

GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 FULL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 15, 2026

REGULAR BUSINESS

Call To Order

Chair Bates called the GO Virginia (GOVA) Region 3 Full Council all-virtual meeting to order on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 1:00 p.m.

Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum

Ann Wright conducted the roll call. Chair Bates declared that 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		Elizabeth Leggett			X
Robert Bates		X		Ilsa Loeser		X	
Clark Casteel		X		Sheri McGuire		X	
Melody Foster		X		Danny Marshal		X	
Kristin Gee		X		John Parkinson			X
Amy Griffin		X		Dale Wagoner		X	
Keith Harkins		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) – Region 3 Contract Staff		X	
Andy Wells - Southside PDC - Support Org. & Fiscal Agent		X	
Ann Taylor 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
Billy Gammel - DHCD GO Virginia - Senior Program Administrator		X
Lauren Mathena – MBC - Director of Eco. Development & Community Engagement		X
Jack Honig – DHCD GO Virginia – Program Administrator		X
Jessie Vernon - IALR - Director of Employer Engagement & Experiential Learning		X
Clinton Joseph - DHCD GO Virginia – Program Administrator		X

Public Comments

No written or verbal public comments were received.

Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Potential conflicts of interest exist for activities benefiting and/or contracts issued to the following organizations and projects:

Name	Organization(s)
Keith Harkins	Southside Virginia Community College
Rhonda Hodges	IALR Foundation Board
Clark Casteel	Danville Regional Foundation
Angie Kellet	Mecklenburg County Economic Development
Ilsa Loeser	LetterPress Communications
Charley Majors	The Institute for Advanced Knowledge & Research; Mid-Atlantic Broadband; SOVA Innovation Hub
Sheri McGuire	Longwood University

Approval of Minutes

Chair Bates noted that the minutes of the April 15, 2026 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 15, 2026 Full Council 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 Ann Wright presented the Financial Reports and Project Updates included in the meeting packet for the period ending June 30, 2026. **Amy Griffin made a motion that the Financial Reports be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Melody Foster and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

SPECIAL APPEARANCES & PRESENTATIONS

IALR Talent Pathway Initiative Plan: Advanced Manufacturing & CEA Presentation

Jessie Vernon, Director of Employer Engagement & Experiential Learning at the Institute for Advanced Learning & Research (IALR), presented the Talent Pathways Initiative findings and recommendations.

Virginia General Assembly 2026 Legislative Review

Billy Gammel, Senior Program Administrator for GO Virginia, DHCD, provided an update on recent Virginia General Assembly actions and other legislative developments, including a summary of the current GO Virginia funding status.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ann Wright, Program Director for GO Virginia Region 3, informed the Council of actions taken by the Executive Committee since the Council's previous meeting, including the Letters of Interest received for contract staff positions, the marketing agreement, and the FY26 budget amendment. The RFPs, letters of interest, marketing agreement, and budget amendment were included in the meeting packet. Chair Bates asked if there were any questions or comments. There being none, no discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Project Review Committee - RISE AI Ready Region 3 Per Capita Application

Bryan David and Lauren Mathena presented the RISE-AI Ready Region 3 application to the Council. The Project Review Committee (PRC) had previously reviewed the application and requested additional time to consider the proposed revisions. The PRC will reconvene to review the revised application, after which a special Executive Committee meeting will be held to consider whether to recommend the application for approval. **No action was taken by the Council.**

GO Virginia Region 3 Nominating Committee & Committee Assignments

The Chair and staff agreed to defer the identification, recruitment, and recommendation of individuals to fill current vacancies due to the leadership transition underway and the Vice Chair's unavailability. The Nominating Committee will present a recommended slate of nominees for Council consideration at the Region 3 Council's next quarterly meeting on October 14. **No action was taken by the Council.**

FY26 Region 3 Capacity Building (Operating) Budget Amendment

Ann Wright presented the FY26 Capacity Building (Operating) Budget Amendment approved by the Executive Committee at its June 2026 meeting. **Clark Casteel made a motion to ratify the FY26 Capacity Building (Operating) Budget Amendment as approved by the Executive Committee; the motion was seconded by Keith Harkins and approved unanimously by roll call vote; Ilsa Loeser abstained due to a conflict of interest related to LetterPress Communications.**

GO Virginia Region 3 Policy #9: Electronic Meeting Participation

Ann Wright reviewed Region 3 Policy #9: Electronic Meeting Participation, which, pursuant to Section 2.2-3708.3 of the Code of Virginia, must be readopted annually by each public body that wishes to conduct electronic meetings. **Amy Griffin made a motion to readopt Policy #9; the motion was seconded by Ilsa Loeser and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

Draft UVA Cooper Center/Region 3 Council Partnership Agreement (FY26-FY27)

Bryan David presented the draft agreement to continue the partnership between Region 3 and the UVA Weldon Cooper Center's Karsh Institute for Democracy. **Melody Foster made a motion to authorize the Chair to execute the agreement once finalized, subject to any non-substantive revisions requested by the University; the motion was seconded by Kristin Gee and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

PROJECT COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Project Pipeline Report

Bryan David reviewed the current project pipeline, which had been emailed to Council members prior to the meeting. The following projects were discussed: the CEA Innovation Center Research Building Expansion; the Farm Park Implementation Playbook (Data Center/CEA Greenhouse Co-location); the Virginia AI Innovation Hub & Venture Studios; the Metals Workforce Training Center; the RISE Regional Entrepreneurship and Innovation Strategy (Phase III); and the Region 3 Leadership Development Project. Chair Bates asked if there were any questions or comments. There being none, no discussion followed.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ann Wright presented the Program Director's Report. Council members interested in serving on the temporary Policy and Bylaws Review Workgroup were invited to notify Region 3 staff. The workgroup will review the Region 3 Policies and Bylaws, identify any necessary revisions, and develop

recommendations for consideration by the full Council at its October 2026 meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no additional business matters to be brought before the GOVA Region 3 Council, Chair Bates adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

These minutes were approved on ____.

Andy Wells, Southside PDC
Executive Director

Robert Bates, GOVA Region 3
Council Chair

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