

**GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
VIRTUAL MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, December 21, 2022**

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

1. Call To Order

Chair Clark called the GO Virginia (GOVA) Region 3 virtual Executive Committee meeting to order on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at 10:08 a.m. This meeting is being held by electronic communications, via the web platform ZOOM.

2. Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum

Chair Clark declared a quorum was present virtually.

Region 3 Executive Committee Members

Members	In Person	Absent	Virtual
Timothy J. Clark			X
E. Randolph Lail			X
Charles H. Majors			X
Sherry Swinson			X
Lauren Willis			X

Region 3 Staff

Name – Organization - Role	In Person	Virtual	Absent
Bryan David (UVA Weldon Cooper Center) - Program Director – Region 3 Contract Staff		X	
Deborah Gosney - Southside PDC - Support Org. & Fiscal Agent		X	
Ann Wright (CTW Consulting, LLC) - Southside PDC Contract Staff			X
Liz Povar (The Riverlink Group) - Southside PDC Contract Staff		X	
Nancy Pool – Southside PDC Contract Staff		X	

Presenters & Guests

Name - Title	Organization	In Person	Virtual
Andrea Devening- Program Manager	DHCD- GO Virginia		X
Sara Dunnigan- Deputy Director of Community Revitalization	DHCD- GO Virginia		X
Alex Veatch- Account Executive	LetterPress Communications		X

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

5. Approval of Minutes

Chair Clark noted that the minutes were received via email prior to the meeting and included in the meeting packet. **Randy Lail made a motion that the minutes from the August 17, 2021, Executive Committee meeting be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Lauren Willis and approved by roll call vote as follows:**

Roll Call Vote	Yay	Nay	Abstain	Roll Call Vote	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Timothy Clark	x			Sherry Swinson	x		
Randolph Lail	x			Lauren Willis	x		
Charles Majors	x						

6. Financial Reports

Deborah Gosney reviewed the Financial Reports that were included in the meeting packet for the period November 1, 2022, to November 30, 2022. **Charles Majors made a motion that the Financial Report be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Randy Lail and approved by roll call vote as follows:**

Roll Call Vote	Yay	Nay	Abstain	Roll Call Vote	Yay	Nay	Abstain
Timothy Clark	x			Sherry Swinson	x		
Randolph Lail	x			Lauren Willis	x		
Charles Majors	x						

## OLD BUSINESS

### 7. Region 3 Approved Projects Update

Bryan David noted that several of the larger projects are wrapping up. He then provided the Executive Committee members with Project Progress Reports:

- Bridge to Recovery – proceeding as planned according to scope, schedule, and budget with no adverse issues anticipated. DHCD GOVA staff approved a no cost extension for this program through 12.31.22 to complete its outreach program. The last activity was held on Friday, November 18th. It was a one-day employer focused webinar featuring workforce issues, including:
  - Childcare, After-school Care, and Elder Care
  - Recruiting and Onboarding Employees
  - Training, Apprenticeships, and Re-entry Programs
  - Higher Education, Skill Sets, Certifications and Re-certifications
  - Retention, Promotion, and AdvancementA final report will be presented to the Region 3 Council in 2023.
- ExperienceWorks – proceeding as planned according to scope, schedule, and budget with no adverse issues anticipated. An updated activity report was provided.
- Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation (MBC) - Middle Mile Expansion for Economic Growth – the project is near closeout and no adverse issues are anticipated. This is an engineering-only project; no construction is involved.
- Entrepreneurship Investment and Innovation Strategy – proceeding as planned according to scope, schedule, and budget with no adverse issues anticipated. The project will conclude in March 2023, followed by the final report. An up-to-date dashboard of activities will be provided to the Region 3 Council at its meeting on January 18th.
- Virginia Growth Alliance Refresh/Restart: A Strategy for Regional Economic Development – proceeding as planned according to scope, schedule, and budget with no adverse issues anticipated. VGA issued a *Request for Proposals* and is in the process of retaining the consultants needed to implement the project.
- GOVA Region 3 Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) Strategy & Roadmap –as project principals, the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research (ILAR) and Virginia Tech are proceeding as planned according to scope, schedule, and budget with no adverse issues anticipated. Following the successful CEA Summit East at IALR, the workgroup is scheduled to meet on 12.20.22 to plan for January 2023 activities. The activities will convene focus groups for economic developers, workforce development principals, existing producers, and state-level economic development and agribusiness policy leaders.
- Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation Middle Mile Fiber Expansion Project (GOVA Regions 3 & 4) – the federal source of funds for the project has been changed from the US EDA to the National Telecommunications Information Administration (NTIA). MBC submitted the application with the assistance of the Southside PDC staff in September 2022. NITA to announce awards in March 2023. No change since the last report.
- SEED Innovation Hub – Following the US EDA ARPA award in August 2022, the GOVA contract was finalized in November. Project principals are waiting for US EDA funding disbursement authorization.

- Virginia College Fund/Virginia Commonwealth University (The Gupton Initiative) – proceeding as planned according to scope, schedule, and budget with no adverse issues anticipated. Project completion is targeted for May 2023.
- Commonwealth Regional Council Strategy and Business Plan for Regional Economic Development Organization - proceeding as planned according to scope, schedule, and budget with no adverse issues anticipated. A working subcommittee will directly oversee the strategy and business plan development. Membership will include local government managers, economic developers, and other allied stakeholders.

