



GO Virginia Region 8 Council Meeting Minutes
 Monday, October 30, 2017, 10:00am to 12:00pm
 Hampton Inn & Suites, Virginia Conference Room
 9800 Winchester Road, Front Royal, VA 22630

FIRST	LAST	AFFILIATION	ATTENDED
Jon	Alger	James Madison University	
Devon	Anders	InterChange Group	
Stacy	Barrett	Barrett Machine, Inc.	
Kathlynn	Brown	SRI International	X
John	Downey	Blue Ridge Community College	X
Joanie	Eiland	Elk Trucking, Inc.	
Tracy	Fitzsimmons	Shenandoah University	X
Frank	Friedman	CornerStone Bank/City of Lex Mayor	
Dilton	Gibbs	Kraft Foods	X
Mike	Goertzen	Serco, Inc.	X
Mike	Keyser	BARC Electric	
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	X
Keith	May	Cottonwood Commercial	X
Jill	McGlaughlin	Classic Kitchen & Bath	X
Mark	Merrill	Valley Health System	X
Kathy	Moore	Moore Public Relations	X
Dennis	Morris	NSVRC Board Chair	
John	Neff	Retired - Nielsen Builders	X
George	Pace	Shenandoah Valley Angel Investors	X
Fulton	Sensabaugh	Kjellstrom & Lee	
J.J.	Smith	Valley Proteins	X
Jeff	Stapel	Shickel Corporation	X
Robin	Sullenberger	Highland County Economic Development Authority	X
Rick	Till	O'Sullivan Films	
Judith	Trumbo	Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community	X
Carrie	Chenery	Shenandoah Valley Partnership	
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 October 30, 2017 Council meeting for GO Virginia Region 8 was called to order by Chairman George Pace at 10:05 a.m.

Welcome & Introductions

Brandon Davis, Executive Director, Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission, welcomed everyone to Front Royal. He then thanked the members of the Grant Proposal Study & Review sub-Committee for their hard work and due diligence in reviewing the submitted proposals.

All Council members then introduced themselves.

Approval of September 20, 2017 Minutes

The minutes of the September 20, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Connie Loughhead motioned for the minutes to be approved, seconded by Dilton Gibbs. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Grant Proposal Study & Review Sub-Committee Recommendations and Discussion

Bonnie Riedesel, Executive Director, Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, introduced the members of the Grant Proposal Study and Review sub-committee. She reminded the Council that Region 8 has a little less than \$1 million dollars in per capita funding to allocate. The per capita money will not “go away” but instead any dollars not used will be rolled into next year. The overall purpose of the Region 8 GO Virginia funding is to create and maintain jobs making \$41,000+ in the targeted industries where gaps currently exist. Ms. Riedesel announced three project applications were received by the October 13th deadline and submitted to the Grant Proposal Study and Review sub-committee for consideration. Ms. Riedesel then turned the meeting over to Tracy Fitzsimmons, Chair of the Grant Proposal Study and Review sub-committee.

Ms. Fitzsimmons directed Council members to the “Funding Recommendations” summary included in their Council packets. The first project considered was the Rockbridge Area Advanced Manufacturing Program (RAAMP) which would provide tuition assistance for welders at Byers Technical Institute in Rockbridge County. The Grant Review’s decision was to recommend the full \$100,000 requested of Region 8 GO Virginia per capita funds be approved. The second project reviewed was the Career Strategies – High School Graduation to Employment. This would create a program to place Career Strategies teachers within high schools to provide students planning to enter the workforce after graduation with in-depth activities and mentorship placements. The Grant Review’s decision was to not recommend this project for GO Virginia funding at this time. Concerns had been raised by the Grant Review members on who would oversee the metrics of this project, how it would add to jobs, and how the marketing initiative would work. The project applicant was encouraged to strengthen the project based on the Grant Review’s recommendations and re-submit in the next round of applications. The third project considered was the Shenandoah Valley Nursing Scholarship Project which would provide scholarships and/or interest free loans to assist nursing students in receiving their Associate or B.S. nursing degrees. The Grant Review’s decision was to recommend half of the requested funds (\$515,300) be approved for Region 8 GO Virginia per capita funds.

The meeting was then opened for discussion on the two projects recommended by the Grant Proposal Study and Review sub-committee for GO Virginia funding approval. Lengthy discussion followed on the projects with questions and some concerns raised with both.

Chairman Pace then asked if there was a motion to approve the Rockbridge Area Advanced Manufacturing Program (RAAMP) project. Connie Loughhead motioned for the project to be approved with the added condition that welders receiving tuition assistance would be required to remain employed in Region 8 for a minimum of three years and Byers Technical Institute would be responsible for collecting any defaulted money. Gwen Malone seconded the motion. A vote was taken with two Council members dissenting. The motion was approved.

A motion was then made by John Neff to approve the Shenandoah Valley Nursing Scholarship Project. Keith May seconded the motion. A vote was taken with four Council members (George Pace, Tracy Fitzsimmons, John Downey, and Mark Merrill) abstaining. The motion was approved unanimously.

Financial Status Update

Brandon Davis, Executive Director, Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission, reviewed the financial documents included in the Council packets. These documents reflected activity through October 24, 2017. The most recent draw was approved by Chairman Pace on October 17th and uploaded for reimbursement on October 18th. As well, support organizations were mailed reimbursement checks on October 18th. \$100,000 is being kept in the account at all times.

Key Planning Dates

Elizabeth McCarty, Director of Planning, Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, reviewed the "Upcoming Key Dates and Deadlines" calendar provided to each Council member. The two approved per capita applications must be submitted to DHCD by November 15th. The GO Virginia State Board will then meet on December 12th to review and approve per capita applications. Additional dates for Region 8 will be filled in as the application process progresses, with the next Council meeting being held in January or February 2018. Council members were encouraged to think about bigger, multi-regional projects that could be submitted for available competitive funding.

A multi-regional meeting is being held November 28th at Blue Ridge Community College to discuss potential collaborative projects along the I81 corridor with GO Virginia Regions 1 and 2. This is not an official Council meeting but is open to all Council members as well as the public.

Legislative Outreach Update

Chairman Pace directed Council members to the Region 8 Status Report included in their packets. This summarizes accomplishments for the third quarter of 2017. Chairman Pace referred everyone to the final paragraphs of the report outlining the efforts on engaging elected officials and local leaders. He encouraged all Council members to continue focusing on these efforts.

Next Council Meeting

No meeting is currently scheduled.

Public Comment

Chairman Pace reminded all in attendance the multi-regional meeting being held November 28th at Blue Ridge Community College is open to all Council members as well as the public. No public comments were made.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council, Judith Trumbo motioned the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Michael Goertzen. Chairman Pace adjourned the meeting at 12:00pm.