

GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 FULL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 21, 2026

REGULAR BUSINESS

Call To Order

Chair Bates called the GO Virginia (GOVA) Region 3 Full Council in-person meeting to order on Wednesday, October 21, 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			Joe Cappaert	X		
Rhonda Hodges	X						

Ex Officio Member

Name – Organization - Role	In Person	Virtual	Absent
Charley Majors – Region 3 - Advisor	X		
Randy Lail - Region 3 - 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	
Sandi Satterfield – Southern Va Higher Education Center (SVHEC) – Dir. of Workforce Training	X	
Catherine Stevens - SVHEC - Institutional Effectiveness & Grants Administrator	X	
Derek Smith - Resource Innovation Institute (RII) - Executive Director		X
Scott Lowman – Institute for Advanced Knowledge & Research - VP of Applied Research	X	
Adam Reeves - SOVA Innovation Hub - SOVA Fab Lab Manager	X	
Tad Deriso - Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation (MBC) - President & CEO	X	

Virtual Meeting Participation

Chair Bates confirmed that a quorum of the Region 3 Council was physically present at the meeting location. Kelly Arnold, Clark Casteel, and Amy Griffin requested to participate electronically pursuant to Region 3 Council Policy #9 because they were more than 60 miles from the meeting location. **Elizabeth Leggett made a motion to approve K. Arnold, C. Casteel, and A. Griffin to electronically participate in the October 21, 2026 meeting in accordance with Region 3 Council Policy #9; the motion was seconded by Melody Foster and approved unanimously.**

Agenda Amendment

Chair Bates requested that the GO Virginia Region 3 Nominating Committee and Committee Assignments item be moved to the beginning of the agenda to allow the newly appointed Council member to participate in subsequent votes and that consideration of a resolution honoring Bryan David be added to the agenda.

Elizabeth Leggett made a motion to amend the agenda accordingly; the motion was seconded by Angie Kellett and approved unanimously.

GO Virginia Region 3 Nominating Committee & Committee Assignments

The Nominating Committee recommended that Joseph Cappaert be appointed to serve on the GO Virginia Region 3 Council, representing the Southside Planning District Commission. Mr. Cappaert will fill the remainder of Randy Lail's unexpired term, which runs from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2030. **Melody Foster made a motion to appoint Joe Cappaert to the Region 3 Council as recommended; the motion was seconded by Sheri McGuire and approved unanimously.**

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 July 15, 2026 Full Council meeting were received via email prior to the meeting and included in the meeting packet. **Sheri McGuire made a motion that the minutes from the July 15, 2026 Full Council meeting be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Keith Harkins and approved unanimously.**

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 September 30, 2026. **Elizabeth Leggett made a motion that the Financial Reports be approved as presented; the motion was seconded by Melody Foster and approved unanimously.**

SPECIAL APPEARANCES & PRESENTATIONS

Resolution of Appreciation for Bryan David

Chair Bates presented a resolution honoring Bryan David's service as GO Virginia Region 3 Program Director from 2021 until 2026 and recognizing his more than 35 years of public service. The Council expressed appreciation for his leadership, contributions to regional economic development, and continued service as Project Coordinator. Bryan was presented with the resolution and a token of appreciation.

Elizabeth Leggett made a motion to approve the resolution honoring Bryan David as presented; the motion was seconded by Angie Kellett and approved unanimously.

Mid-Atlantic Broadband (MBC) Middle Mile Expansion Project

Tad Deriso, President and CEO of the Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation (MBC), provided an overview of the completed \$5 million GO Virginia Middle Mile Project.

SOVA Fab Lab Project

Lauren Mathena, Director of Economic Development & Community Engagement, Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities Corporation (MBC) & SOVA Innovation Hub and Adam Reeves, SOVA Fab Lab Manager, presented the recently awarded SOVA Fab Lab Project.

OLD BUSINESS

Executive Committee Report

Ann Wright, Program Director for GO Virginia Region 3, provided the Council with an update on actions taken by the Executive Committee since the Council's previous meeting, including the approval of the RISE Phase III: AI-Ready Entrepreneurial Ecosystem application, approval of the FY26 Annual Report, Executive Committee and Project Review Committee appointments, and guidance on addressing negative social media comments. Chair Bates asked if there were any questions or comments. There being none, no further discussion occurred. **For the Council's information. No action required.**

NEW BUSINESS

Pending Projects Report

The Region 3 Executive Committee met on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, and, acting on behalf of the Region 3 Council, approved two companion planning applications for submission to the Virginia DHCD: 1) Farm Park Playbook: Sites and Governance Planning Project and 2) Farm Park Playbook: Workforce Development and Economic/Fiscal Impact Assessments No action was taken by the Council. Bryan David provided an overview of both projects. **For the Council's information. No action required.**

Project Review Committee

Bryan David presented the Southern Virginia AI Academy project application submitted by the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center (SVHEC). The Project Review Committee reviewed the application on October 16, 2026, and recommended approval by the Region 3 Council, including a waiver of the \$31,300 local match requirement. **Sheri McGuire made a motion to approve the application and match waiver as presented, with authorization for staff to make minor, non-substantive revisions prior to submission; the motion was seconded by Melody Foster and approved unanimously**

Marketing Budget Adjustment: 10 Years of GO Virginia Campaign

The FY27 Marketing and Communications budget included \$1,200 for assistance with the creation and design of Region 3's annual report. Because this assistance was not needed, the funds became available for reallocation. Staff recommended reallocating the \$1,200 to a "10 Years of GO Virginia" marketing campaign to increase brand awareness, strengthen social media engagement, and increase newsletter subscriptions. **Keith Harkins made a motion to approve the reallocation of \$1,200 within the FY27 Marketing and Communications Services Agreement with LetterPress Communications from annual report assistance to the "10 Years of GO Virginia" marketing campaign; the motion was seconded by Angie Kellett and approved unanimously.**

PROJECT COORDINATOR'S REPORT

Project Pipeline Report

Bryan David reviewed the current project pipeline as detailed in the meeting packet. The following projects were discussed: the CEA Innovation Center Research Building Expansion; the Farm Park Implementation Playbook (Data Center/CEA Greenhouse Co-location); Southern Virginia Partnership for Health Science Careers (SOVA Partnership); Fiber Outside the Plant Credentialing Project; and the Region 3 Leadership Development Project. Chair Bates asked if there were any questions or comments. There being none, no further discussion occurred. **For the Council's information. No action required.**

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ann Wright presented the Program Director's Report which included updates on the FY26 GO Virginia funding recapture, the FY26 Annual Report, and the in-person tour of the SOVA Fab Lab scheduled to follow the meeting.

ADJOURN

There being no additional business matters to be brought before the GOVA Region 3 Council, Chair Bates adjourned the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

These minutes were approved on ____.

Andy Wells, Southside PDC
Executive Director

Robert Bates, GOVA Region 3
Council Chair