

**GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 FULL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 16, 2024**

REGULAR BUSINESS

Call To Order

Chair Willis called the GO Virginia (GOVA) Region 3 Full Council in-person meeting to order on Wednesday, October 16, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum

Deborah Gosney conducted a roll call. Chair Willis declared a quorum was present.

Virtual Attendance

Chair Willis noted the following members are attending virtually for prior approved FOIA eligible reasons: Kristen Gee (>60 miles- Dillwyn, Va), Amy Griffin (>60 miles- Nottoway, Va), Sheldon Barr (> 60 miles- South Hill, Va), Dale Wagner (> 60 miles- Martinsville, Va), and Sherry Swinson (> 60 miles- Farmville, Va). **Elizabeth Leggett made a motion to allow the named members to attend virtually; the motion was seconded by Melody Foster and approved unanimously.**

Region 3 Council Member Attendance

Members	In Person	Virtual	Absent	Members	In Person	Virtual	Absent
Kelly Lanier-Arnold	X			Randolph Lail	X		
Sheldon Barr		X		Elizabeth Leggett	X		
Robert Bates	X			Ilsa Loeser	X		
Clark Casteel			X	James McClain			X
Timothy J. Clark			X	John Parkinson			X
Melody Foster	X			Alfreda Reynolds			X
Kristin Gee		X		Jeremy Satterfield			X
Amy Griffin		X		Sherry Swinson		X	
Keith Harkins			X	Dale Wagner		X	
Rhonda Hodges	X			Lauren Willis	X		

Region 3 Staff in Attendance

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

Guests in Attendance

Name - Title	Organization	In Person	Virtual
Billy Gammel- GOVA Senior Program Administrator	Department of Housing & Community Development		X
Sheri McGuire- Associate Vice President for Community and Economic Development	Longwood University		X
Hamilton Lombard- Estimates Program Manager for the Demographics Research Group	University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service	X	
Derek Smith- Executive Director	Research Innovation Institute		X
Rob Eddy- Technical Director	Research Innovation Institute		X
Dana Knott- Director, SBDC Central Region	Longwood University		X
Jen Cox- Director, Local & Community Relations	Longwood University		X
Jacob Dolence- Director, Educational Innovation & Entrepreneurial Ecosystems	Longwood University		X

Nominating Committee

Chair Willis moved the Nominating Committee Report, originally under New Business, forward on the Agenda.

Jeremy Satterfield has been appointed by Governor Youngkin to the Virginia Community College Systems Board whose meeting schedules conflict with that of Region 3. His colleague at Microsoft, Kelly Lanier-Arnold, has agreed to serve on the Council to continue Microsoft's support and to represent Region 3's eastern subregion. She is a Senior Program Manager with Microsoft, and before this work, she was an Apprenticeship Coordinator and Adjunct Instructor at Southside Virginia Community College. This appointment would serve an unexpired private-sector term through June 30, 2027. **Randy Lail made a motion to appoint Kelly Lanier-Arnold to serve the unexpired private sector term through June 30, 2027; the motion was seconded by Robert Bates and approved unanimously.**

Public Comments

No written, nor verbal, public comments were received.

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; SOVA Innovation Hub
Rhonda Hodges	GO TEC; Patrick Henry Community College; RISE Collaborative
Melody Foster	Longwood University; SOVA Innovation Hub; Mid-Atlantic Broadband
Keith Harkins	Southside Virginia Community College; GO TEC
Jeremy Satterfield	Microsoft; SOVA Innovation Hub; Southside Virginia Community College
Alfreda Reynolds	Brunswick County; VGA Board Member
Clark Casteel	Danville Regional Foundation
Lauren Willis	GO TEC; Charlotte Co Public Schools
Ilsa Loeser	LetterPress Communications

Approval of Minutes

Chair Willis noted that the minutes of the July 17, 2023 Full Council meeting were received via email prior to the meeting and included in the meeting packet. **Ilsa Loeser made a motion that the minutes from the July 17, 2023 Full Council meeting be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Melody Foster and approved unanimously.**

Financial Reports & Project Update

Bryan David and Deborah Gosney presented the Financial Reports and Project Updates that were included in the meeting packet for the period ending September 30, 2023. **Melody Foster made a motion that the Financial Reports be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Randy Lail and approved unanimously.**

SPECIAL APPEARANCES & PRESENTATIONS

- Sheri McGuire, Associate Vice President for Community and Economic Development at Longwood University, led the Region 3 Council on a “virtual” hardhat tour of the SEED Innovation Hub which is currently under construction.
- Hamilton Lombard, Estimates Program Manager for the Demographics Research Group at University of Virginia Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, discussed a demographic trend that has the median age decreasing for certain localities in Region 3 along with changes

to population distribution and commuting patterns that are “blurring of the line between rural and urban” places.

