



Glenn Youngkin
Governor

Caren Merrick
Secretary of
Commerce and Trade

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Bryan W. Horn
Director

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Interagency Task Force to Support Economic Development in SWVA

Thursday, September 8, 2022

3:00 - 5:00 PM

SWVA Cultural Center & Marketplace, Abingdon

Summary

At the direction of the 2022 budget bill, DHCD is tasked with organizing an Interagency Task Force to review and make recommendations to support economic development in Southwest Virginia. Findings from the Interagency Task Force will be presented to the General Assembly by June 1, 2023. This kickoff meeting will serve as an introduction of task force members, a discussion of next steps, and an opportunity for stakeholders to share plans to support development in the region.

Attendees

Interagency Task Force

Caren Merrick	Secretary of Commerce & Trade (virtually)
Nicole Riley	Deputy Secretary of Commerce & Trade
Bryan Slater	Secretary of Labor (virtually)
Bryan Horn	Department of Housing & Community Development
Vince Barnett & Lindsay Barker	Virginia Economic Development Partnership
Will Clear	Virginia Energy
Steve Galyean & Becky Nave	Virginia Tourism Corporation
Joseph Guthrie & Anna Seymour	Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Jeffrey Hurst	Department of Environmental Quality
Sara Williams	Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission
Johnathan Belcher & Jim Baldwin	Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority

Public & Private Stakeholders Invited

Duane Miller	LENOWISCO Planning District Commission
Scott Wampler	Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission
Aarson Sizemore	Mount Rogers Planning District Commission
Kristie Proctor	The Virginia Rural Center

Appalachian Voices	Congressman Morgan Griffith
UVA Wise	Senator Mark Warner
InvestSWVA	Senator Tim Kaine
Virginia Economic Developers Assoc.	Appalachian Citizens' Law Center
United Way SWVA	Friends of Southwest Virginia



Agenda

- 3:00 PM Call to Order - DHCD Staff
- Welcome and Intro from Dep. Secretary of Commerce & Trade
Nicole Riley
- 3:10 PM Introduction of Task Force Members
- 3:20 PM Public Comments
- 3:35 PM Report on Programs & Discussion
1. Downtown Revitalization Matching Fund Concept
DHCD Staff
 2. Talent Attraction Program
Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission
 3. Southwest Virginia Energy Park aka "Energy Lab"
VA Energy
 4. Energy Storage and Electrification Manufacturing Project
DHCD Staff
- 4:15 PM Other Initiatives for Interagency Task Force Consideration
- 4:40 PM Workplan and Next Steps
- 4:45 PM Adjourn



Background

The Inter-Agency Task Force must initially review and make recommendations on its findings of the following four programs to include in final report:

Downtown Revitalization

- Concept to address local match requirements in existing downtown revitalization
- Programs include CDBG, Appalachian Regional Commission Funding, Industrial Revitalization Fund, Main Street , Enterprise Zones, Small Business Resurgence Funds

Talent Attraction Program - Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission

- Awards up to \$12,000 per year in student loan repayment to recent graduates
- Eligible graduates commit to reside & work in the Tobacco Region for 2 years
- Targets hard-to-fill occupations including: public school teachers in STEM, PT, OT, Speech Pathology, Engineering, and IT

Southwest Virginia Energy Park, “Energy Lab”

- Proposed project to host companies interested in studying, perfecting and commercializing intellectual property.
- Plans to provide land, labs and scientific assistance to innovators
- Hands-on STEM education and summer learning opportunities
- Funding from private and public sources

Energy Storage & Electrification Manufacturing Project

- Led by Appalachian Voices with funding from GO VA Enhanced Capacity Building Grant
- Provides technical assistance, business expansion and capital access support to manufacturers seeking to enter clean energy marketplace

Future Meetings

Listening sessions with the public will be held in December and March. The Interagency Task Force will reconvene March 2023 and hold a final meeting in May 2023.

Please email Andrew Malloy at DHCD to receive important updates from the task force: andrew.malloy@dhcd.virginia.gov

