



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

VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD MEETING

June 4, 2024

1:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Nancy Howell Agee
Jim Cheng
The Honorable Steve Cummings
Ben J. Davenport, Jr.
Senator Creigh Deeds
Cliff Fleet
W. Heywood Fralin
Leah Fremouw
William Holtzman
Kenneth Johnson
Senator L. Louise Lucas
Delegate Maldonado
Senator Ryan McDougle
The Honorable Caren Merrick
Emily O'Quinn
Jon Peterson
Delegate Don Scott
Todd A. Stottlemyer
Delegate Luke Torian
Pia Trigiani

Members Absent

Jim Dyke
Delegate Terry Kilgore
John King

Call to Order

Ms. Nancy Agee, 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

Ms. Agee opened the floor for public comment.

No members of the public appeared before the Board for the public comment period.

Mr. Anderson noted that the staff had received one written public comment, which was read aloud:

Beverly Dalton, Vice-Chair of GO Virginia Region 2 Council, wrote in support of the Region 2 Vital application, noting that the council urges the Board to consider approving the project at its full request amount.

The public comment period was closed.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Agee noted that the consent agenda, including the December 12, 2023 meeting minutes, the March 12, 2024 meeting minutes, the FY25 Regional Per Capita and Competitive Fund Allocation, the FY25 Regional Capacity Building Allocation and Continuation of Match Waiver, FY25 Regional Capacity Building Budget Approvals, Region 6 Board Appeal – Igniting Entrepreneurship, Amended Board Policy #11 – Modified Per Capita Match Requirements, and the Amended Board Policy #13 – Modified Competitive Fund Match Requirements, would be voted on as a block.

Senator McDougle requested that the Region 6 Board Appeal – Igniting Entrepreneurship be pulled from the block for individual consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Stottlemeyer and seconded by Mr. Fleet to approve the remaining consent agenda items as presented. The motion passed (Y – Agee, Cheng, Cummings, Davenport, Deeds, Fleet, Fralin, Fremouw, Holtzman, Johnson, Lucas, McDougle, Merrick, Maldonado, O’Quinn, Peterson, Stottlemeyer, Torian, Trigiani; N – none).

A motion was made by Mr. Stottlemeyer and seconded by Mr. Fleet to accept the staff recommendation to deny the Region 6 Board Appeal – Igniting Entrepreneurship. The motion passed (Y – Agee, Cheng, Cummings, Davenport, Deeds, Fleet, Fralin, Fremouw, Holtzman, Johnson, Lucas, Merrick, Maldonado, O’Quinn, Peterson, Stottlemeyer, Torian, Trigiani; N – McDougle).

Election of Officer – 2nd Ms. Agee noted that the recently created Governance and Policy Vice Chair – Regional Committee is charged with providing recommended nominations for leadership positions. Ms. Agee recognized Ms. Emily O’Quinn, Chair of the Governance and Policy Committee, to report on the Committee’s recommended nominee.

Ms. O’Quinn noted that the Governance and Policy Committee had met and unanimously supported the nomination of Ms. Leah Fremouw for the position of Vice Chair for Regional Councils.

The nomination of Ms. Fremouw was presented as a standing motion from the Governance and Policy Committee. No other members were nominated.

The motion passed (Y – Agee, Cheng, Cummings, Davenport, Deeds, Fleet, Fralin Fremouw, Holtzman, Johnson, Lucas, McDougle, Merrick, Maldonado, O’Quinn, Peterson, Stottlemeyer, Torian, Trigiani; N – none).

Deputy Director’s Report Ms. Dunnigan, Deputy Director of Economic Development and Community Vitality at DHCD, presented the Board with 6 Per Capita applications regarding workforce development, site development and infrastructure, and cluster scale-up: United Way of Southwest Virginia GO TEC Expansion 2 from Region 1, Educating Engineers for the Region 2 Workforce from Region 2, Developing IT & Cybersecurity Certification Pipeline to Advance Cluster Growth (ITCCP) from Region 2, GO TEC Region 3 Expansion from Region 3, Citizens Middle Mile Broadband from Region 2, and Region 4 – Project VITAL.

Ms. Dunnigan presented the Board with 2 Competitive Fund applications regarding cluster scale-up: Region 4 – Project VITAL and Region 9 – Project VITAL.

Ms. Dunnigan Presented the Board with 1 Talent Pathways Planning Initiative application: SVWDB TPI from Region 8.

Ms. Agee noted that the Board would vote on the proposed projects as a block.

After discussion, Senator Deeds requested that the Region 2 – VITAL, Region 4 – VITAL, and Region 9 – VITAL applications be pulled from the block for separate consideration.

After discussion, Mr. Davenport requested that the GO TEC Region 3 Expansion application be pulled from the block for separate consideration.

