

**GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
ZOOM MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, April 15, 2020**

The Southern Virginia GO Region 3 Executive Committee met on Wednesday, April 15, 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
✓		Tim Clark
✓		Randy Lail, Chairman
✓		Charles Majors, Vice Chairman
✓		Karl Stauber
✓		Sherry Swinson

B. Staff in Attendance:

Liz Povar, The Riverlink Group

Nancy Pool, The Riverlink Group

Deborah Gosney, Southside PDC-Support Organization/Fiscal Agent

C. Guests in Attendance:

Julie Brown, Institute of Advanced Learning & Research (IALR), GO-TEC Project

Ann Hyslop, GO Virginia Region 7

Linda Greene, Executive Director, Southern Virginia Regional Alliance

Tad Deriso, President and CEO of Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation

### 3. CONTEXT OF MEETING & GOVERNOR'S EO

Chairman Lail welcomed everyone to the GO Virginia Region 3 Virtual Zoom Executive Committee meeting. The virtual platform was selected to abide by the restrictions on public gatherings as stated in the Governor's Emergency Declaration 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:

Mid-Atlantic Broadband - Charles H. Majors and E. Randolph Lail  
Institute for Advanced Learning and Research - Charles H. Majors

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### 6. STATE GUIDANCE (COVID19) FOR REGIONAL COUNCILS

Liz Povar reported that a memorandum dated April 8, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic to all GO Virginia regional council members was recently issued from GO Virginia State Board Chair Tom Farrell and Vice Chair Ben Davenport outlining proposed match changes and the redirection of \$14.5 million in state competitive funds to projects of urgent regional priority. These changes will be presented to the GO Virginia State Board at the scheduled April 17, 2020 meeting. Chairman Farrell encouraged regional councils to review their G&D Plans and consider ways to utilize dollars more effectively, i.e. sector based strategies, connecting businesses through telework and technology, helping companies retool, establishing partnerships with research institutions, and dislocated worker training programs. The proposed match changes for all pools of funds include waiving the local match requirement and reducing the 1:1 match by half to 2:1; this policy is effective through the December State Board meeting. In addition, up to \$1 million in Economic Resilience and Recovery Funds (ERR) will be allocated for each regional council of which \$300,000 will be available for enhanced capacity building projects, both implementation and planning projects, with the same

reduced match requirements. These policy changes for the ERR funds are effective for a 12-month period.

Funding ideas from the Executive Committee included expedited retraining programs, retaining graduating youth, expanding broadband connectivity, and strengthening industry sector supply chains. Mid-Atlantic Broadband has reached out to several county administrators and significant broadband projects are underway. Committee members suggested identifying council members that have expertise in the areas mentioned and discuss project ideas prior to the May Council meeting. Liz will draft a summary and distribute to the Committee for further consideration.

It was emphasized that Main Street businesses need immediate assistance to avoid permanent shut down threats. Emergency loan funds are critical to retain these essential operations in our small towns.

## 7. 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 Karl Stauber, the GO Virginia Region 3 Executive Committee unanimously approved to enter into CLOSED Session to discuss recommendations made for new received project applications and current project pipeline status pursuant to the closed meeting exemption at § 2.2-3711.29 of the Code of Virginia.

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. By roll call all members present voted affirmatively.

**Karl Stuaber motioned to approve the recommendation of the Project Review Committee to support the IALR application for the Major Clarity Platform Project and proposed that the Executive Committee assist with outreach efforts to essential partners; the motion was seconded by Tim Clark, and carried unanimously with the exception of Charles Majors who abstained.**

**Charles Majors motioned to approve the recommendation of the Project Review Committee to approve the Operation Last Mile Drone Project; the motion was seconded by Tim Clark and carried unanimously.**

## **8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**


- A. Personnel Committee – The Weldon Cooper Center is in the process of completing the validation and hiring of the selected candidate to serve as Region 3 Program Director. It is estimated that this final step will take approximately one month to complete.
  
- B. Communications Committee – A recent notice has been posted on the Region 3 website soliciting ideas from all partners on how Region 3 could assist during this COVID-19 crisis. A total of five concept ideas were received which will be incorporated into the draft list of suggestions that will be prepared for Council’s review. A concept paper has been submitted to DHCD on possible loan funds to assist struggling businesses.
  
- C. Bylaws – It was suggested to consider adding language in the bylaws amendment to include permission to hold virtual meetings in accordance with Virginia State Code during a declared State of Emergency. The bylaws amendments will be presented to the full Region 3 Council in May and adopted at the next meeting of the full Council.
  
- D. Nominating Committee - Jeff Reed was contacted to fill the economic development representative vacancy on the Region 3 Council and agreed to serve. Upon final approval by the Region 3 Council, Jeff will be notified and officially be added as a Council member.


## **NEW BUSINESS**

- 8. May Council Meeting – The Region 3 Council meeting will be held on May 20 and likely be a virtual meeting.

## **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 11:52 a.m. .

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

  
Ernest "Randy" Lail  
Chairman