

**GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 FULL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 15, 2025**

REGULAR BUSINESS

Call To Order

Chair Willis called the GO Virginia (GOVA) Region 3 Full Council in-person meeting to order on Wednesday, October 15, 2025, at 1:02 p.m. at the SOVA Innovation Hub, 715 Wilbourn Avenue in South Boston, Virginia.

Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum

Ann Taylor Wright conducted a roll call. 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	Angie Kellett	X		
Sheldon Barr			X	Randolph Lail	X		
Robert Bates	X			Elizabeth Leggett	X		
Clark Casteel	X			Ilsa Loeser	X		
Melody Foster	X			Sheri McGuire	X		
Kristin Gee	X			Danny Marshal	X		
Amy Griffin		X		John Parkinson			X
Keith Harkins	X			Dale Wagner		X	
Rhonda Hodges	X			Lauren Willis	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	
Andy Wells – Southside PDC – Support Org. & Fiscal Agent			X

Guests in Attendance

Name – Organization - Role	In Person	Virtual
Billy Gammel - DHCD GO Virginia - Senior Program Administrator	X	
Jacob Honig – DHCD GO Virginia – Program Administrator		X
Shara Gibson- DHCD GO Virginia – Program Manager		X
Dr. Julie Brown – Averett University - Provost	X	
Mark Adelman – City of Danville - Director of Transportation Services	X	
Aisha Gwynn – City of Danville – Grant Administrator	X	
Sara Beth Morrison – P&HCC – Coordinator of Grant Development	X	
Colin Ferguson – P&HCC – Assistant Vice President of Workforce Programs	X	
Rebecca Chipman – SIR – BRIC Consultant		X
Rachel Yost – SIR – BRIC Consultant		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	IALR Foundation Board
Clark Casteel	Danville Regional Foundation
Lauren Willis	Charlotte County Public Schools
Keith Harkins	Southside Virginia Community College
Charley Majors	The Institute for Advanced Knowledge & Research; Mid-Atlantic Broadband; SOVA Innovation Hub
Sheri McGuire	Longwood University
Angie Kellet	Mecklenburg County Economic Development

Approval of Minutes

Chair Willis noted that the minutes of the July 16, 2025 Full Council meeting were received via email prior to the meeting and included in the meeting packet. **Elizabeth Leggett made a motion that the minutes from the July 16, 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 Ann Wright presented the Financial Reports and Project Updates that were included in the meeting packet for the period ending September 30, 2025. **Randy Lail made a motion that the Financial Reports be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Clark Casteel and approved unanimously.**

SPECIAL APPEARANCES & PRESENTATIONS

Resolution of Recognition

Chair Willis presented a Resolution recognizing Dr. Julie Brown for her leadership and success with developing, implementing, and managing GO Virginia Region 3 workforce development projects during her tenure at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research. **Melody Foster made a motion that the Resolution be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Clark Casteel and approved unanimously.**

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:

- CEA Innovation Center Research Building Expansion: This will be an implementation project for the CEA Strategy & Roadmap which will involve installing a prefabricated research greenhouse, making associated building improvements, and preparing the site and utilities. A Region 3 request is anticipated in January 2026 for greenhouse research equipment.
- Virginia Tech – Additive Manufacturing and Advanced Materials (AM2) Tech Hub: This initiative is managed by Virginia Tech's Center for Economic and Community Engagement and includes businesses in Regions 2 and 3, Virginia Tech, and the Center for Advanced Learning and Research. The proposed project would build on the Tech Hub and support:
 - Building AM2 Innovation Studios in Blacksburg and Danville
 - Embedding AM2 Innovation Fellows
 - Learning AM2 Career Network to enhance education and training at all levels

This would be a Statewide Competitive project in early 2026.

