



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

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**VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD MEETING**

**April 21, 2022**

**10:30 AM**

**Delta Hotels Marriott, James River Ballroom**

**555 E. Canal St. Richmond, Virginia**

Members Present

Nancy Howell Agee  
Delegate Terry Austin  
Senator George Barker  
The Honorable Steve Cummings  
Ben J. Davenport, Jr.  
W. Heywood Fralin  
Speaker Todd Gilbert  
Leah Fremouw  
Eva Teig Hardy  
Doug Juanarena  
Delegate Terry Kilgore  
Delegate Barry Knight  
The Honorable Caren Merrick  
Senator Frank Ruff  
Todd A. Stottlemyer  
Don Robin Sullenberger  
Pia Trigiani  
Marilyn H. West  
Joe Wilson  
John O. "Dubby" Wynne

Members Absent

Jim Dyke  
Senator Janet D. Howell

Call to Order

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

Roll Call

Ms. Andrea Devening, GO Virginia Program Analyst 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.

Mr. Chris Kyle, Chair of the Region 8 Regional Council, spoke in support of the board extending Policy #8, which reduces per capita match requirements from 1:1 to 2:1. Mr. Kyle noted that a project in the pipeline was delayed and would not be able to reach the Board prior to the end of Policy #8 if it were not extended.

Ms. Sondra Schneider, President and CEO of Security University and Security University Foundation, spoke in support of the Board approving the Security University Foundation ACER Project. Ms. Schneider explained that the grant would be used to build out experiential labs and could produce up to \$16M in revenue over a 6 year period.

No other speakers appeared before the Board. The public comment period closed.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Agee introduced the meeting minutes of the December 15, 2021, the meeting minutes of March 10, 2022, the Regional Growth and Diversification Plans, the Regional Council Certifications, and project modifications for Region 5 Digital Shipbuilding and Region 5 Virginia Cyber Alliance. A motion was made by Mr. Wynne and seconded by Mr. Stottlemeyer to approve the consent agenda as a bloc. The motion passed.

Chair's Report

Ms. Agee announced that a series of workgroups are being created to better help the board to engage in the intricacies of the GO Virginia Program. Ms. Agee announced that the first workgroup would be the Regional Council Leadership Engagement Workgroup. This workgroup will be chaired by Ms. Fremouw.

Director's Report

Ms. Sara Dunnigan, Deputy Director of Economic Development and Community Vitality at DHCD, presented 5 Per Capita applications regarding workforce development and start up ecosystems: GO TEC from Region 1, Regional Talent Strategy Implementation from Region 2, Security University Foundation ACER Project from Region 7, Workforce Entrepreneurship Initiatives in Regional Makerspace from Region 2, and Activation Capital REI from Region 4. A motion was made by Mr. Kilgore and seconded by Mr. Wilson to approve the applications as recommended by staff as a bloc. The motion passed.

Ms. Dunnigan presented 1 Regional Economic Resilience and Recovery application in the startup ecosystem space, Mountain Empire Community College Project WELD from Region 1. A motion was made by Mr. Wilson and seconded by Mr. Austin to approve the application as presented by staff. The motion passed.

Staff Report

Ms. Dunnigan provided the Board with an overview of Council Leadership Input Sessions that staff held to determine recommendations from Council's to the Board. The two priority recommendations from these sessions were to extend Policy #11 which modifies match for per capita requests from a 1:1 to 2:1 match and to extend Policy #13, which waives match for statewide competitive projects if the project displays extraordinary economic opportunity.

A motion was made by Mr. Ruff and seconded by Ms. Fremouw to approve the policies as recommended by Council Leadership. The motion passed.

Budget/Legislative Update

DHCD Director Bryan Horn provided the Board with a comprehensive overview of the budget and legislative process and what can be expected as the House and Senate work toward reconciling their budget bills.

Information Items

Ms. Dunnigan provided the board with letters from several Regional Councils in support of the policy extensions.

Ms. Dunnigan explained some administrative changes with what fiscal years projects are currently being funded out of. She noted that until the budget is reconciled and finalized, staff would be funding all projects out of the FY22 allocation in case the General Assembly were to choose to sweep the prior year's allocation. She also noted that FY22 funds obligated for these projects could be unobligated and replaced with previous fiscal year funding in the event that those funds are not swept.

Ms. Dunnigan provided a brief overview of enhanced capacity building projects and technical amendments approved by staff.

Ms. Dunnigan noted that three projects had been cancelled at the request of the respective regional councils: Picks TM from Region 2, Rowanty from Region 4, and 2030 Initiative from Region 7.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.

