



GO Virginia Region 8 Council Meeting Minutes
 Tuesday, July 23, 2019, 10:00am to 12:00pm
 Waynesboro City Council Chambers, Yancey Municipal Building
 503 W. Main Street, Waynesboro, VA 22980

| FIRST | LAST | AFFILIATION | ATTENDED |
|----------|--------------|--|----------|
| Jon | Alger | James Madison University | X |
| Devon | Anders | InterChange Group | |
| Stacy | Barrett | Barrett Machine, Inc. | X |
| Kim | Blosser | Lord Fairfax Community College | X |
| Kathlynn | Brown | SRI International | X |
| Greg | Campbell | Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport | X |
| Robin | Crowder | Retired K-12 Superintendent | 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 | X |
| Mike | Goertzen | Serco, Inc. | |
| Conrad | Helsley | NSVRC Board | X |
| John | King | Virginia Poultry Growers Cooperative | X |
| Chris | Kyle | Shentel | X |
| Connie | Loughhead | Des Champs Technologies | |
| Keith | May | Cottonwood Commercial | X |
| Jill | McGlaughlin | Classic Kitchen & Bath | |
| Mark | Merrill | Valley Health System | |
| Kathy | Moore | Moore Public Relations | |
| John | Neff | Retired - Nielsen Builders | |
| George | Pace | Shenandoah Valley Angel Investors | |
| J.J. | Smith | Valley Proteins | X |
| Jeff | Stapel | Shickel Corporation | X |
| Robin | Sullenberger | Highland County Economic Development Authority | X |
| Rick | Till | HR Dynamics LLC | X |
| Judith | Trumbo | Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community | X |

Support Staff Attending Included: Brandon Davis (NSVRC), Ashley Shickle (NSVRC), Bonnie Riedesel (CSPDC), Faith McClintic (Program Director), Jay Langston (SVP) & Jen Weaver (SVP & GOVA Administrative Coordinator)

Call to Order

The July 23, 2019 Council meeting for GO Virginia Region 8 was called to order by Vice Chair Chris Kyle at 10:05am.

Welcome & Introductions

Vice Chair Kyle started the meeting by noting several recent changes to GO Virginia at the State Board level. At the June 24th State Board meeting, John “Dubby” Wynne formally resigned as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Thomas Farrell was unanimously elected Chairman of the State Board and Benjamin Davenport was unanimously re-elected as Vice Chair of the State Board.

All Region 8 Council members and meeting guests then introduced themselves. Dr. John Downey, President of Blue Ridge Community College (BRCC), noted the college has an “outpost” across the street from the Waynesboro City Council Chambers. The BRCC Online Outpost offers staff assistance, computer workstations and Wi-Fi to prospective and current BRCC students. Dr. Downey offered to give a tour of the facility immediately following the Council meeting to anyone interested in learning more.

Welcome: Mayor Terry Short, City of Waynesboro

Mayor Short welcomed the Council to Waynesboro and said he was happy to be hosting the group during such an exciting time for the City. Like the Region 8 Council, entrepreneurial ecosystems are a priority to Waynesboro and the City is laser focused on fostering an environment in which they can thrive. As well, Waynesboro updated its comprehensive plan in 2018 with a focus on economic development, education, and entrepreneurial ecosystems. Currently, the high school is undergoing a major renovation and tourism remains a critical part of the economy.

“Life and Death of Virginia Localities”, Luke Juday, Director of Planning, City of Waynesboro

Luke Juday, City Planner for Waynesboro, gave his presentation on the population numbers and trends for various localities throughout the region and explained how those affect planning and the economy – both statewide and nationally. Mr. Juday will provide his presentation to Jen Weaver, Administrative Coordinator, to be distributed to attendees.

Approval of April 23, 2019 Minutes

The minutes of the April 23, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Keith May motioned for the minutes to be approved; seconded by Dr. John Downey. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Amended Economic Growth & Diversification Plan

Bonnie Riedesel, Executive Director, Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, reported an updated Region 8 Economic Growth and Diversification Plan must be submitted to DHCD by August 1, 2019. State statute requires that Economic Growth and Diversification Plans be updated/amended every two years, noting five elements (provided by DHCD) that must be addressed. Region 8 staff has been doing the work internally, generating new data but focusing more on strategy. Faith McClintic, Program Director, reviewed the Executive Overview provided in Council packets and requested confirmation from the Council on moving forward with the Plan amendments.

Frank Friedman motioned to accept the Executive Overview presented and to give the Executive Committee authority to approve the amended Economic Growth and Diversification Plan once completed; seconded by Dr. John Downey. The motion was approved unanimously.

Update on Project Pipeline

Faith McClintic, Program Director, directed Council members to the back page of the Executive Overview, where the eleven projects previously prioritized were all listed. She said progress continues on the priorities with a

meeting regarding the Industrial Hemp project having occurred in May. As well, the ED Ad Hoc group had met in June to discuss the advancement of sites from Tier 2 to Tier, 3 in addition to the feasibility of a regional industrial park.

Executive Committee Report

Region 8 Funded Projects Status Report

Bonnie Riedesel, Executive Director, Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, directed Council members to the Region 8 Project Status Report included in their packets. Going forward, a report on Region 8 funded projects will be provided at each Council meeting. Ms. Riedesel reviewed the five projects funded and where each is in the grant process. Vice Chair Chris Kyle noted these projects reflect a lot of hard work while also offering a learning experience for future considerations.

Financial Status Report

Brandon Davis, Executive Director, Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission, noted various financial reports included in Council packets. The first page of the reports reflects FY19 capacity building budgeted revenues and expenditures. The second page of the reports summarizes the six draw-downs that have occurred for FY2019. Mr. Davis pointed out almost \$85,000 will carry over into the next fiscal year. The next several pages of the report provides a breakdown of funding for the RAAMP and BRCC Cybersecurity projects. The final page reflects per capita funding over all fiscal years, with over \$2 million having been allocated by DHCD for Region 8.

Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Advisory Committee

Faith McClintic, Program Director, reported the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Advisory Committee continues to grow, involving a great group of people working on the front lines, including local entrepreneurs. Ms. McClintic said the committee has been working on the development of an inventory of resources available. She also commended the group's due diligence in focusing on recommendations from the TEconomy study.

Public Comment

During the public comment, one guest encouraged the Council to continue to pursue the project abstract focused on industrial hemp. Another guest questioned how Region 8 compares to other regions as far as funded projects and wondered if a summary of all GO Virginia projects could be distributed.

Next Council Meeting: October 15, 2019 from 10:00am to 12:00pm; Southern Virginia University,
One University Hill Drive, Buena Vista, VA 24416

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Council, a motion was made by Dr. John Downey to adjourn the Council meeting; seconded by Robin Sullenberger. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm by Vice Chair Chris Kyle.