



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

VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD REGIONAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE

October 22, 2025

10:00 AM

Virtual Meeting

Members Present

John King

Jim Cheng

Delegate Michelle Maldonado

Members Absent

Call to Order

Mr. John King, Chair of the Virginia Growth and Opportunity (GO Virginia) Board Regional Council Committee, called the meeting to order.

Roll Call

Ms. Shara Gibson, GO Virginia Program Manager for the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), called the roll and noted that a quorum was present.

Public Comment

Mr. King opened the floor for public comment.

No members of the public appeared before the Committee for the public comment period.

The public comment period was closed.

May 25, 2025 Meeting Minutes Review

Mr. King noted that the consent agenda consisted of the May 25, 2025, meeting minutes.

A motion was made by Mr. Cheng and seconded by Delegate Maldonado to approve the minutes. The motion passed (Yea: Cheng, Maldonado, King; Nay: None).

September 9th State Board Meeting Review

Ms. Gibson recapped the events and activities of the September 9, 2025 State Board retreat.

Productivity

Mr. King began a recap of the results of DHCD's planning grant analysis, and noted that the results of the planning grant analysis led to the changes to Board Policies #3 and #9, which were approved at the September 9th board meeting. He also stated that the Regional Council Committee will not recommend an increase to the planning grant cap, with Ms. Gibson providing further explanation as to the results of the planning grant analysis. This was confirmed following discussion of the results, potential for future recommendations by the committee, and the purpose of the planning grants.

Mr. King then began a discussion on the purpose and requirements of the annual Regional Council Certification. Ms. Sara Dunnigan, Director of Economic Development and Community Vitality at DHCD provided further information as to the role which the state board plays in this process, with additional clarification for presented questions.

After this, Ms. Gibson discussed allocation usage by fund pool. Mr. King noted the importance of utilizing the allocated funds for projects, as well as the importance of having the state board know that the current standings of the different fund balances. Discussion of the unobligated balance amounts followed.

Mr. King introduced an update on the regional council self-assessment beginning. He explained that this self-assessment will help DHCD and the state board develop future onboarding materials and training for future regional council members. Further explanation as to what was being developed for the format of the self-assessment was provided by Ms. Gibson, with discussion following afterwards.

Connectivity and Collaboration

Ms. Shannon Holland, GO Virginia Director for the Central Virginia Partnership for Economic Development provided a presentation on best practices for designing Growth and Diversification Plans. She explained some of the processes, methodologies, and design elements which she has found are the best at communicating and developing Growth and Diversification plans to make them the most effective, with discussion following.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.