GO VIRGINIA REGION 3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, September 16, 2026

REGULAR BUSINESS

Call To Order

Chair Bates called the GO Virginia (GOVA) Region 3 Executive Committee all-virtual meeting to order on Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call and Confirmation of Quorum

Chair Bates declared a quorum was present.

Region 3 Executive Committee Members

Members	In Person	Virtual	Absent
Robert Bates		X	
Amy Griffin		X	
Elizabeth Leggett		X	
Rhonda Hodges		X	
Dale Wagoner			X

Ex Officio Member

Name – Organization - Role	In Person	Virtual	Absent
Charley Majors – Region 3 Executive Committee - Advisor		X	
Randy Lail - Region 3 Executive Committee - Advisor		X	

Region 3 Staff

Name – Organization - Role	In Person	Virtual	Absent
Bryan David – Southside PDC Contract Staff - Region 3 Project Coordinator		X	
Ann Taylor Wright – Southside PDC Contract Staff – Region 3 Program Director		X	
Liz Povar - Southside PDC Contract Staff – Region 3 Senior Regional Advisor		X	
Andy Wells - Southside PDC – Executive Director		X	

Guests in Attendance

Name – Organization - Role	In Person	Virtual
Jack Honig – DHCD - GO Virginia Program Administrator		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	The Institute for Advanced Knowledge & Research
Clark Casteel	Danville Regional Foundation
Robert Bates	Charlotte County Public Schools
Charley Majors	The Institute for Advanced Knowledge & Research; Mid-Atlantic Broadband; SOVA Innovation Hub

Approval of Minutes

Chair Bates noted that the minutes from the June 17, 2026 Executive Committee meeting and the August 6, 2026 Special Called Executive Committee meeting were received via email prior to the meeting and included in the meeting packet. **Elizabeth Leggett made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2026 Executive Committee meeting and the August 6, 2026 Special Called Executive Committee meeting 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 August 31, 2026. **Amy Griffin 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.**

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee

Following discussions and guidance from Robert Bates and Elizabeth Leggett, the following Region 3 Council members have been appointed to the Executive Committee for the 2026-2027 term:

- Dr. Amy Griffin (Deputy Executive Director, Virginia Association of School Superintendents)
- Rhonda Hodges (Principal, Hodges Workwise, LLC)
- Dale Wagoner (County Administrator, Henry County)

Additionally, the following Regional 3 Council members and the external advisor are being reappointed to serve on the Project Review Committee for the 2026-2027 term:

- Ilsa Loeser (Founder, Letterpress Communications)
- Melody Foster (regional leader; retired Executive Director, Commonwealth Regional Council)
- Neil Burke (President/CEO, Benchmark Community Bank)

Region 3 staff are developing a roster of three potential candidates for the Nominating Committee to recommend to the Region 3 Council at its October meeting. These candidates will be representatives from the private sector and from a planning district commission, in accordance with GO Virginia organizational requirements.

Region 3 FY26 Annual Report

Ann Wright presented the FY26 Annual Report as included in the meeting packet. **Elizabeth Leggett made a motion to approve the FY26 Annual Report as presented and submit it to DHCD; the motion was seconded by Amy Griffin and approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

PROJECT COORDINATOR'S REPORT

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.

- Southern Virginia AI Academy: This implementation grant would support the repositioning and expansion of the IT Academy at the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center.
- Fiber Outside the Plant Credentialing Project: This workforce development project will include project partners Patrick & Henry Community College and Southside Virginia Community College. It will focus skills including pole climbing, OSHA training, Commercial Driver Licensing, fiber optic cabling repairs and splicing, handhold repairs, replacement of outside equipment, and other fiber-related tasks.
- Region 3 Leadership Development Project: This project would be developed in partnership with the University of Virginia Sorensen Institute for Leadership and the Virginia Institute of Government to establish a community leadership development program serving Region 3.

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

PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ann Wright presented the Program Director's Report as detailed in the meeting packet.

The Executive Committee discussed the management of negative comments on Region 3 social media platforms. The consensus of the Committee was that Region 3 should not engage with negative comments. As additional projects come forward that generate negative public comments, particularly related to data centers, Region 3 may coordinate with other GO Virginia regions regarding a consistent approach to responding to concerns related to data center projects.

Regarding the Policy and Bylaws Review Workgroup, Chair Bates and Andy Wells volunteered to serve on the workgroup.

ADJOURN

There being no additional business matters to be brought before the GOVA Region 3 Executive Committee, Chair Bates adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

These minutes were approved on 11/18/2026.

Andy Wells, Southside PDC
Executive Director

Robert E. Bates
Robert E. Bates (Nov 19, 2026 10:12:53 EST)

Robert Bates, GOVA Region 3
Council Chair

9.16.2026-Executive-Committee FINAL Minutes

Final Audit Report 2026-11-19

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