



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

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VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD MEETING

September 10, 2019

1:00 PM

Richmond, Virginia

Members Present

The Honorable Brian Ball  
Delegate M. Kirkland "Kirk" Cox  
Ben J. Davenport, Jr.  
Jim Dyke  
Thomas F. Farrell II  
W. Heywood Fralin  
Leah Fremouw  
Delegate S. Chris Jones  
Doug Juanarena  
Delegate Terry G. Kilgore  
Delegate R. Steven Landes  
The Honorable Aubrey Layne  
The Honorable Atif Qarni  
Senator Frank M. Ruff  
Don Robin Sullenberger  
Lucia Anna "Pia" Trigiani  
Marilyn H. West  
Joe Wilson

Members Absent

Nancy Howell Agee  
Senator Janet D. Howell  
Senator Thomas K. Norment  
Steven C. Smith  
Todd A. Stottlemeyer  
John O. "Dubby" Wynne

Call to Order

Mr. Thomas F. Farrell II, 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.

Elections

Mr. Johnston opened the floor for nominations of Chairman to the Board. A motion was made and properly seconded to nominate Mr. Thomas Farrell. Mr. Farrell was unanimously elected Chairman.

Mr. Farrell opened the floor for nominations of Vice Chairman to the Board. A motion was made and properly seconded to

nominate Benjamin Davenport. Mr. Davenport was unanimously reelected as Vice Chair of the Board.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2019, meeting of the Board; the motion was properly seconded and passed.

A motion was made to approve the Regional Council membership changes for regions 1, 3, 4, and 9; the motion was properly seconded and passed.

Director's Report

Mr. Farrell noted that staff had provided materials in the packet regarding Administratively approved projects and would stand ready to take any questions on those projects. There were no questions regarding Project Oasis from Region 1 on behalf of Lenowisco Planning District Commission and GIG: Gather, Innovate, and Grow from Region 5 on behalf of Eastern Shore Foundation. Mr. Johnston did present an enhanced capacity building project deferred by the Board at the June 24 meeting: Creating Region 4's Cyber Ecosystem from Region 4 on behalf of Virginia Commonwealth University. Mr. Johnston said that DHCD recommended approval of the project.

Paul F. Rocheleau spoke on behalf of VCU with regards to this project. Discussion ensued among the board regarding whether the project could cover more of the region, could ensure no duplication with the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative and whether alternative funding could be secured. Chairman Farrell requested the application remain deferred until a future Board meeting.

There were three per capita applications regarding workforce development and entrepreneurship: The Blockchain Ecosystem Catalyst from Region 2, Developing a Destination for Talent from Region 2, and The Entrepreneurship Innovation & Investment Strategy from Region 3. Mr. Johnston presented the Blockchain Ecosystem Catalyst 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 then presented the Developing a Destination for Talent 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 then presented the

Entrepreneurship Innovation & Investment Strategy application and stated that staff recommended the application for approval. A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the project. The motion passed.

Mr. Johnston then provided a summary of the Growth & Diversification Plans submitted to DHCD from the nine regions, noting the hard work of the support organizations and some of the major areas of growth in industry clusters identified by the regions. A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the G&D Plans. The motion passed.

Mr. Johnston presented to the board the expenditure report for all of the approved GO Virginia Projects.

Mr. Johnston discussed the competitive application for the K-12 Computer Science Pipeline from Region 7 and Region 5. He noted the innovative effort by the regions and described why DHCD did not bring the project forward for discussion because it did not currently meet program guidelines. DHCD will continue to work with the regions to develop a potential application in the aspects of the project with potential ROI in the three year time period. Chairman Farrell introduced to the board Mr. Tom Rust, Council Chair of Region 7, who summarized the project and the intended benefits. Mr. Rust thanked the Chairman for being willing to open up discussion at the December board meeting regarding whether funding in the K-5 space should be considered in the future. Discussion ensued among board members regarding the importance of K-5 computer science efforts but the need to discuss further implications for funding in this space from limited GO Virginia funds. Chairman Farrell concluded that the project does not meet the Board's existing guidelines; however, welcomed future opportunities to discuss this and other board guidelines.

#### Unfinished Business

Mr. Farrell presented a resolution in honor of John O. "Dubby" Wynne's service as chairman of the board for approval by the Board. A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Davenport presented to the Board for adoption a policy that would allow GO Virginia funding to be used for regional broadband planning efforts and middle mile expansion of broadband services. A motion was made and properly seconded to adopt the policy presented in the board packet. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business Mr. Farrell recognized Mr. Adam Northrup, Executive Director of Opportunity Virginia to speak. Mr. Northrup presented to the board the benefits that the Opportunity Zone program that was established by Congress for the purposes of economic growth and how it may be utilized in conjunction with the GO Virginia program.

Chairman Farrell announced to the Board that, in addition to the regular meeting scheduled for December 9<sup>th</sup>, there would be an additional meeting with the regional councils following the December Board meeting in which the purpose is to hear directly from Regional Council leadership on any proposed changes to GO Virginia program guidelines and focus.

Reports Mr. Jim Dyke provided an update on the Virginia Research Investment Committee (VRIC) which had submitted a list of planned areas of focus for the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative (CCI) to the Governor's office for approval. The plan is in draft form for comments by designated agencies and offices and will then be considered by VRIC for approval, and sent to the Governor for final approval.

Mr. Johnston presented the schedule of Board meetings for 2020. A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the schedule. The motion passed unanimously.

Future Board Meetings Mr. Farrell advised Board members that the next meeting will be held on Monday, December 9, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

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