

**GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Wednesday, January 15, 2025**

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

Call To Order

Chair Willis called the GO Virginia (GOVA) Region 3 Full Council all-virtual meeting to order on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum

Chair Willis declared a quorum was present.

Region 3 Executive Committee Members

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		Sherry Swinson		X	
Amy Griffin		X		Dale Wagner		X	
Keith Harkins		X		Lauren Willis		X	
Rhonda Hodges		X					

Ex Officio Member

Name – Organization - Role	In Person	Virtual	Absent
Charley Majors – Region 3 Executive Committee - Advisor			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) – Southside PDC Contract Staff		X	
Liz Povar (The Riverlink Group) - Southside PDC Contract Staff		X	

Guests in Attendance

Name – Organization - Role	In Person	Virtual
Shara Gibson - DHCD GO Virginia – Program Manager		X
Billy Gammel - DHCD GO Virginia - Senior Program Administrator		X
Mary Jane Elkins - Southside Virginia Community College Foundation - Executive Director		X
Linda Green – Southern Virginia Regional Alliance - Executive Director		X

Public Comments

No written or 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)
Randolph Lail	Mid-Atlantic Broadband; SOVA IH; RISE Collaborative
Rhonda Hodges	GO TEC; Patrick Henry Community College; RISE Collaborative
Clark Casteel	Danville Regional Foundation
Lauren Willis	Charlotte County Public Schools

### Approval of Minutes

Chair Willis noted that the minutes of the September 18, 2024 Executive Committee meeting were received via email prior to the meeting and included in the meeting packet. **Melody Foster made a motion that the minutes from the October 16, 2024 Executive Committee meeting be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Amy Griffin and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

### 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 December 31, 2024. **Robert Bates made a motion that the Financial Reports be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Keith Harkins and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

### **SPECIAL APPEARANCES & PRESENTATIONS**

The Executive Director of the Southern Virginia Regional Alliance, Linda Green, presented an update on the Berry Hill Megasite including the recent announcement by Microporous to invest \$1.35 Billion creating over 2,000 jobs.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### Project Pipeline

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: This is an implementation project for the CEA Strategy & Roadmap.
- SOVA Innovation Labs- Digital Fabrication Lab: This is an expansion of the SOVA Innovation Hub and will offer a maker's space and co-working space in a campus style environment.
- Southside Virginia Community College Foundation: This project will fund the training equipment (tractor trailers), technology equipment, and classroom furniture for the spaces serving the Powerline and Truck Driver Training Programs.
- Region 3 Leadership Development Project: This project would be in partnership with the UVA Sorenson Institute for Leadership and the Virginia Institute for Government to develop a community leadership program in Region 3.

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

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Region 3 Council's membership will undergo a transition for the upcoming FY2025-2026 reappointment appointment cycle. The bylaws limit members to two consecutive four-year terms. There are five members whose term will end on 6.30.25 and who are not eligible for reappointment. Each of these members is a private-sector representative. Bryan David will work with the Region 3 Council Chair (Lauren Willis) and members of the Nominating Committee (Tim Clark, Randy Lail) to develop a succession plan. This plan will be presented to the Region 3 Council at its meeting on April 16th.

DHCD GO Virginia staff has recommended Region 3 to identify Logistics & Transportation as targeted traded sector in its Growth & Diversification Plan. This amendment would allow the Southside Virginia Community College project for truck driver training, currently under development, to be eligible for Per Capita funding. **Melody Foster made a motion to approve the proposed amendment to the Region 3 Growth & Diversification Plan to include Transportation & Logistics as a targeted traded sector; the motion was seconded by Elizabeth Leggett and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Statewide Assessment is a collaborative, multi-region planning project in partnership with the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and GOVA Region 2. GOVA funding will support a consultant to produce a comprehensive AI report to include a sector-specific analysis, current program catalog, along with strategic recommendations. This report will identify how AI will impact the workplace from a business perspective, which will be included in the Virginia Chamber of Commerce's Blueprint 2035 update. Only the GOVA State Board can approve this application under current policy; the earliest opportunity would be at its March 2025 meeting.

### **PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Bryan David presented the Program Director's Report as detailed in the meeting packet. The topics discussed were the IALR Talent Pathway Initiative, exploring the feasibility of co-locating data centers and greenhouses, the status of the G&D Plan update, GOVA Regional Council Committee report, JLARC's report on data centers in Virginia, and the Tobacco Commission's Strategic Plan. There were no questions nor comments from the Council.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no additional business matters to be brought before the GOVA Region 3 Council, Chair Willis adjourned the meeting at 2:46 p.m.

These minutes were approved on \_\_\_\_.

Deborah Gosney, Southside PDC  
Executive Director

Lauren Willis, GOVA Region 3  
Council Chair