



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

VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD MEETING
December 10, 2024
1:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Reggie Aggarwal
Jim Cheng
The Honorable Steve Cummings
Ben J. Davenport, Jr
Cliff Fleet
W. Heywood Fralin
Leah Fremouw
Kenneth Johnson
Delegate Terry Kilgore
John King
Senator L. Louise Lucas
Delegate Michelle Maldonado
Senator Ryan McDougle
The Honorable Caren Merrick
Jon Peterson
Fouad Qreitem
The Honorable Bryan Slater
Todd A. Stottlemeyer
Delegate Luke Torian

Members Absent

Nancy Howell Agee
Senator Creigh Deeds
Emily O'Quinn
Delegate Don Scott

Call to Order

Mr. Todd Stottlemeyer, Vice Chair of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity (GO Virginia) Board, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Mr. Cody Anderson, GO Virginia Program Administrator for the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), called the roll and stated that a quorum was present.

Public Comment	<p>Mr. Stottlemeyer opened the floor for public comment. No members of the public appeared before the Board for the public comment period.</p> <p>The public comment period was closed.</p>
Presentations	<p>Linda Green, Executive Director of the Southern Virginia Regional Alliance (SVRA) provided an overview of the work accomplished by the Alliance over the course of several GO Virginia grant applications and stressed the importance of GO Virginia’s role in the site development pipeline for the Commonwealth.</p>
Consent Agenda	<p>Mr. Stottlemeyer noted that the consent agenda, including the June 4, 2024 meeting minutes, the September 10, 2024 meeting minutes, commemorating resolutions for Jim Dyke, Pia Trigiani, and Frank Ruff, and technical amendments to Board Policy #3, Board Policy #6, Board Policy #8, Board Policy #9, and Board Policy #16 would be voted on as a block.</p> <p>A motion was made by Mr. Kilgore and seconded by Mr. King to approve the consent agenda items as presented. The motion passed (Y – Aggarwal, Cheng, Cummings, Fleet, Fralin, Fremouw, Johnson, Kilgore, King, Lucas, Maldonado, McDougle, Merrick, Peterson, Qreitem, Slater, Stottlemeyer, Torian; N – none).</p>
Deputy Director’s Report	<p>Ms. Sara Dunnigan, Deputy Director of Economic Development and Community Vitality at DHCD, provided a brief overview of the application review process for GO Virginia grant applications.</p> <p>Ms. Dunnigan presented the Board with 5 Per Capita applications regarding workforce development, startup ecosystems, and site development and infrastructure: Career Advancement and Resource Education (CARE) from Region 6, AI and Business Skills Training for Life Sciences (ABLE) from Region 7, Expanding Business Ecosystems (EBE) Business Accelerator from Region 6, Blue Mountain Extended Due Diligence from Region 8, and Clarke County Camp 7 Site Development Planning from Region 8.</p> <p>Ms. Dunnigan also presented the Board with 2 Talent Pathways Planning Initiative applications: Talent Pipeline Management to Support Advanced Manufacturing and Controlled Environment Agriculture from Region 3 and BioBridge Talent Pathways Planning from Region 9.</p>

Mr. Stottlemeyer noted that the Board would vote on the proposed projects as a block.

Mr. Davenport requested that Talent Pipeline Management to Support Advanced Manufacturing and Controlled Environment Agriculture be removed from the block vote, citing a conflict of interest and a need to abstain from the vote for that project.

After discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fremouw and seconded by Mr. Fleet to approve the remainder of the projects as recommended by staff. The motion passed (Y – Aggarwal, Cheng, Cummings, Davenport, Fleet, Fralin, Fremouw, Johnson, Kilgore, King, Lucas, Maldonado, McDougle, Merrick, Peterson, Qreitem, Slater, Stottlemeyer, Torian; N – none).

A motion was made by Mr. Aggarwal and seconded by Ms. Fremouw to approve the Talent Pipeline Management to Support Advanced Manufacturing and Controlled Environment Agriculture application. The motion passed (Y – Aggarwal, Cheng, Cummings, Fleet, Fralin, Fremouw, Johnson, Kilgore, King, Lucas, Maldonado, McDougle, Merrick, Peterson, Qreitem, Slater, Stottlemeyer, Torian; N – none; Abstained: Davenport).

