



**GO Virginia Region 8 Council Organizational Meeting Minutes**  
 Monday, April 3, 2017 | 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
 The Ice House | 127 West Bruce Street, Harrisonburg, VA 22801

FIRST	LAST	AFFILIATION	ATTENDED
Jon	Alger	James Madison University	X
Devon	Anders	InterChange Group	X
Stacy	Barrett	Barrett Machine, Inc.	X
Kathlynn	Brown	SRI International	X
John	Downey	Blue Ridge Community College	X
Joanie	Eiland	Elk Trucking, Inc.	X
Tracy	Fitzsimmons	Shenandoah University	
Frank	Friedman	CornerStone Bank/City of Lex Mayor	
Dilton	Gibbs	Kraft Foods	X
Mike	Goertzen	Serco, Inc.	
Mike	Keyser	BARC Electric	X
John	King	Virginia Poultry Growers Cooperative	X
Chris	Kyle	Shentel	X
Connie	Loughhead	Des Champs Technologies	X
Gwen	Malone	Retired K-12 Educator/Planning Commission	
Keith	May	Cottonwood Commercial	X
Jill	McGlaughlin	Classic Kitchen & Bath	X
Mark	Merrill	Valley Health System	
Kathy	Moore	Moore Public Relations	
Dennis	Morris	NSVRC Board Chair	X
John	Neff	Retired - Nielsen Builders	
George	Pace	Shenandoah Valley Angel Investors	X
Fulton	Sensabaugh	Kjellstrom & Lee	X
J.J.	Smith	Valley Proteins	X
Jeff	Stapel	Shickel Corporation	
Robin	Sullenberger	Highland County Economic Development Authority	X
Rick	Till	O'Sullivan Films	X
Judith	Trumbo	Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community	X
Carrie	Chenery	Shenandoah Valley Partnership	X
Bonnie	Riedesel	Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission	X
Brandon	Davis	Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission	X
Sharon	Johnson	Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board	X

## **Call to Order**

The April 3, 2017, organizational meeting for GO Virginia Region 8 was called to order by Carrie Chenery, Executive Director of the Shenandoah Valley Partnership (SVP) at 10:05 a.m.

## **Welcome & Introductions**

All Council members introduced themselves.

## **Statewide GO Virginia Overview**

Ben Davenport, Vice Chair of the statewide Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board, provided overview comments and a detailed presentation to all Council members and meeting attendees.

## **Regional GO Virginia Overview**

Existing organizations collaborating on GO Virginia in the Shenandoah Valley provided an overview of their mission and roles in this new initiative. These presentations were given by:

- Bonnie Riedesel, Executive Director, Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission
- Brandon Davis, Executive Director, Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission
- Carrie Chenery, Executive Director, Shenandoah Valley Partnership
- Sharon Johnson, CEO, Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board

This group presented a collaborative approach to staffing the GO Virginia Region 8 Council, which would follow this model for the region:

- The Shenandoah Valley Partnership (SVP) will remain the face/voice of GOVA for the region, staff the Council, organize Board meetings, and advise the Council on regional projects
- The Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission (NSVRC) will handle all money from DHCD and track spending, performance metrics, audit requirements, etc.
- The Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) will run the G&D plan as appropriate
- The Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board (SVWDB) will be on standby to administer any workforce-related projects approved by the Regional Council
- Once a budget is approved, the NSVRC will transfer some level of funding to SVP for administrative assistance, and to the CSPDC for any associated plan costs, in addition to retaining whatever will be needed for their fiscal due diligence support

Dr. John Downey made a motion to approve this staff structure, and President Jon Alger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Council members agreeing to this approach for staffing.

## **Governance**

Draft Bylaws were presented to the Council based on a model provided by the Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD) for regional councils. These bylaws were approved unanimously by the Council after a motion for approval by Connie Loughhead and a second by Keith May.

Nominations were solicited for both Chair and Vice Chair of the Region 8 GO Virginia Council. Robin Sullenberger nominated George Pace to Chair the Council, and Dennis Morris seconded the nomination. The motion carried unanimously. Keith May nominated Chris Kyle to serve as Vice Chair of the Council, and John King seconded the nomination, with the motion carrying unanimously.

Four sub-committees were proposed by Chairman George Pace, to include:

1. Nominating Committee
2. Growth and Diversification Plan Committee
3. Grant Proposals Study and Review Committee
4. Executive Committee

Council members were asked to submit requests for their sub-committee participation by April 14<sup>th</sup>. Joanie Eiland made a motion to approve the creation of these four sub-committees, and John Downey seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Council members were reminded of their obligations and coverage under the Freedom of Information Act and Conflicts of Interest Act for service on this Council, with more information expected to come from the state on the particulars of these requirements for each regional council.

### **Planning**

The Council reviewed a series of important planning processes, including preparation for a regional Growth and Diversification, a full planning calendar for council activities and state deadlines for the year, and a short-term budget proposal.

### **Next Steps**

The Council agreed to form sub-committees following the April 14<sup>th</sup> deadline for assignment requests. Each sub-committee will select its Chair at its first meeting.

Council members were encouraged to attend a statewide orientation session to be held in Richmond, Virginia, on April 20<sup>th</sup> for all regional council members and support organizations across the Commonwealth.

In advance of the next meeting, staff was assigned to distribute a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a Growth and Diversification Plan Consultant.

### **Next Council Meeting**

Chairman Pace suggested a next meeting of the Council on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Carrie Chenery notified the Council that she would work with partners in the region to host this meeting in the Northern end of the Valley, with all future meetings rotating throughout the region.

### **Public Comment**

Patricia Higgins with James Madison University provided brief public comments about collaborating in the region with higher education.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chairman Pace adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.