OLD BUSINESS

Bryan David reviewed the current project pipeline which was emailed to Council members prior to the meeting. The following projects were discussed:

- Institute for Advance Learning & Research (IALR) – Virginia Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) Hub- implementation project for the CEA Strategy & Roadmap.
- SOVA Innovation Labs- expansion of the SOVA Innovation Hub and will offer a maker’s space and co-working space in a campus style environment.
- Region 3 Leadership Development Project- a partnership with the UVA Sorenson Institute for Leadership and the Virginia Institute for Government to develop a community leadership program in Region 3.
- GO TEC Talent Pathway Initiative Planning Project- expand GO TEC into 9th and 10th grade classrooms to fill the current void. GO TEC is currently in middle schools and 11th and 12th grade classrooms.
- The Synergistic Co-location of Data Centers and Controlled Environment Agriculture Greenhouses to Boost Competitiveness- a planning grant proposal seeks to align and strengthen these two priority sectors by exploring co-location strategies through the work of the Resource Innovation Institute and its technical advisory work group.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Project Review Committee

- Talent Pipeline Management to Support Advanced Manufacturing: Dr. Julie Brown at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research will align GO TEC® efforts with the EmPOWER Employer Engagement framework, engaging industry representatives and strengthening the region's capacity to support advanced manufacturing job growth and existing workforce needs. The Project Review Committee recommends approval of the application. **Randy Lail made a motion to approve the application; the motion was seconded by Melody Foster and approved unanimously.**
- The Synergistic Co-location of Data Centers and Controlled Environment Agriculture (CEA) Greenhouses to Boost Competitiveness: Dr. Scott Lowman at the Virginia Tech/Institute for Advanced Learning and Research Controlled Environment Innovation Center is partnered with the Resource Innovation Institute (RII) leadership to prepare a report on the opportunities and challenges of co-locating data centers and CEA greenhouses. The waste heat from data centers would be used through a thermal connection and conversion to heat or cool CEA greenhouse operations, thereby lowering capital and operating expenses for these businesses. For data centers, it will monetize a byproduct of the HVAC systems, which is now vented to the atmosphere. The Project Review Committee recommends approval of the application. **Melody Foster made a motion to approve the application; the motion was seconded by Robert Bates and approved unanimously.**

Region 3 Policy

The Region 3 Council adopted Policy #9 on October 20, 2021 which provided the conditions and procedures for Council members to participate virtually in public meetings. The 2024 General Assembly amended the enabling statute for this policy, making several definitional and procedural changes that need to be included in the Region 3 Council's adopted policy. Policy #9 was amended to reflect these changes and outline the conditions and procedures for Region 3 Council members to participate virtually in public meetings that are held in person.

The 2024 General Assembly amended the enabling statute for public bodies to conduct all-virtual meetings outside of a state-wide emergency effective July 1, 2024. These amendments increased the number of virtual meetings to no more than two times per calendar year or fifty percent (50%) of the meetings held per calendar year rounded up to the next whole number, whichever is greater. The enabling statute requires the Region 3 Council, or Executive Committee, to readopt this policy each year. Policy #10 establishes the conditions and procedures for Region 3 to conduct all-virtual public meetings

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bryan David presented the Program Director's Report as detailed in the meeting packet. Topics discussed were the Region 3 Leadership event summary, the 2025 G&D Plan Update, childcare issues across the Region, the FY24 Region 3 Annual Report, the Amelia County Site Project, and the GOVA State Board Retreat. There were no questions nor comments from the Council.

ADJOURN

There being no additional business matters to go before the GOVA Region 3 Council, Chair Willis adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

These minutes were approved on ____.

Deborah Gosney, Southside PDC
Executive Director

Lauren Willis, GOVA Region 3
Council Chair