

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

REGULAR BUSINESS

Call To Order

Chair Willis called the GO Virginia (GOVA) Region 3 Full Council all-virtual meeting to order on Wednesday, July 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.

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	Sheri McGuire			
Melody Foster		X		Danny Marshal		X	
Kristin Gee		X		John Parkinson		X	
Amy Griffin		X		Alfreda Reynolds		X	
Keith Harkins		X		Dale Wagner			X
Rhonda Hodges		X		Lauren Willis		X	
Angie Kellett							

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
Joeseeph Dennie – DHCD GO Virginia – Program Administrator		X
Shara Gibson- DHCD GO Virginia – Program Manager		X
Dr. Scott Lowman - Institute for Advanced Learning and Research - Vice President, Applied Research		X
Cynthia Lawrence - Blue Partnership for Health Science Careers – Director of Workforce Development		X
Dr. Carrie Sutter- George Mason University - Co-Director Center for Health Workforce		X
Alex Veatch – LetterPress Communications – Chief Executive Officer		X
Karyn Kean - Letterpress Communications – Account Manager		X
Derek Smith - Resource Innovation Institute – Executive Director		X
Rob Eddy - Resource Innovation Institute - Resource Efficiency Horticulturist		X
Shelia Minor- Public Admin & Policy PhD student @ Old Dominion University – meeting observer		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
Alfreda Reynolds	Brunswick County

Agenda Amendment

Chair Willis requested an amendment to the agenda to move Committee Reports to the first order of business. **Melody Foster made a motion to amend the agenda; the motion was seconded by Robert Bates and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

Committee Reports

The Nominating Committee reported that Clark Casteel, President/CEO, Danville Regional Foundation; Melody Foster retired Executive Director, Commonwealth Regional Council and Rhonda Hodges, Principal and Owner, Hodges Workwise, LLC have each agreed to a four-year reappointment to the Region 3 Council with a term beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2030. Additionally, Delegate Danny Marshall House District 49- Danville City, Pittsylvania County, and Halifax County; Sheri McGuire, Associate Vice President for Community and Economic Development, Longwood University; and Angie Kellett, Director of Economic Development, Mecklenburg County have each agreed to serve on the Region 3 Council for a four-year term beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2030. **Randy Lail made a motion to appoint/reappoint the Council members as recommended by the Nominating Committee; the motion was seconded by Amy Griffin and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

Chair Willis appointed herself, Randy Lail, Robert Bates, Amy Griffin, and Elizabeth Leggett to the Executive Committee. She also appointed herself and Randy Lail to both the Personnel and Nominating Committees, noting an additional Executive Committee member will be added to each. Special purpose committees will be appointed as needed. Chair Willis asked members for questions or comments; there being none, there was no discussion regarding committee appointments.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Willis noted that the minutes of the April 16, 2025 Full Council 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 April 16, 2025 Full Council meeting be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Keith Harkins and approved unanimously by roll call vote. Ilsa Loeser abstained as she was not present at the April meeting.**

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 June 30, 2025. **Randy Lail made a motion that the Financial Reports be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Elizabeth Leggett and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

SPECIAL APPEARANCES & PRESENTATIONS

LetterPress Communications Presentation

Alex Veatch, Chief Operating Officer, LetterPress Communications, presented the FY25 (7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025) Region 3 Annual Communications Report.

SOVA Partnership for Health Science Careers Presentation

Cynthia Lawrence, Executive Director, Blue Ridge Partnership for Health Science Careers and Dr. Carrie Sutter, Co-Director Center for Health Workforce, George Mason University presented the final report for the Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Science Careers which was funded by a Region 3 Talent Pathway Initiatives (TPI) planning grant.

Co-locating Data Centers and CEA Greenhouses Presentation

Derek Smith, Executive Director, and Rob Eddy, Resource Efficiency Horticulturist, Resource Innovation Institute presented the Co-locating Data Centers and CEA Greenhouses Feasibility Report which was funded by a Region 3 per capita planning grant.

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 will implement the plan developed through the SOVA Health Sciences TPI Planning grant. The project will 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 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.

- Blue Ridge Innovation Corridor (BRIC): BRIC is an initiative to establish Virginia's first inter-regional economic zone focusing on advanced manufacturing and biotechnology. This planning project will establish a comprehensive framework for transforming the BRIC corridor into a globally competitive innovation ecosystem spanning across GO Virginia Regions 2 & 3.
- 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 Approval

GOVA Region 4 staff has received a site development planning application from Virginia's Gateway Region (regional economic development organization) for a routine regional site development planning grant for all of its member localities to identify and prioritize new sites suitable for public sector industrial park development. As of July 1st, Brunswick County, along with Greensville County and Emporia, are members of this regional economic development organization. Based on past practice involving Region 3 and Region 4 localities, Region 3 has been asked to contribute one-ninth of the \$100,000 planning grant request on behalf of Brunswick County totaling \$11,111. **Randy Lail made a motion to approve the application as presented; the motion was seconded by Ilsa Loser and approved unanimously by roll call vote. Alfreda Reynolds abstained citing a conflict of interest.**

Policy Update

A requirement of the code provision (§2.2-3708.3, Code of Virginia) requires each GOVA Region Council to readopt its electronic meeting policy annually. **Elizabeth Leggett made a motion to adopt the policy as presented; the motion was seconded by Melody Foster and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

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 SOVA Fab Lab Project, the SVCC Occupational Training Facility Project, the G&D Plan Update, the GOVA Regional Council Committee Report, and upcoming Region 3 staff transition.

The Executive Committee entered into closed session for the discussion of upcoming personnel changes. Randy Lail made the motion that pursuant to Section §2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, the GO Virginia Region 3 Council convene in closed session to discuss Region 3 staffing transitions; the motion was seconded by Melody Foster and approved by roll call vote.

Upon return to open session, Randy Lail made the motion that having convened and concluded a closed meeting pursuant to Section §2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia

Freedom of Information Act; and per Section §2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia to certify that the executive meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law; and that the GO Virginia Region 3 Council hereby certified that to the best of each member's knowledge;

1) Only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law were discussed in the executive meeting to which certification resolution applies, and;

2) Only such business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Council; the motion was seconded by Melody Foster and approved by roll call vote. No formal action was taken upon return to open session.

ADJOURN

There being no additional business matters to be brought before the GOVA Region 3 Council, Chair Willis adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

These minutes were approved on 10/15/2025.

Deborah Gosney
Deborah Gosney (Oct 21, 2025 13:20:02 EDT)

Deborah Gosney, Southside PDC
Executive Director

Lauren Willis
Lauren Willis (Oct 22, 2025 10:57:27 EDT)

Lauren Willis, GOVA Region 3
Council Chair