



VIRGINIA GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY BOARD MEETING

December 11, 2018

1:00 PM

Richmond, Virginia

Members Present

Nancy Howell Agee
The Honorable Brian Ball
Delegate M. Kirkland "Kirk" Cox
Ben J. Davenport, Jr.
Jim Dyke
W. Heywood Fralin
Senator Janet D. Howell
Doug Juanarena
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
Thomas F. Farrell II
Delegate Chris Jones
Delegate Terry G. Kilgore
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

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 October 9, 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 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 9; the motion was properly seconded and passed.

Director's Report

Mr. Erik Johnston, Director of DHCD, stated that the 2018 Annual report had been completed and was currently being reviewed by the Governor's office.

At the previous meeting held in October, the Board approved the 2019 Schedule. However, in order to align the GO Virginia Meetings with the Virginia Research Investment Committee (VRIC) meetings staff proposed to reschedule the December 2019 meeting from the 17 to the 11. A motion was made and properly seconded; the motion passed.

As part of the Administrative Approval Process, Mr. Johnston presented three projects that were approved by staff: Coal-to-Graphene Market Study from Region 1 on behalf of Virginia Tech, Shenandoah Valley Talent Solutions Strategy Development from Region 8 on behalf of Frederick County Economic Development Authority (EDA) and a Mobile Hub-Lab Planning Grant also from Region 8 on behalf of the Staunton Innovation League.

There were four per capita applications regarding credentialing and talent development: The Virginia Highlands Community College (VHCC) Advanced Technology and Workforce Development Center from Region 1, the Center for Energy Research and Education (CERE) Additive Manufacturing Partnership Lab Development from Region 2, and the Virginia Cyber Alliance: Year 2 and the Virginia Digital Shipbuilding Program (VDSP): Year 2 both from Region 5. Mr. Johnston presented the VHCC Advanced Technology and Workforce Development Center and stated that staff did not recommend this application for approval at this time. No action was taken on this project. Mr. Johnston then presented the CERE Additive Manufacturing Partnership Lab Development 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 also presented the Virginia Cyber Alliance: Year 2, formerly known as the Hampton Roads Cyber Co-Lab, and stated that staff recommended this application for approval contingent upon documenting the required 20 percent local match. A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the project with the contingency; after some discussion the motion passed. Mr. Johnston then presented the VDSP: Year 2 application and stated that the staff recommended the application for approval contingent upon documenting the required 20 percent local match. A motion was made and

properly seconded to approve the project with the contingency; after some discussion the motion passed.

Mr. Johnston then provided an update on existing projects. To date, the GO Virginia Board has approved 34 projects totaling \$10.8 million in state funding and leveraging \$18.7 million in other funding. Currently, all of these projects are under contract with DHCD and moving forward with their project milestones. Mr. Johnston then provided an update on milestones achieved by several previously-awarded projects.

Unfinished Business

Mitch Horowitz of TEconomy Partners provided an update on the startup ecosystem study being developed for all nine GO Virginia regions. The plan provided a situational assessment and then identified the gaps in each region at every phase. There was a need identified to establish regional coordinators for entrepreneurial development in each region. This coordinator would identify opportunities and needs for regional entrepreneurial development within traded sector industries, ensure an implementation capacity on priority actions and provide a centralized point of contact in each region for entrepreneurs to receive coordinated services among service providers. It was proposed that the Board encourage the regions to apply for grants of no more than \$300,000, to hire a regional coordinator to help develop projects that would fill in the identified gaps within each region's ecosystem. After discussion, the board requested that before any action is taken to encourage applications, staff work with subject matter experts to develop a proposal structure, which shall include expected metrics and milestones.

New Business

The board did not discuss any new business items.

Reports

Mr. Jim Dyke provided an update on the Virginia Research Investment Committee (VRIC) which had received a report on Commonwealth Cyber Initiative (CCI) and it was approved. He added there was discussion that will require collaboration and coordination among many programs for the overall success of the initiative. Mr. Dyke also provided an update on the TEconomy study being conducted on the start-up ecosystem for Virginia's major universities. Recommendations were proposed in the study to establish a Virginia Partnership for Innovation and Entrepreneurial Development. After discussion, VRIC opted not make a motion to approve the recommendations until more information is provided.

Mr. Todd Stottlemeyer did not have an update on the GO Virginia Foundation but wanted to thank and congratulate Mr. Heywood Fralin on his recent donation to Virginia Tech.

Mr. Ben Davenport, Jr. provided an update on the GO Virginia Broadband Advisory Task Force which held its second meeting on December 3, 2019 to provide guidance on improving broadband access to support economic development goals and the role of GO Virginia program in this effort. Mr. Davenport explained that the areas of focus for that meeting were middle-mile infrastructure build-out, partnerships with Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and planning support for regions. He also explained that the task force was supportive of the public-private partnership model currently used by the Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI). Mr. Davenport reported that Governor Northam's broadband budget would be announced in the coming weeks, while the task force formalizes their recommendations.

Future Board Meetings

Mr. Wynne advised Board members that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

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