



VIRGINIA INITIATIVE FOR
**GROWTH &
OPPORTUNITY**
IN EACH REGION

AGENDA
VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday, February 25, 2025
1:00 AM – 3:00 PM
[Virtual Link](#)

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|------|--|---------------|
| I. | OPENING | |
| | a. Call to order | Chair |
| | b. Roll Call | Shara Gibson |
| | c. Public Comment | Shara Gibson |
| | d. November 7, 2024 Meeting Recap | Chair |
| II. | GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATE | Chris Lloyd |
| III. | PRODUCTIVITY: REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE CHARTER | Chair |
| IV. | COLLABORATION & CONNECTIVITY: | All |
| | a. Council Recruitment Best Practices | |
| | b. Leadership Development Best Practices | |
| V. | INNOVATION: STRATEGIC PRIORTIES | |
| | a. Regional Fund Resource Utilization | Shara Gibson |
| | b. GO Virginia Project Development Framework | Sara Dunnigan |
| | c. VEDP Innovative Growth Framework | Tyler Carroll |
| VI. | ADJOURNMENT | |



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VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING

November 7, 2024

10:00 AM

In-Person & Virtual

Location:

**Blue Ridge Community College
Plecker Center, One College Way
Weyers Cave, VA**

Members Present

Jim Cheng
Leah Fremouw (Committee Chair)
John King
Delegate Michele Maldonado

Members Absent

None

- Call to Order** Leah Fremouw, Chair of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity (GO Virginia) Regional Council Committee, called the meeting to order.
- Roll Call** Ms. Shara Gibson, GO Virginia Program Manager at the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), called the roll, and stated that a quorum of the Committee was present.
- Public Comment** Chair Fremouw opened the floor for public comment.
- No members of the public appeared before the Committee for the public comment period.
- Ms. Gibson noted that the staff had not received written public comment prior to the meeting
- The public comment period was closed.
- Informational Items** Chris Lloyd provided an overview of GO Virginia's purpose and goals, offering context for new members. He detailed the program's origins, emphasizing its mission to drive regional

collaboration, support high-paying job creation, and strengthen economic competitiveness through partnerships among businesses, educational institutions, and local governments.

Shara Gibson followed with insights from previous regional council engagement workshops. She highlighted key progress areas, including modifications to match requirements to improve accessibility for distressed regions, updates to workforce metrics focusing on training outcomes, and expanded support for healthcare sector projects.

Cody Anderson, GO Virginia Program Administrator, provided an update on the implementation of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) recommendations. He reported significant progress, with full completion of recommendations expected by the first quarter of 2025. This update underscored the committee's commitment to continuous improvement and accountability.

Regional Council
Engagement Update

Chair Fremouw provided an overview of the results from the 2024 Regional Council Engagement. General takeaways included an emphasized need to foster a "laboratory mindset" for projects, encouraging innovative and transformative ideas, and supporting collaboration across regions to amplify outcomes. Chair Fremouw concluded by noting the insights and successes from previous workshops have created a foundation for the committee to build upon. The priorities identified will guide future initiatives, and committee's work will work to enhance communication, and support innovative projects

Regional Council
Engagement Working
Session

Chair Fremouw, engaged the committee in a discussion to define strategic priorities across four key themes: Connectivity, Collaboration, Innovation, and Productivity. Attendees emphasized the need for improved communication between regional councils and the state board. Suggestions included hosting regular leadership meetings, creating a feedback loop for project updates, and enhancing information-sharing across regions. he group highlighted opportunities for cross-regional partnerships, citing successful projects like GO-TEC and Project VITAL. Attendees identified emerging opportunities in areas such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, energy, and

autonomous systems. The need for coordinated strategies involving industry, education, and government was emphasized.

Closing

Dr. John Downy, representing Blue Ridge Community College, shared reflections on the impact of GO Virginia projects on regional workforce development and economic growth. He emphasized the program's role as a transformative initiative for the Commonwealth.

Chair Fremouw outlined two immediate priorities. Establishing regional council designees to strengthen communication and representation and finalizing the committee charter to provide a clear framework for the committee's objectives and operations.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

DRAFT

VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE CHARTER

ARTICLE I PURPOSE

The Regional Council Committee (“Committee”) of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board (“GO Virginia” or “Board”) is charged with developing strategies to ensure communication between the Board and Regional Councils and create synergy among the GO Virginia regions by inviting feedback; sharing information on project focus and purpose; and ensuring that Regional Councils are briefed on direction, strategies, and best practices for implementing the GO Virginia mission. The Vice Chair for Regional Councils will Chair the Regional Council Committee.

ARTICLE II AUTHORIZATION

The Committee was established by the Growth and Opportunity Board via the adoption of amended bylaws at the June 4, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Board.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Membership on the Committee shall, at minimum, consist of the following: The Regional Council Committee shall include a majority membership of non-legislative citizen members that have significant private-sector experience. The Chair of the Committee shall be appointed by the Chair of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board and shall be a non-legislative citizen member. Each Regional Council Committee shall designate one representative to serve in an advisory capacity to the Committee.

ARTICLE IV AUTHORITY

The Committee shall have all rights, powers and duties bestowed by, and be subject to the limitations and restrictions set forth in, the Code of Virginia or the Appropriations Act and the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board bylaws.

Committee business shall be conducted in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Virginia Conflict of Interest Act (COIA) unless exempt pursuant to §2.2-3711. A.48 of the Code of Virginia.

ARTICLE V RESPONSIBILITY

Section 1 Communication between the Board and Regional Councils,

The committee will develop and implement strategies to ensure regular, clear, and effective communication between the Board and the Regional Councils. This includes

establishing channels for dialogue, ensuring that feedback flows both ways, and addressing any communication gaps that may arise. The committee shall foster a transparent exchange of information, aligning the efforts of the Board with the needs and insights of the Regional Councils.

Section 2 Create synergy among GO Virginia Regions

The Committee shall be charged with creating opportunities for collaboration and synergy among the various GO Virginia regions by sharing best practices, lessons learned, and innovative project ideas. The committee will work to build a unified regional approach toward the GO Virginia mission. This involves organizing regular touchpoints for regional leaders to come together, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose.

Section 3 Align Regional Councils with GO Virginia Mission and Strategy

The committee shall ensure that Regional Councils are well-informed about the broader strategic direction and priorities of the GO Virginia mission. This includes providing briefings on Board decisions, future initiatives, and overall strategies, and offering strategic guidance on how regional projects can align with these goals. The committee will also seek to clarify and communicate the impact of regional projects on the state's economic development objectives, ensuring consistency and alignment across regions.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

The Committee shall meet at minimum twice annually preceding the regularly scheduled meeting of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board. The Committee may call special meetings that shall be conducted in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Virginia Conflict of Interest Act (COIA) unless exempt pursuant to §2.2-3711. A.48 of the Code of Virginia.

ARTICLE VII QUORUM

A majority of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. Any decision by the Committee shall require an affirmative vote of a majority of members of the Committee present and voting.