

GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 17, 2026

REGULAR BUSINESS

Call To Order

Chair Willis called the GO Virginia (GOVA) Region 3 Executive Committee all-virtual meeting to order on Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at 10:00 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
Clinton Joseph - DHCD - GO Virginia Program Administrator		X
Alex Veach – LetterPress - CEO and Creative Director		X
Karyn Keane – LetterPress - Project Manager, Social Media Manager		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

Approval of Minutes

Chair Willis noted that the minutes of the March 18, 2026 Executive Committee meeting were received via email prior to the meeting and included in the meeting packet. **Robert Bates made a motion that the minutes from the March 18, 2026 Executive Committee meeting be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Elizabeth Leggett 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 May 31, 2026. **Elizabeth Leggett made a motion that the Financial Reports be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Amy Griffin 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.
- 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.
- Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Science Careers (SOVA Partnership). It will establish coordinated training pathways in high demand healthcare fields, including medical technicians, behavioral health technicians, and nursing assistants, through a partnership involving Longwood University, Danville Community College, regional healthcare systems, and other higher education institutions.
- 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.
- RISE Regional Entrepreneurship & Innovation Strategy: Phase III (working title). This is a two-year regional implementation initiative to strengthen entrepreneurship, innovation, talent development, and business growth across GO Virginia Region 3. The project has three components: Student Entrepreneurship Expansion; Regional Ecosystem Building and Local Capacity Development; and AI Literacy for Innovation Capacity.
- 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

Marketing Contract

Region 3 Council, through the Southside Planning District Commission (SPDC), has received the annual service contract from Letterpress Communications to provide professional public relations and communications strategies. The FY26-27 proposal was presented to the Committee. **Randy Lail made a motion to approve the Proposal as presented; the motion was seconded by Robert Bates and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

Region 3 FY26 Budget Amendment

Ann Wright proposed amendments to the Region 3 FY26 Capacity Building (Operations) Budget, as included in the meeting packet. **Amy Griffin made a motion to approve the Budget as presented; the motion was seconded by Elizabeth Leggett and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

Staff Position RFPs Issued and Letters of Interest Received

The SPDC, as Fiscal Agent and Support Organization for Region 3, issued Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for two contract staff positions: Project Coordinator and Senior Program Advisor. One Letter of Interest for each position was received by the submission deadline, and both were included in the meeting packet. **Amy Griffin made a motion to convene in closed session to discuss the Region 3 Project Coordinator and Senior Advisor Letters of Interest, pursuant to the personnel exemption under §2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia; the motion was seconded by Elizabeth Leggett and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

Following the closed session, **Amy Griffin made a motion to certify that, to the best of each member's knowledge: 1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Virginia law were discussed in the closed session; and 2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed, or considered by the Council. The motion was seconded by Randy Lail and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

Amy Griffin made a motion for the SPDC to accept both proposals as submitted; the motion was seconded by Elizabeth Leggett 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 the GO Virginia Regional Council Assessment, an update on the Region 3 staff transition, and the pending projects report.

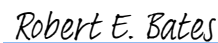
ADJOURN

There being no additional business matters to be brought before the GOVA Region 3 Council, Chair Willis adjourned the meeting at 11:59 a.m.

These minutes were approved on 9/16/2026.



Andy Wells, Southside PDC
Executive Director



Robert E. Bates (Sep 18, 2026 15:55:43 EDT)

Robert Bates, GOVA Region 3
Council Chair

6.17.2026-Executive-Committee-Minutes

Final Audit Report

2026-09-18

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