

VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD MEETING
October 9, 2018
2:00 PM
Richmond, Virginia

Members Present

Delegate M. Kirkland “Kirk” Cox
Ben J. Davenport, Jr.
The Honorable Jim Dyke
W. Heywood Fralin
Senator Janet D. Howell
Delegate Chris Jones
Doug Juanarena
Delegate Terry G. Kilgore
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
Joe Wilson
John O. “Dubby” Wynne

Members Absent

Nancy Howell Agee
The Honorable Brian Ball
Jennifer Boykin
Thomas F. Farrell II
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.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2018, meeting of the Board. The motion was properly seconded and passed unanimously.

A motion was made to approve the Regional Council membership changes for regions 2, 4, 6, and 7. The motion was properly seconded and passed unanimously.

Mr. Wynne presented the updated the Electronic Participation Policy. The policy was originally approved by the Board at the June 2017 meeting. The policy was updated to reflect legislation that was passed in the 2018 General Assembly session, which removed the requirement that remote locations be open to the public, unless three or more members were in the same remote location. A motion was made to approve the amended Electronic Participation Policy. The motion was properly seconded and passed unanimously.

Director's Report

Mr. Erik Johnston, Director of DHCD, presented the regional capacity building budget for Region 2. The other eight regional budgets were approved at the Board meeting on August 14, 2018. The proposed budget for Region 2 reflects a total of \$361,111; 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 budget; the motion passed.

As part of the Administrative Approval Process, Mr. Johnston presented one project that was approved by staff: Southern Virginia (SOVA) Innovation Hub from Region 3 on behalf of Mid-Atlantic Broadband Communities (MBC) Corporation.

There was one per capita application regarding credentialing and talent development: The Germanna Community College (GCC) Apprenticeship Network proposal from Region 6. Mr. Johnston provided an overview of the application and stated that staff recommended this application for approval, contingent upon GCC's commitment to creating a toolkit of apprenticeship resources and best practices that can be deployed across the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) and the school systems, including a plan for sustainability through non-state funds. After discussion, the Board agreed to defer the proposal to a later application round, so that staff could work with subject matter experts to provide guidance on appropriate uses of GO Virginia funding for workforce projects.

Mr. Johnston stated that staff expect to receive ten project applications from seven regions for the December Board meeting, including both per capita and competitive projects. DHCD will also be reviewing several Enhanced Capacity Building applications for administrative approval.

Mr. Johnston then provided an update on existing projects. To date, the GO Virginia Board has approved thirty-five projects, including twenty-three per capita projects, eleven enhanced capacity building projects, and one competitive project. Of these thirty-five projects, thirty-one projects are under contract or currently executing their contract with DHCD, and two projects are still in negotiations. Two projects have been withdrawn by the applicants due to changes that have occurred since the projects were originally approved: the Project Hollyleaf Site Grading project in Region 2, and the VCU Pharmaceutical Accelerator project in Region 4. Mr. Johnston noted that no funding had been disbursed for either project.

Mr. Johnston also presented the proposed 2019 Board schedule. The proposed dates were March 12, June 11, September 10 and December 17. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the 2019 Board schedule was approved.

Unfinished Business

Stephen Moret, President and CEO of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP), provided an update on the Sites initiative between VEDP and GO Virginia. The initiative will enhance the characterization of the sites in VEDP's statewide inventory to include more usable data, which will allow VEDP to establish a plan for site improvements that align with the GO Virginia region priority clusters. Completion of this plan is expected by January 2019.

Mitch Horowitz of TEconomy Partners provided an update on the startup ecosystem study being developed for all nine GO Virginia regions. The quantitative regional profile has been completed for all nine regions, and seven of the nine regions have convened their regional stakeholder group. Completion of this plan is expected by December 2018.

New Business

Mr. Wynne explained that the regional councils may need more specific direction in order to develop a pipeline of projects that will align with the Board's priorities and exceed the Board's high standards for quality. Mr. Wynne requested that staff facilitate workgroups with subject-matter experts in each of GO Virginia's core focus areas to establish best practices and strategic project templates, which should be reported to the Board at the December meeting. Mr. Wynne also expressed the need for private industry to drive project identification and development for the regions, and indicated that he would be reaching out to the Regional Council Chairs and Vice-Chairs to discuss industry engagement strategies.

Reports

Mr. Jim Dyke provided an update on the Virginia Research Investment Committee (VRIC) and plans for the implementation of TEconomy's ecosystem study. Mr. Dyke also provided an update on the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative, stating participation had increased significantly amongst private industry partners, as well as community colleges and private universities.

Mr. Todd Stottlemyer provided an update on the activities of the GO Virginia Foundation, and the ongoing initiatives focused on establishing best practices for workforce development and startup ecosystem, based on activities in other states and counties.

Future Board Meetings

Mr. Wynne advised Board members that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

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