

GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, December 17, 2025

REGULAR BUSINESS

Call To Order

Chair Willis called the GO Virginia (GOVA) Region 3 Executive Committee all-virtual meeting to order on Wednesday, December 17, 2025 at 10:01 a.m.

Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum

Chair Willis declared a quorum was present.

Region 3 Executive Committee Members

Members	In Person	Virtual	Absent
Robert Bates		X	
Amy Griffin		X	
Randy Lail		X	
Elizabeth Leggett		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	
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
Emma Carrol - New River Valley Regional Council - Regional Innovation Officer		X
Jemma Sabokrouh - Virginia Tech Center for Economic and Community Engagement - Program Manager, GO Virginia Region 2		X
Billy Gammel – DHCD - GO Virginia Senior Program Administrator		X
Sarah Lyon-Hill - Virginia Tech Center for Economic and Community Engagement – Associate Director for Research Development		X
Emmalee Wagner - Virginia Tech Center for Economic and Community Engagement - Program Coordinator, GO Virginia Region 2		X
John Provo – Virginia Tech Center for Economic and Community Engagement - 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 Innovation Hub
Rhonda Hodges	Patrick Henry Community College
Clark Casteel	Danville Regional Foundation
Lauren Willis	Charlotte County Public Schools
Charley Majors	The Institute for Advanced Knowledge & Research; Mid-Atlantic Broadband; SOVA Innovation Hub

Amend Agenda

Chair Willis requested an amendment to the agenda to move the AM2 Tech Hub presentation forward. **Elizabeth Leggett made a motion to amend the agenda accordingly; the motion was seconded by Randy Lail and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

Special Appearances & Presentations

Emma Carroll, with the New River Valley Regional Council, delivered a presentation on the Virginia Tech Additive Manufacturing & Advanced Materials (AM2) Tech Hub project. The project is proposed as a statewide competitive grant intended to strengthen the competitive advantage of the advanced manufacturing and advanced materials sectors in GO Virginia Regions 2 and 3. During the discussion, members emphasized the importance of including Southside Virginia Community College and Averett University in the initiative, as well as ensuring inclusion of 9th and 10th grade students, as these grade levels are often omitted from workforce initiatives, with most programs focusing on middle school and 11th and 12th grades. **Amy Griffin made motion to advance the application on to the project review committee and Region 3 Council for consideration; the motion was seconded by Randy Lail and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

Approval of Minutes

Chair Willis noted that the minutes of the September 17, 2025 Executive Committee meeting were received via email prior to the meeting and included in the meeting packet. **Randy Lail made a motion that the minutes from the September 17, 2025 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, Ann Wright, and Andy Wells presented the Financial Reports and Project Updates included in the meeting packet for the period ending November 30, 2025. **Amy Griffin made a motion that the Financial Reports be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Robert Bates and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

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 project would involve installing a prefabricated research greenhouse, completing associated building improvements, and preparing the site and utilities to support expanded facilities and services at the Center.
- Virginia's Heartland Regional Economic Development Alliance Business Site Planning Project. This project would assess the regional inventory of business investment sites and buildings, identify the current VEDP tier level of each site, and prioritize opportunities to up tier key properties.
- Farm Park Implementation Playbook. This planning project would build upon the recent feasibility report on the co-location of data centers and controlled environment agriculture greenhouses prepared by the Resource Innovation Institute.

- Virginia AI Innovation Hub and Venture Studios. Smart Innovation Corporation, a nonprofit organization, is proposing to develop an industry aligned workforce development program to support individuals pursuing careers in artificial intelligence, data analytics, and applied machine learning, as well as to assist existing businesses with AI adoption in the workplace.
- Metals Workforce Training Center. This project is being developed by the Town of Bedford Economic Development Authority following a successful feasibility and master planning effort funded by GO Virginia Region 2.
- Region 3 Leadership Development Project. This project would be developed in partnership with the University of Virginia Sorenson Institute for Leadership and the Virginia Institute for Government to establish a community leadership development program serving Region 3.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Bryan David discussed the process and considerations for identifying the lead organization for the Health Science Careers Implementation Project. This project will support a regional health care workforce development initiative informed by the findings of the recently completed Health Science Careers TPI Planning project. A Request for Letters of Interest was issued to identify a lead organization to operationalize the SOVA Partnership. Several organizations expressed interest, after which a workgroup was formed to conduct interviews and evaluate potential leads. The workgroup recommended Averett University to serve as the lead organization. **Amy Griffin made a motion to designate Averett University as the lead organization and applicant, collaborating with and including the identified project partners in the implementation project; the motion was seconded by Robert Bates 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 which included Council staff transition planning, the pending projects report, and SOVA Innovation Hub's receipt of an OpenAI Foundation grant.

ADJOURN

There being no additional business matters to be brought before the GOVA Region 3 Council, Chair Willis adjourned the meeting at 11:37 p.m.

These minutes were approved on _____.

Andy Wells, Southside PDC
Executive Director

Lauren Willis, GOVA Region 3
Council Chair