

GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 FULL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 16, 2025

REGULAR BUSINESS

Call To Order

Chair Willis called the GO Virginia (GOVA) Region 3 Full Council in-person meeting to order on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, 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), Sheldon Barr (> 60 miles- South Hill, Va), John Parkinson (> 60 miles- Martinsville, Va), Rhonda Hodges (> 60 miles- Martinsville, Va), and Sherry Swinson (> 60 miles- Farmville, Va). **Clark Casteel made a motion to allow the named members to attend virtually; the motion was seconded by Melody Foster and approved unanimously.**

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
Andy Wells – Southside PDC – Support Org. & Fiscal Agent		X
Billy Gammel - DHCD GO Virginia - Senior Program Administrator	X	
Mary Jane Elkins - Southside Virginia Community College (SVCC) Foundation - Executive Director		X
Dr. Julie Brown – Institute for Advanced Learning & Research – Vice President of Advanced Learning	X	
Joyce French – The French Connection – Consultant for SVCC Foundation		X
Alex Veatch – LetterPress Communications – Chief Executive Officer		X
Lauren Mathena – Mid-Atlantic Broadband, SOVA Innovation Hub – Director of Economic Development		X
Joeseeph Dennie – DHCD GO Virginia – Program Administrator		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 Innovation Hub
Rhonda Hodges	Patrick Henry Community College
Clark Casteel	Danville Regional Foundation
Lauren Willis	Charlotte County Public Schools

Approval of Minutes

Chair Willis noted that the minutes of the January 15, 2025 Full Council meeting were received via email prior to the meeting and included in the meeting packet. **Keith Harkins made a motion that the minutes from the January 15, 2025 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 March 31, 2025. **Melody Foster made a motion that the Financial Reports be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Elizabeth Leggett and approved unanimously.**

SPECIAL APPEARANCES & PRESENTATIONS

Approval of Resolutions

Chair Willis recognized Tim Clark, Sherry Swinson, and James McClain for their service to Region 3. A Resolution of Recognition for each was presented to the council. **Melody Foster made a motion to approve the Resolutions of Recognition for Tim Clark, Sherry Swinson, and James McClain as presented; the motion was seconded by Keith Harkins and approved unanimously.**

GO TEC Project Presentation

Dr. Julie Brown, Vice President of Advanced Learning at IALR, presented information on the GO TEC 2025 Evaluation Tool. This system will empower school systems to better track students participating in the GO TEC program as they advance from middle to high school.

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:

- SOVA Partnership for Health Science Careers: This project would implement the plan developed through the SOVA Health Sciences TPI Planning grant. The Institute for Advance Learning & Research would serve as the applicant in partnership with Region 3 healthcare systems, K-12 schools, and other healthcare workforce development stakeholders. The project would support a staff position to facilitate data collection, data analysis, and healthcare workforce development.
- Industrial Skilled Trades Training Program: This project will support the creation of a workforce development training program for industrial skilled trades focusing on Region 3's targeted sectors. Project partners will include Patrick & Henry, Danville, and Southside Virginia Community Colleges.
- CEA Innovation Center Research Building Expansion: This is an implementation project for the CEA Strategy & Roadmap. This project would involve installing a prefabricated research greenhouse, making associated building improvements, and preparing the site and utilities.
- 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

Nominating Committee

- The Region 3 Council's membership will undergo a transition for the upcoming FY26 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. The Nominating Committee developed a succession plan which was presented to the Council.
- To ensure Region 3 Council leadership continuity, a leadership transition plan was recommended by the Executive Committee. Lauren Willis and Randy Lail have expressed a willingness to remain as Chair and Vice-Chair until June 30, 2026. The bylaws allow members to serve until the council appoints a replacement. This extension would allow time to assess current Region 3 Council members for private-sector individuals who may be interested and well-suited to move into leadership roles for the Region 3 Council. **Keith Harkins nominated Lauren Will as Chair and Randy Lail as Vice-Chair for the July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 term; the nomination was seconded by Amy Griffin and approved unanimously.**

Project Review Committee

- Southside Virginia Occupational Training Facility Project: The Southside Community College Foundation has been awarded US Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission grants to construct a new classroom building and tractor trailer driver training course at its Blackstone/Fort Barfoot location to support Powerline Worker and Truck Driver Training programs. Region 3 Per Capita funds of \$570,000 would be used to purchase

technology and furniture for the classroom and two tractor-trailers for driver training and certification. **Clark Casteel made a motion to approve the application as presented; the motion was seconded by Melody Foster and approved unanimously; Keith Harkins abstained.**

- SOVA Fab Lab at the SOVA Innovation Campus: The SOVA Innovation Hub proposed project will establish the SOVA Fab (fabrication) Lab at the SOVA Innovation Campus in South Boston. It would offer a collaborative environment with advanced tools and technologies to foster creativity, innovation, and skill-building in digital fabrication, 3D printing, and design. Under the guidance of the Fab Foundation, the SOVA Fab Lab will be designed to join the global Fab Lab Network, an open community of fabricators, scientists, engineers, and students who share a goal of democratizing access to tools for technical invention. The SOVA Fab Lab will utilize available templates for design and equipment procurement to help invent the next generation of manufacturing and digital fabrication skills. Region 3 Per Capita funds of \$510,000 would be used to purchase digital equipment and supplies, provide program start-up support from the Fab Foundation, and for project administration. **Keith Harkins made a motion to approve the application as presented; the motion was seconded by Robert Bates and approved unanimously.**

Marketing & Communications Contract

Letterpress Communication presented an annual service contract to provide professional public relations and communications strategies. These services include the bi-monthly Region 3 newsletter, website hosting and support, social media content development and distribution, periodic press releases, and support for special projects. There is no price increase from the prior year; the fee remains \$32,880 for a term of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. **Elizabeth Leggett made a motion to approve the contract for marketing and communications as presented; the motion was seconded by Melody Foster and approved unanimously.**

Region 3 FY26 Capacity Building Budget

Bryan David presented the proposed Region 3 FY26 Capacity Building (operating) Budget which reflects the anticipated revenue from the Department of Housing and Community Development and expected operational expenditures for the coming fiscal year. **Melody Foster made a motion to approve the FY26 Capacity Building Budget as presented; the motion was seconded by Robert Bates and approved unanimously.**

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bryan David presented the Program Director's Report as detailed in the meeting packet. The topics discussed were the status of the G&D Plan update and the GOVA Regional Council Committee report. 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 2:45 p.m.

These minutes were approved on ____.

Deborah Gosney, Southside PDC
Executive Director

Lauren Willis, GOVA Region 3
Council Chair

DRAFT