



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

**VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD MEETING**

**March 11, 2025**

**1:00 PM**

**Location:**

**Library of Virginia**

**1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**800 E Broad St, Richmond, VA 23219**

Members Present

Nancy Howell Agee  
Reggie Aggarwal – Virtual  
The Honorable Steve Cummings  
Ben J. Davenport, Jr  
Senator Creigh Deeds  
W. Heywood Fralin  
Leah Fremouw  
Joel Griffin - Virtual  
Delegate Terry Kilgore - Virtual  
John King  
Senator L. Louise Lucas - Virtual  
Delegate Michelle Maldonado  
Senator Ryan McDougle – Virtual  
Emily O’Quinn  
Jon Peterson  
Fouad Qreitem  
Delegate Don Scott  
The Honorable Bryan Slater  
Todd A. Stottlemeyer

Members Absent

Jim Cheng  
Cliff Fleet  
Kenneth Johnson  
The Honorable Caren Merrick  
Delegate Luke Torian

Call to Order

Ms. Nancy Howell Agee, Chair of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity (GO Virginia) Board, called the meeting to order.

Chair Agee provided welcoming comments and formally welcomed

Joel Griffin and Secretary of Labor Bryan Slater to the Board.

- 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.  
  
The public comment period was closed.
- Consent Agenda Ms. Agee noted that the consent agenda, including the December 10, 2024 meeting minutes, an extension to Board Policy #19: the Helene Business Recovery Initiative, and the accepted withdrawal of the Lee County, Western Lee Sewer Project Phase I-A would be voted on as a block.  
  
A motion was made by Delegate Scott and seconded by Ms. O'Quinn to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed.
- Presentations Ms. Agee welcomed Ms. Erin Burcham, President of the Roanoke-Blacksburg Innovation Alliance to present on the emergence of the biotechnology cluster in GO Virginia Region 2.  
  
Ms. Agee welcomed Ms. Julie Brown, Vice President of Advanced Learning at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research to present on the Institute's progress toward expansion and evaluation of the Greater Opportunities in Technology and Engineering Careers Program (GO TEC).
- Deputy Director's Report 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.  
  
Ms. Dunnigan presented the Board with 4 Per Capita applications regarding cluster scale-up, site development and infrastructure, and workforce development: Virginia Industry Implementation from Region 9, Rivanna Futures from Region 9, Electrical Technology Modernization Initiative from Region 1, and Economic Access Initiative from Region 5.

Ms. Dunnigan also presented the Board with 1 Competitive Fund Application: Minority Small Business Launch Center Expansion from Regions 4, 5, 6, and 7.

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

After discussion, a motion was made by Delegate Scott and seconded by Delegate Maldonado to approve the projects as recommended by staff. The motion passed.

Ms. Dunnigan provided the Board with an overview of two new application questions that staff will add as an addendum to the current application for site development and infrastructure projects. These two questions are designed to assess workforce housing planning as it relates to GO Virginia site investments for economic development purposes. Ms. Dunnigan noted that these questions help to address the Governor's Administration's request to consider the housing topic as outlined in Executive Order 42: Catalyzing Housing Development for Critical Workforce and Economic Needs with Interagency Collaboration.

Program Performance  
and Evaluation  
Committee Report

Ms. Agee recognized Mr. Stottlemeyer, Vice Chair of Program Performance and Evaluation, to provide an update for the Program Performance and Evaluation Committee. Mr. Stottlemeyer provided an update on Project VITAL, which was a series of applications that the Board approved contingent on execution of an MOU between the three applying organizations and a series of state agencies. Mr. Stottlemeyer announced that the MOU had been executed among all of the parties and that all three projects were under contract.

Governance and Policy  
Committee Report

Ms. Agee recognized Ms. O'Quinn, Chair of the Governance and Policy Committee to provide a report on the Committee's work.

Ms. O'Quinn presented the Board with a draft of proposed changes to the GO Virginia Bylaws. Ms. O'Quinn noted that the process for updating the bylaws requires presentation at a meeting and then approval of the presented changes at a future meeting of the Board. Ms. O'Quinn also noted that the presented bylaws required one change, that would grant the power to preside over the Board in the absence of the Chair during Board meetings to either the Vice Chair of Program Performance and Evaluation or the Vice Chair of Regional Councils.

A motion was made by Delegate Scott and seconded by Mr. King to amend the proposed bylaws to include language that would grant authority to the Chair of the Board to grant delegated authority to preside over the Board in their absence to either the Vice Chair of Program Performance and Evaluation or the Vice Chair of Regional Councils. In addition, the amended language shall include that, should the Chair of the Board be unable to delegate authority to preside over the Board, the Secretary of the Board shall exercise the power to delegate authority to preside over the Board to either the Vice Chair of Program Performance and Evaluation or the Vice Chair of Regional Councils. The motion to amend the proposed bylaw changes passed.

Ms. O'Quinn also noted that the Board would be considering elections for the Chair and Vice Chair of Program Performance and Evaluation at the September meeting. Ms. O'Quinn discussed that the Governance and Policy Committee is charged with serving as a nominating committee for those Board leadership positions and that any member who wishes to be considered or who wishes to nominate another member for a leadership position should contact either the Board Chair or the Chair of Governance and Policy. Ms. O'Quinn announced that the meeting to consider nominations for these positions will take place in July.

Regional Councils  
Committee Report

Ms. Agee recognized Ms. Fremouw, Vice Chair of Regional Councils, to provide an update on the Committee's work. Ms. Fremouw noted that the Committee met in February finalized and approved the Committee charter. Ms. Fremouw noted that the committee also discussed topics such as recruitment, leadership development, industry cluster alignment, project pipeline development.

Legislative Update

Ms. Agee recognized Mr. Bryan Horn, Director of the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development, to provide a legislative update. Mr. Horn briefed the Board on House Bill 2397, which would allow the Board to consider activities and services that would negatively affect the ability of a Region to grow one or more traded sector industry.

Information Items

Ms. Agee noted that in the Board Packet, members can find a list of DHCD administratively approved items.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

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