A motion was made by Mr. Fleet and seconded by Ms. O’Quinn to approve the remainder of the projects as recommended by staff. The motion passed (Y – Agee, Cheng, Cummings, Davenport, Deeds, Fleet, Fralin, Fremouw, Holtzman, Johnson, McDougle, Merrick, Maldonado, O’Quinn, Peterson, Stottlemeyer, Torian, Trigiani; N – none).

A vote was called for the GO TEC Region 3 Expansion application. The application was approved (Y – Agee, Cummings, Deeds, Fleet, Fralin, Fremouw, Scott, Holtzman, Johnson, Lucas, McDougle, Merrick, Maldonado, O’Quinn, Peterson, Stottlemeyer, Torian, Trigiani; N- none; Abstentions – Davenport).

After discussion, a motion was made by Senator Deeds and seconded by Senator Lucas to amend the staff-recommended motion about the three VITAL applications to include the following language: “Motion to approve the three VITAL projects and their accompanying local and total match waivers for approval contingent on verification follow-up and finalization of a memorandum of understanding between the three applicants with other state authorities that can provide additional collaborative support, including but not limited to Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation, Virginia Economic Development Partnership, and Virginia Catalyst. Department of Housing and Community Development GO Virginia staff shall draft the MOU with project VITAL applicant leadership and oversee project collaboration”. The motion to amend passed (Y – Agee, Cheng, Cummings, Davenport, Deeds, Fleet, Fralin, Fremouw, Scott, Holtzman, Lucas, McDougle, Merrick, Maldonado, O’Quinn, Peterson, Stottlemeyer, Torian, Trigiani; N – none).

After discussion, a motion to table the three applications was made by Delegate Scott and seconded by Delegate Torian.

After further discussion, Delegate Scott withdrew the motion to table the applications.

Senator Deeds modified his amended motion to read as follows: “Move to recommend the Region 4 – VITAL project and its accompanying local and total match waivers for approval contingent on follow-up and finalization of a memorandum of understanding with other state authorities that can provide additional collaborative support, including but not limited to the following: Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation, Virginia Economic Development Partnership, and Virginia Catalyst. The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development’s GO Virginia staff shall draft the memorandum of understanding with the Project VITAL applicant leadership and oversee project collaboration. Move to recommend the Region 2 – VITAL project for approval for the full amount contingent on verification of match and finalization of a memorandum of understanding with other state authorities that could provide additional collaborative support, including but not limited to the following: the Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, and Virginia Catalyst. The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development’s GO Virginia staff shall draft the memorandum of understanding with the Project VITAL applicant leadership and oversee project collaboration. Move to recommend the Region 9 – VITAL project and accompanying match waivers for approval contingent on verification follow-up and finalization of a memorandum of understanding with other state authorities that can provide additional collaborative support, including but not limited to the following: the Virginia Innovation Partnership Corporation, the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, and Virginia Catalyst. The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development’s GO Virginia staff shall draft the memorandum of understanding with the Project VITAL applicant leadership and oversee project collaboration. The memorandum of understanding required in these motions shall be subject to approval by the GO Virginia Program Performance and Evaluation Committee in collaboration with the Secretary of Commerce and Trade.” The motion passed (Y – Cheng, Cummings, Davenport, Deeds, Fleet, Fremouw, Scott, Holzman, Merrick, Maldonado, O’Quinn, Peterson, Stottlemeyer, Torian, Trigiani; N – none; Abstentions: Agee, Fralin, Johnson, Lucas).

Healthcare Taskforce
Report

Ms. Agee recognized Mr. Stottlemeyer, Chair of the Healthcare Taskforce, to present a report on the work of the Healthcare Taskforce.

Mr. Stottlemeyer provided an overview of the proposed Board Policy #17, allowing healthcare projects as eligible activities under the GO Virginia program.

Board Policy #17 was presented as a standing motion to the Board. The motion passed (Y – Cummings, Davenport, Deeds, Fralin, Fremouw, Scott, Johnson, Lucas, McDougle, Merrick, Maldonado, O’Quinn, Peterson, Stottlemeyer, Torian, Trigiani; N – none; Abstentions – Agee)

Deputy Director’s Report Ms. Agee recognized Ms. Dunnigan to provide an overview of the proposed methodology for returning funds to the General Fund from the GO Virginia program, as required by the 2024-2026 biennium budget.

The methodology for returning funds to the General Fund was adopted by a roll call vote (Y – Agee, Cummings, Davenport, Deeds, Fralin, Fremouw, Scott, Johnson, Lucas, McDougle, Merrick, Maldonado, O’Quinn, Peterson, Stottlemeyer, Torian, Trigiani; N – none).

Adjournment Ms. Agee noted that the meeting had run over and that any other items scheduled to be discussed on the agenda would be considered at the September meeting of the Board. The meeting was adjourned.