#### Statewide Approved Projects

- Virginia Small Business Development Centers – this project has been closed. A final report is forthcoming to the participating GOVA Regional Councils.
- Innovation Commercialization Assistance Program (ICAP) Virginia Small Business Development Center Network – proceeding according to scope, schedule, and budget with no adverse issues anticipated. An update meeting was held on 12.6.22 (<https://youtu.be/qgtTiw6irp8>).

#### 8. Project Pipeline

- Patrick & Henry Community College GO TEC Pathways: Welding Instructor (Per Capita)- This grant would fund a Welding Instructor position for dual enrollment with Henry County and Martinsville City Schools as part of the IALR’s expansion of GO TEC Virginia 2025 in Region 3. Funding of \$117,733 will be requested for use over three years. At the direction of DHCD GO Virginia staff, this position and a mechatronics instructor position proposed by Southside Community College were not included in the final GO TEC Virginia 2025 Statewide Competitive grant application.
- Southside Virginia Community College GO TEC Pathways: Mechatronics Instructor (Per Capita)- This grant would fund a Mechatronics Instructor position for dual enrollment to serve school divisions in Amelia, Buckingham, Cumberland, and Prince Edward Counties as part of the IALR’s expansion of GO TEC Virginia 2025 in Region 3. Funding of \$137,732 will be requested for use over three years. At the direction of DHCD GO Virginia staff, this position and a mechatronics instructor position proposed by Southside Community College were not included in the final GO TEC Virginia 2025 Statewide Competitive grant application.
- Virginia’s Growth Alliance Site Development Project (Per Capita)- An application was submitted to the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission for the January 2023 grant cycle. Another is being prepared for submission to GOVA Region 3 in January 2023. The project entails completing the due diligence work to elevate six sites across Brunswick, Charlotte, and Lunenburg Counties to higher tiers based on the Virginia Economic Development Partnership’s ranking system.
- Assessment and Update of GOVA Region 3 Entrepreneurship Investment & Innovation Strategy (Enhanced Capacity Building/Planning)- This project will conclude in March 2023. Project principals, Sheri McGuire and Lauren Mathena, agreed that engaging a third-party subject matter expert in entrepreneurial ecosystem development in rural areas would be appropriate. Bryan David contacted Dr. Erik Pages with Entrenworks Consulting about the project. Mr. David shared a working draft of a report that Dr. Pages could provide if the project is pursued.

- Southern Virginia Health Science Career Pipeline (Enhanced Capacity Building/Planning)- This project will collect and assemble data on the education (supply) and employer (demand) sides of healthcare across the Region. This data set does not currently exist for Region 3. Once assembled, the information should enable an "employer-led" workforce development initiative in healthcare sciences by convening and connecting health care stakeholders to identify barriers and opportunities.
- SOVA Innovation Labs (Per Capita)- The SOVA Innovation Hub has been developing a plan to expand the SOVA Innovation Campus in South Boston for the past year. This expansion would involve the acquisition and adaptive reuse of an adjacent structure and is contingent upon a pending grant application with the US EDA.

Chair Clark asked members for questions or comments; there being none, there was no discussion regarding the report.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### 9. Nominating Committee Report

The Committee will assess the number of Region 3 Council members whose terms expire on June 30, 2023, along with the pending vacancies of Tim Hall and Scott Burnette, and will begin recruiting replacements.

## **PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### 10. GO TEC 2025

The application was approved as presented by the State Board on 12/13/2022 with a requirement that the enterprise plan and student tracking methodology be prepared and submitted to DHCD for review by no later than March 30, 2024.

### 11. Region 3 Website Refresh

The updated Region 3 website was presented to the Executive Committee by Alex Veatch of LetterPress.

### 12. GOVA Talent Pathway Initiative

The General Assembly has allocated \$2.5M to the GOVA State Board for planning grants to support the analysis of the workforce needs of regional businesses and the identification of the skills and training that can help prepare Virginians to fill available jobs in regional markets. Additionally, the State Board has allocated up to \$250K for each GOVA Regional Council to use for the planning phase of the initiative.

### 13. Cross-Border Collaboration to Develop Regional Business Parks

There is an opportunity to explore the interests among localities and allied stakeholders of the potential for developing cross-border regional business parks. A primary benefit for localities to develop business parks is the ability to recruit business investment that creates high-wage jobs filled by workers from the labor shed surrounding the given business park. In rural areas along the

Virginia/North Carolina border, workers are likely to live outside the host locality and commute for employment.

14. Region 3 Meeting Start-Time

Moving the start-time for Full Council meetings from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. was discussed. It will be addressed further at the Full Council meeting in January.

15. Region 3 Council Annual Report

Bryan David reviewed the Region 3 Annual Report submitted to DHCD in October.

**OTHER BUSINESS/ADJOURN**

There being no additional business matters to go before the GO Virginia Region 3 Executive Committee, Chair Clark adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

These minutes were approved by the Executive Committee on \_\_\_\_\_.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy Clark, Region 3 Council  
Chair