

VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD MEETING
August 14, 2018
1:00 PM
Richmond, Virginia

Members Present

The Honorable Brian Ball
Delegate M. Kirkland “Kirk” Cox
Ben J. Davenport, Jr.
The Honorable Jim Dyke
Thomas F. Farrell II
W. Heywood Fralin
Senator Janet D. Howell
Doug Juanarena
Delegate R. Steven Landes
The Honorable Aubrey Layne
Senator Thomas K. Norment
The Honorable Atif Qarni
Senator Frank M. Ruff
Bruce Smith
Steven C. Smith
Todd A. Stottlemeyer
Lucia Anna “Pia” Trigiani
John O. “Dubby” Wynne
Joe Wilson

Members Absent

Nancy Howell Agee
Jennifer Boykin
Delegate Chris Jones
Delegate Terry G. Kilgore
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	Ms. Jordan Snelling, GO Virginia Administrator 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.
Approval of Minutes	A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2018, meeting of the Board. The motion was properly seconded and passed unanimously.
Funding Requests	As part of the Administrative Approval Process, Mr. Johnston presented three projects that were approved by staff: Southwest Virginia Technology Council HubLink from Region 1, Campus RVA from Region 4, and CvilleBioHub from Region 9.

Mr. Johnston then provided an overview of the per capita applications received; stating, that three of the nine regions submitted applications with three proposals for consideration by the Board. There were two applications regarding credentialing and talent development: Tech Talent Pipeline Apprenticeship Initiative from Region 7 and the Shihadeh Innovation Center for Career and Technical Education from Region 8. Mr. Johnston presented the Tech Talent Pipeline Apprenticeship Initiative and stated that staff recommended the project for approval. After discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded, the project was approved. Mr. Johnston presented the Shihadeh Innovation Center for Career and Technical Education project and stated that staff recommend that the applicant reapply in the next round of per capita funding, or that the application is approved contingent upon demonstrating how the funding for the Innovation Center will expand the existing Work-Based Learning program to prioritize internships at employers in traded sectors targeted in Region 8's Growth and Diversification Plan. If approved with contingencies, staff would recommend requiring those contingencies be resolved prior to the October 9, 2018 Board meeting. After discussion, there was a motion to have the applicant reapply once the project was more aligned with the mission of GO Virginia; the motion was properly seconded and approved. Delegate Landes abstained from this vote. There was one application regarding commercialization: Lighthouse U from Region 4. Mr. Johnston then presented the Lighthouse U project and stated that staff recommend this application for approval as a pilot initiative that should lead to a replicable model for other universities and accelerators. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the project was approved.

Mr. Johnston stated that the Board received the first statewide competitive application for a site development project in Greensville County. The Mid-Atlantic Advanced Manufacturing Center (MaMaC) Mega-Site project was submitted by Region 4. Mr. Johnston provided an overview of the project and stated that staff recommended the project for approval. After discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded; the project was approved.

Mr. Wynne stated that staff would bring back to the Board policies and best practices to consider regarding whether the competitive grant requests should have limits per each type of funding request. Staff will also update the Board on best practices for evaluating local match.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Johnston then presented regional budgets from eight of the nine regions, noting that Region 2 will be submitting their budget at the following meeting. He stated that based on the Board's action at the June meeting, these budget's reflect a total of \$361,111 per region; of that amount \$250,000 will not require a match, but the remainder \$111,111 will require a \$2:1 match. A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the submitted budgets; the motion passed.

Mr. Johnston also provided an update to the work being done on entrepreneurial ecosystems and site development work. DHCD and the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) will continue to collaborate on analyzing the site needs of the Commonwealth as a whole and those of each GO Virginia Region.

Mitch Horowitz from TEconomy Partners provided a brief update on the next steps in expanding the analysis of entrepreneurial ecosystems completed by the Virginia Research Investment Committee (VRIC) across all of the GO Virginia regions.

New Business

Mr. Wynne stated that this year's budget legislation charged the GO Virginia Board with convening a telecommunications advisory workgroup to provide guidance on improving access to and utilization of broadband to support economic development goals. Vice Chairman, Ben Davenport, will be leading this taskforce in conjunction with Secretary of Commerce and Trade and the Commonwealth Chief Broadband Advisor. Members of the task force will include representatives for the General Assembly and the Administration, internet service providers, broadband authorities and cooperatives, as well as private sector businesses. The workgroup will have its first meeting in September.

Board Matters

Mr. Johnston introduced Matt Weaver to the Board and stated that he will be serving as the new Policy and Legislative Director to the Policy Office for DHCD.

Mr. Johnston presented an amendment from Region 8 for their Economic Growth and Diversification Plan. Region 8 submitted this amendment which included the addition of Value-Added Food Related Manufacturing and Biomedical/Biotechnology sectors to their targeted industries. A motion to approve the amendment to the plan was made and properly seconded; motion passed.

Mr. Johnston also presented the Regional Council changes in leadership for Regions 5, 6, 7, and 9. A motion to approve the changes were made and properly seconded; motion passed.

Mr. Johnston provided an update to the Board on the status of projects funded to date. GO Virginia has funded a total of 29 projects. Of these, 25 have been executed or are currently being executed, and 4 projects are still in contract negotiations, with an average of eight weeks to get projects under contract.

Reports & Information

Mr. Jim Dyke provided an update on VRIC, stating that they had met this morning and that they have approximately \$25 million available in general funds and \$24 million in bonds. Mr. Dyke also provided an update to the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative.

Todd Stottlemeyer provided the Board with an update on the activities of the GO Virginia Foundation. Mr. Stottlemeyer discussed how the Foundation recently established a strategic workforce development initiative that has begun its work to research workforce development best practices from across the United States and the world. The Foundation is also positioned to launch a second taskforce that is focused on building Virginia's entrepreneurial ecosystem through the commercialization of public and private research. However, this taskforce is awaiting guidance from the VRIC's Implementation Advisory Team that is currently working on a framework to encourage regional innovation ecosystems and university-based research commercialization before formally beginning its work.

Based on a request by Delegate Landes at the June Board meeting, Rachel Riley, from Enterprise Community Partners, and Kristen

Dahlman, from DHCD, presented on Opportunity Zones. Ms. Riley informed the Board how the Opportunity Zones program was established through tax reform and how it provides a tax incentive for investors to re-invest their unrealized capital gains into Opportunity Funds that are dedicated to investing into Opportunity Zones. Ms. Dahlman then provided an overview how Virginia selected 212 zones out of 901 low income census tracts, and where those zones are in the Commonwealth.

Future Board Meetings

Mr. Wynne advised Board members that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday October 9, 2018.

Adjournment

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