- Virginia's Heartland Regional Economic Development Alliance: This would be a two-phase Sites Planning Project. Phase I would inventory available sites and building in the region and include a facilitator to support the members in understanding and prioritizing the engineering analysis. Phase II would identify and prioritize larger industrial sites to be developed by the Alliance.
- Farm Park Siting, Fiscal and Economic Impact, and Workforce Development Project: This will be a planning project building upon the recent feasibility report on the Co-location of Data Centers & CEA Greenhouses prepared by Resource Innovation Institute.
- Virginia AI Innovation Hub & Venture Studios: This would be a project supported by Regions 3 and 7. The Smart Innovation Corporation (non-profit) is proposing to develop an industry aligned workforce development program to support individuals pursuing careers in artificial intelligence, data analytics, and applied machine learning, and to support employees of existing businesses in the use of AI in the workplace.
- Region 3 Leadership Development Project: This project will 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

Project Review Committee

Danville Aviation Training Facility: The project involves the installation of data network furnishings and equipment for the 13,244 sq. ft. Aviation Training Facility being constructed at Danville Regional Airport. This facility will host Averett University's Aeronautics Program, Danville Community College's Aviation Maintenance Technology Training Program, and the new Danville City Schools' Aviation Science Pathways, which is linked to Danville Community College's program.

Ilsa Loeser made a motion to approve the application as presented; the motion was seconded by Melody Foster and approved unanimously.

Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor (BRIC): This business-led initiative extends from Roanoke to Blacksburg through Martinsville, Danville, and the counties in between. This planning project will retain a qualified consultant to prepare the following deliverables:

- Three sector strategies for Advanced Manufacturing, Life Sciences & Biotechnology, and National Security & Defense Innovation.
- Non-Engineering investment strategy for business sites, broadband, energy, transportation, and workforce housing.
- Funding and financing roadmap strategy to align federal, state, philanthropic, and private capital funding.
- Connectivity strategy for a framework to unify Virginia Tech, Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, Roanoke's life sciences hub, and Danville/Martinsville's advanced manufacturing sectors into a cohesive megaregional platform.

Ilsa Loeser made a motion to approve the application as presented; the motion was seconded by Melody Foster and approved unanimously; Randy Lail and Clark Casteel abstained due to conflict of interest.

Region 3 Industrial Skilled Trades Regional Expansion: Patrick & Henry Community College (P&HCC), Danville Community College (DCC), and Southside Virginia Community College (SVCC) are working collaboratively to grow a strategic talent pipeline to attract new companies and grow existing Region 3 traded-sector businesses through a targeted industry-skilled trades workforce development program. The partner colleges will expand and scale training in carpentry, HVAC, plumbing, powerline workers, and industrial maintenance. This training will result in industry-accepted certifications that are in demand by Region 3's traded-sector businesses. **Clark Casteel made a motion to approve the application as presented; the motion was seconded by Rhonda Hodges and approved unanimously; Keith Harkins abstained due to conflict of interest.**

2025 GO Virginia Region 3 Growth & Diversification Plan

Liz Povar presented the 2025 Growth & Diversification Plan. This final draft reflects input from the Advisory Committee, Region 3 staff, and Department of Housing and Community Development GO Virginia staff. **Keith Harkins made a motion to accept the Plan as presented; the motion was seconded by Elizabeth Leggett and approved unanimously.**

FY25 Region 3 Annual Report

Ann Wright prepared the FY25 Annual Report which was provided in the meeting packet. The report has been submitted to DHCD for approval at their upcoming State Board Meeting. Chair Willis asked members for questions or comments; there being none, there was no discussion regarding the Annual Report.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bryan David presented the Program Director's Report as detailed in the meeting packet which included the GO Virginia State Board Retreat/Meeting and the Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Sciences Careers Implementation Project.

Multiple Letters of Interest were received for the lead organization role for the Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Sciences Careers Implementation Project. A Region 3 selection committee will identify which interested entity is the best candidate to serve as the lead organization per grant eligibility and experience criteria outlined in the Request for Letters of Interest. There will be an opportunity for all interested organizations to actively partner with the project and support the selected lead organization with the implementation project.

ADJOURN

There being no additional business matters to be brought before the GOVA Region 3 Council, Chair Willis adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

These minutes were approved on ____.

Bryan David, GOVA Region 3
Program Director

Lauren Willis, GOVA Region 3
Council Chair