December 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020. **Jeff Reed made a motion that the Financial Reports for period ending October 31, 2020 be approved as presented; the motion was**

**seconded by Scott Burnette and by roll call vote all members voted affirmatively. (Ayes: Burnette, Clark, Godwin, Griffin, Lail, Majors, McClain, Parkinson, Reed, Ryder, Scott, Stauber, Swinson, Taylor-Forrest, Timmons; Nays: None; Abstentions: None)**

## **SPECIAL APPEARANCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

### 7. Bridge to Recovery Project

Linda Hutson Green, Executive Director of Southern Virginia Regional Alliance, and Jeffrey Reed, Executive Director of Virginia's Growth Alliance, provided the Council with an update and presentation on the Bridge to Recovery Project, a COVID-19 recovery project funded under the GO Virginia Economic Resilience and Recovery Per Capita Program.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### 8. Approved Projects Updates

Prior to the meeting, Bryan David provided the Council members with updated Project Progress Reports for the following:

- Bridge to Recovery
- GO TEC 2B
- Common Platform (Major Clarity)
- Genedge - Retooling Virginia Manufacturing for Strategic Industries
- Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation (MBC) – Middle Mile Expansion for Economic Growth
- Virginia Small Business Development Centers

All projects are tracking as expected.

### 9. Project Pipeline - The Project Pipeline list was provided to members prior to the meeting. The list was briefly reviewed to inform Council of projects being developed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 10. Committee Reports

- A. Project Review Committee – Bryan David shared that the Project Review Committee (PRC) is currently reviewing an application related to the recently adopted Entrepreneurship and Innovation Investment Strategy Study. The co-applicants are the SOVA Innovation Hub and the Longwood Office for Community and Economic Development. The PRC met on January 6 and 13, 2021.

The completed application and the PRC's recommendation were forwarded to the Council for review prior to the Council meeting.

**John Parkinson made a motion to approve the application for funding; the motion was seconded by Bob Timmons. By roll call vote of members present, 11 members voted yes, 2 members abstained, and one voted no. (Ayes: Clark, Godwin, Griffin, McClain, Parkinson, Ryder, Scott, Stauber, Swinson, Taylor-Forrest, Timmons; Nays: Reed; Abstentions: Lail, Majors. Mr. Burnette was not present during the vote.)**

- B. Nominations Committee – Bryan David provided Council members with a roster of Council members. The names of those whose current terms are through June 30, 2021 were highlighted. Tim Clark, Committee Chair, shared that each of these members is eligible for a second consecutive term, pursuant to the Region 3 Bylaws. He will reach out to all of the members whose terms are ending to determine interest in continuing. The Nominations Committee includes Tim Clark - Chair; Charles Majors, Bob Timmons, and Nicole Young. No action was required at this time.

11. Region 3 Office Space – SOVA Innovation Hub

Bryan David shared that the Executive Committee considered the leasing of office and meeting space at the recently constructed SOVA Innovation Hub in South Boston to house the Region 3 Program Director as well as meeting space for physical meetings. Suitable office space has been identified on the first floor of the building. The building is nearing completion and the office should be available for occupancy after February 1. The monthly lease rate is \$451.25 per month based on a 12-month lease for an annual lease cost of \$5,415.00. Bryan David and Deborah Gosney reviewed the current operations budget and identified funds that are available for the total annual lease expense. In addition to having co-working spaces available at the building, it will house MBC's corporate offices and Microsoft's TechSpark program. It should be noted that GO Virginia Region 3 awarded a grant to fund an economic impact study, site development, and architectural design for the construction project.

The Executive Committee recommended GO Virginia Region 3 lease office and meeting space at the SOVA Innovation Hub in South Boston as presented. Further, the Executive Committee requests approval of the Council to execute a lease for the GO Virginia Region 3 office and meeting space and that the necessary budget amendments to the FY20-21 GO Virginia budget for this expense be made.

**Bob Timmons made a motion to authorize the Chairman to execute a lease for the GO Virginia Region 3 office space at the SOVA Innovation Hub in South Boston; the motion was seconded by Roger Scott. By roll call vote of members present, 11 members voted yes, one member abstained, and one voted no. (Ayes: Clark, Godwin, Griffin, McClain, Parkinson, Ryder, Scott, Stauber, Swinson, Taylor-Forrest, Timmons; Nays: Reed; Abstentions: Lail. Mr. Burnette and Mr. Majors were not present during the vote.)**

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

12. Carbon Credit Offset Aggregation

Bryan David shared information regarding the development of a program under the Healthy Watersheds Forest Retention Project sponsored by numerous State and Federal organizations. At the November 2020 meeting, the Executive Committee took this project under advisement and agreed for Mr. David to continue its development and report back at the Committee's February 17, 2021 meeting. Further, the Executive Committee asked Mr. David to brief the Full Council at the January 20, 2021 meeting.

Following the Executive Committee, Mr. David and Deborah Gosney discussed this project and agreed that two studies need to be prepared to provide additional critical details in order to move forward. Mrs. Gosney advised that the Southside Planning District Commission (SPDC) or Lake Country Development Corporation (LCDC) would be eligible to apply and receive grants of this

nature. Further, Mr. David shared that guidance from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development would be sought to determine which organization would best serve as the grantee.

The first deliverable under this grant would be an analysis from a qualified firm of the overall economic impacts (including projected direct and induced increases in household income) and job creation for Brunswick, Halifax, and Mecklenburg Counties. The second deliverable would be a report and assessment from a qualified law firm about the available legal structures and operating considerations under Virginia law for the creation of a special purpose regional economic development authority or other authorized political subdivision to undertake the development, implementation, and management of a program to enroll and aggregate forest landowners and facilitate their access to carbon credit offset markets.

It was the consensus of the Region 3 Council that Mr. David, in collaboration with Mrs. Gosney, continue developing an Enhanced Capacity Building (ECB) application for the economic impact and job creation analysis as well as the legal and carbon markets assessment and report. This ECB application is to be considered by the Region 3 Council at the April 21 meeting.

**OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURN**

There being no additional business matters to go before the GO Virginia Region 3 Council, Chairman Lail adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

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

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Ernest "Randy" Lail  
Chairman