Ms. Dunnigan provided the Board with a live demonstration of the GO Virginia Performance Dashboard, a new tool that will be available to any member of the public online to view updates on the various projects, outcomes, and outcome commitments for GO Virginia projects.

Ms. Dunnigan provided an overview of proposed Board Policy #10, which creates a new subprogram called the Helene Business Recovery Initiative (HBRI). The new policy reserves \$1.5M from the GO Virginia Competitive Fund for the purposes of expedited resources and relief to localities impacted by Hurricane Helene.

After discussion, a motion was made by Jim Cheng and seconded by Kenneth Johnson to approve the policy contingent on confirmation by Youngkin Administration staff that an unmet resource demand exists that this new subprogram would address. The motion passed (Y – Aggarwal, Cheng, Cummings, Davenport, Fleet, Fralin, Fremouw, Johnson, Kilgore, King, Lucas, Maldonado, McDougle, Merrick, Peterson, Qreitem, Slater, Stottlemeyer, Torian; N – none).

Mr. Johnson noted that staff should consider bringing forward a future Board policy or recommendation for criteria that could be used to decide and define the extent of future disaster-related initiatives.

JLARC Report:
Recommendations
Implementation

Ms. Dunnigan noted that there had been one year since the JLARC Report on GO Virginia had been released and that updates on the progress the Board has made toward addressing the report's recommendations could be found in the Board Packet.

Program Performance
and Evaluation
Committee Report

Mr. Stottlemeyer provided the Board with a brief overview of the recent meetings of the Program Performance and Evaluation Committee, including progress made toward approval of a memorandum of understanding between Activation Capital, Cville Biohub, Verge Alliance, GO Virginia Regional Council 2, GO Virginia Regional Council 4, GO Virginia Regional Council 9, Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation, Virginia Economic Development Partnership, and Virginia Catalyst ensuring a collaborative framework for investments in biosciences. Mr. Stottlemeyer noted that this was a contingency requirement for the three interconnected VITAL projects approved by the Board in June 2024. Mr. Stottlemeyer stated that Region 9 and Cville Biohub were already under contract to begin work on their project and that the Board should anticipate Region 2 and Verge as well as Region 4 and Activation Capital to be under contract in the following weeks.

Regional Council
Committee Report

Mr. Stottlemeyer recognized Ms. Fremouw, Chair of the Regional Council Committee to provide a report on the Committee's work.

Ms. Fremouw noted that the inaugural meeting of the Committee had taken place on November 8th, 2024. Ms. Fremouw provided an overview of the discussions that took place at that meeting.

Ms. Fremouw introduced a standing motion to create an advisory council to the Regional Councils Committee composed of Regional Council representatives from each of the 9 GO Virginia Regions for Board consideration.

After discussion, a second was made by Mr. Fralin to approve the establishment of the Regional Council Advisory Council as presented. The motion passed (Y – Cheng, Cummings, Davenport, Fleet, Fremouw, Johnson, Kilgore, King, Lucas, Maldonado, McDougle, Merrick, Peterson, Qreitem, Slater, Stottlemeyer, Torian; N – none).

Executive Order 42: Mr. Stottlemeyer recognized Deputy Secretary of Commerce and
Catalyzing Housing Trade Maggie Beal to present on Executive Order 42.
Development for Critical
Workforce and Economic Ms. Beal discussed the intention of the Executive Order, which
Needs with Interagency directs the Virginia Economic Development Partnership to require
Collaboration the inclusion of housing plans as part of their applications for the
site investments for the Virginia Business Ready Sites Program. Ms.
Beal requested that the Board consider a similar course of action
for GO Virginia site development applications.

After discussion, Ms. Dunnigan noted that DHCD staff would consult
subject matter experts and provide information and a
recommendation for approaching the topic at the March meeting
of the Board.

Information Items Mr. Stottlemeyer noted that in the Board Packet, members can find
a list of DHCD administratively approved items.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned.