



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

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VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD MEETING

March 12, 2019

1:00 PM

Richmond, Virginia

Members Present

Nancy Howell Agee  
The Honorable Brian Ball  
Delegate M. Kirkland "Kirk" Cox  
Ben J. Davenport, Jr.  
W. Heywood Fralin  
Delegate Chris Jones  
Doug Juanarena  
Delegate Terry G. Kilgore  
Delegate R. Steven Landes  
The Honorable Aubrey Layne  
The Honorable Atif Qarni  
Senator Frank M. Ruff  
Todd A. Stottlemeyer  
Lucia Anna "Pia" Trigiani  
Joe Wilson  
John O. "Dubby" Wynne

Members Absent

Jennifer Boykin  
Jim Dyke  
Thomas F. Farrell II  
Senator Jane D. Howell  
Senator Thomas K. Norment  
Bruce Smith  
Steven C. Smith  
Marilyn H. West

Call to Order

Mr. John "Dubby" Wynne, Chairman of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity (GO Virginia) Board, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Mr. Matt Weaver, Policy & Legislative Director for the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), called the roll and stated that a quorum was present.

Public Comment

No comments were made by the public; the public comment period was then closed.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2018, meeting of the Board; the motion was properly seconded and passed.

After presenting the Regional Council membership changes, a motion was made to approve the Regional Council membership changes for regions 1, 2, 6, and 7; the motion was properly seconded and passed.

## Director's Report

Mr. Erik Johnston, Director of DHCD, stated that the GO Virginia Audit was completed by APA with no findings. A clean Audit.

As part of the Administrative Approval Process, Mr. Johnston presented four projects that were approved by staff: Ignite Internship Program Expansion from Region 2 on behalf of United Way of Southwest Virginia (UWSWVA), Virginia's Growth Region Site Readiness from Region 4 on behalf of Virginia's Growth Region (VGR), Hampton Roads Coalition for Talent Development from Region 5 on behalf of Hampton Roads Workforce Council and the Accomack-Northampton Sewer and Sites Study from Region 5 on behalf of Accomack-Northampton Planning District Commission (AAPDC).

Mr. Johnston then provided an overview of the per capita applications received; stating that six of the nine regions submitted applications for consideration by the Board. There were three applications regarding entrepreneurship: Increasing the Birth Rates of New High Growth Companies from Region 2, 757 Angels Network from Region 5, and the Catalyst Accelerator Program from Region 9. Mr. Johnston presented Increasing the Birth Rates of New High Growth Companies and stated that staff recommended this application for approval. A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the project; the motion passed. Mr. Johnston presented 757 Angels Network and stated staff recommended this application for approval. A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the project; the motion passed. Mr. Johnston presented the Catalyst Accelerator Program and stated staff recommended this application for approval. A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the project; the motion passed. There were three applications regarding credentialing and talent development: Smart Farming at the Center for Workforce and Innovation of Appalachia from Region 1, Cybersecurity Certification Program from Region 6 and Shihadeh Innovation Center for Career and Technical Education from Region 8. Mr. Johnston presented Smart Farming and stated staff recommended this application for approval. After discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the project; the motion passed. Mr. Johnston presented the Cybersecurity Certification Program and stated staff recommended this application for approval contingent upon match funding being verified. After discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the project contingent upon verification of match; the motion passed. Mr. Johnston

presented the Shihadeh Innovation Center and stated this was a re-submitted application from the August 2018 Board meeting and that staff recommended this for approval. A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the project; the motion passed.

Mr. Johnston stated that the Board received a statewide competitive application for credentialing and talent development submitted by Region 3 on behalf of Danville Community College (DCC). Mr. Johnston provided an overview of the project and stated after workgroup feedback DCC scaled back the application from a \$4,896,528 request for 14 middle school exploratory labs and dual-enrollment/credentialing programming throughout the region, to a \$1,320,787 request for 4 middle school exploratory labs with initial deployment of dual-enrollment/credentialing programming. Mr. Johnston stated DCC would scale back the project to a smaller ask in order to validate the metrics and outcomes of Phase 1 and these 4 labs. These outcomes would be reported to DHCD and the Board after the first 12-months before the remaining funds are available. After discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the full \$4,896,528 request contingent upon validation of the scaled back \$1,320,787 after 12 months, the project was approved.

Mr. Johnston recommended the Board approve the memorandum in the board packet regarding the FY 20 capacity building match requirement. DHCD recommended that the Board waive the required \$1:1 matching funds for the \$2,250,000 allocated (\$250,000 per region). After discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to waive the match requirement; the motion passed.

Mr. Johnston stated that the board packet also includes a proposed policy decision to continue ensuring every region has a \$1 million floor for per capita funds that would pull \$643,764 from the FY 20 competitive pool to bring three regions receiving less than \$1 million up to a floor of \$1 million in FY 20 per capita funds. After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to pull funding from the competitive pool to allow for a \$1 million per capita floor; motion passed.

Unfinished Business

The Board did not discuss any unfinished business items

New Business

Mr. Wynne stated that in the packet was a regional entrepreneurship initiative guidance document to help facilitate regional collaboration and support projects in the entrepreneurial space. Taking recommendations from the TEconomy report, this would allow regions to develop capacity for project pipeline development in the start-up ecosystem space, by authorizing DHCD to accept per capita applications that will allow regions to expand their capacity to identify a coordinating entity to support the Regional Entrepreneurship Initiative. The Board will review applications from regions for a coordinating entity interested in developing a regional entrepreneurial investment plan, will allow up to \$300,000 of per capita funding to support this initiative, waives the local match requirement and reduces the match requirement to half the grant based on the exceptional economic opportunity of the initiative. A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the guidelines, including match waivers for the entrepreneurship initiative; motion passed.

Mr. Wynne stated that in the packet were guidelines on updating each region's Growth and Diversification Plan. He stated the intent of the guideline was not only to update the quantitative data but also focus on project pipeline development. A motion was made and properly seconded to adopt the Growth and Diversification Plan Amendment Guidelines; motion passed.

Ms. Christy Morton presented an overview of Virginia Economic Development's (VEDP) Virginia Business Ready Site Program (VBRSP) and the anticipated use of proposed funding by the General Assembly.

Mr. Joe Hines provided an overview of the work Timmons Group does for site development related to VBRSP, through local governments and developers.

Ms. Carolyn Howard provided an overview of the work Draper Aden & Associates does for site development related to VBRSP, through local governments and developers.

Mr. Wynne recommended the Board not fund site development projects through the Competitive funds until completion of the VEDP characterization work. Regions can continue to utilize

Capacity and Per Capita funding to characterize sites in coordination with VEDP. Secretary Ball made the comment that the Board should be open to receiving extraordinary economic development requests for per capita and competitive funding if such an event occurs prior to VEDP completing their work.

Reports

Secretary Layne provided an update to the General Assembly budget, stating all GO Virginia funding has been sustained through FY 20 related to capacity building, per capita, and competitive funds.

Mr. Wynne provided an update on the Virginia Research Investment Committee (VRIC). He stated VRIC authorized the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative (CCI) \$10 million budget for the funding of the Hub and approved the Node Certification Guidance.

Mr. Ben Davenport, Jr. provided an update on the GO Virginia Broadband Advisory Task Force, stating \$19 million was budgeted by the General Assembly to expand the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI), an increase from of \$15 million from the previous funding year.

Future Board Meetings

Mr. Wynne advised Board members that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.