



GO VIRGINIA REGION 8 COUNCIL

Tuesday, October 15, 2019, 10:00am to 12:00pm
 Southern Virginia University, Main Hall Ballroom
 1 University Hill Drive, Buena Vista, VA 24416

FIRST	LAST	AFFILIATION	ATTENDED
Jon	Alger	James Madison University	X
Devon	Anders	InterChange Group	
Stacy	Barrett	Barrett Machine, Inc.	
Kim	Blosser	Lord Fairfax Community College	
Kathlynn	Brown	SRI International	
Greg	Campbell	Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport	X
Robin	Crowder	Retired K-12 Superintendent	X
John	Downey	Blue Ridge Community College	
Joanie	Eiland	Elk Trucking, Inc.	
Tracy	Fitzsimmons	Shenandoah University	X
Frank	Friedman	CornerStone Bank/City of Lex Mayor	X
Mike	Goertzen	Serco, Inc.	X
Conrad	Helsley	NSVRC Board	X
John	King	Virginia Poultry Growers Cooperative	
Chris	Kyle	Shentel	X
Connie	Loughhead	Des Champs Technologies	X
Keith	May	Cottonwood Commercial	X
Jill	McGlaughlin	Classic Kitchen & Bath	X
Mark	Merrill	Valley Health System	
Kathy	Moore	Moore Public Relations	X
John	Neff	Retired - Nielsen Builders	
George	Pace	Shenandoah Valley Angel Investors	X
J.J.	Smith	Valley Proteins	
Jeff	Stapel	Shickel Corporation	
Robin	Sullenberger	Highland County Economic Development Authority	
Rick	Till	HR Dynamics LLC	
Judith	Trumbo	Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community	X
Ashley	Driver	Howell Metal - Nominee	X
Mike	Keyser	BARC Electric Cooperative – Nominee	X

Support Staff Attending Included: Brandon Davis (NSVRC), Elizabeth McCarty (CSPDC), Faith McClintic (Program Director), Jay Langston (SVP), Jen Weaver (SVP & GOVA Administrative Coordinator), and Mary Lou Bourne (Chair of Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Advisory Committee)

Call to Order

The October 15, 2019 Council meeting for GO Virginia Region 8 was called to order by Chairman George Pace at 10:05am.

Introductions

All Council members and guests introduced themselves.

Welcome: Bob Huch, CFO, Southern Virginia University

Mr. Huch welcomed the group to historic Southern Virginia University (SVU), which up until 1996 was the home of Southern Seminary. SVU is a private, faith based university which currently has an enrollment of about 1,100 students. Hopes are to increase enrollment to 1,500 students. The student body represents all areas of the country and boasts a 95-percent participation in extracurriculars like athletics, music and theatre. SVU is also the largest employer in Buena Vista.

Presentation: Virginia Economic Development Partnership – Site Development Initiatives: Sean Brazier, Vice President – Economic Competitiveness and John Loftus – Manager, Sites & Buildings

Mr. Brazier and Mr. Loftus presented preliminary findings from the recent site characterization study done by the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP).

Updates on State GO Virginia Program: Sara Dunnigan, Deputy Director, GO Virginia & Economic Development, Virginia Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD)

Ms. Dunnigan introduced herself and noted that though she has only been with DHCD for six weeks, she has over twenty five years of economic development experience which will serve her well in her new position. She is currently on a “listening tour” to visit the various GO Virginia regions. In December, DHCD will be hosting a Chair/Vice Chair workshop in Richmond to hear thoughts on what has worked, what has been learned, and what could be improved regarding GO Virginia. Ms. Dunnigan said initial conversations have identified local match as a top issue for most regions.

Council Action

The minutes of the July 23, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Frank Friedman motioned for the minutes to be approved; seconded by Mike Goertzen. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Approval of Council Member Nominations: Frank Friedman, Region 8 Nominating Committee

Frank Friedman reported two current Council vacancies for Region 8. He noted the Nominating Committee had recently met to consider nominees and in reviewing applications prioritized private business experience.

Per Mr. Friedman, the Nominating Committee recommended the approval of Ashley Driver from Howell Metal and Mike Keyser from BARC Electric Cooperative as Region 8 Council members. The nominations were approved unanimously by Council.

Mr. Friedman went on to say that with the resignation of Robin Sullenberger from the Region 8 Council, who was appointed to the State GO Virginia Board, a vacancy existed for Chair of the ED Ad Hoc Advisory Group. Per Mr. Friedman, the Nominating Committee recommended the approval of Dr. Jay Langston, Executive Director of the Shenandoah Valley Partnership, as Chair of the Region 8 ED Ad Hoc Advisory Group. The nomination was approved unanimously by Council.

Updates on Project Pipeline & GO Virginia Broadband Policy

Faith McClintic, Program Director, reported great progress is being made in moving the list of prioritized projects forward. She noted, however, that local match is a big challenge and it is crucial to help local leaders understand the importance of the GO Virginia work. She said it is particularly important to get the local economic developers engaged as localities have limited resources to allocate.

Ms. McClintic also gave an update on the GO Virginia Broadband policy, a copy of which was included in Council packets. She noted the GO Virginia State Board supports regional broadband planning efforts and will only require a 50% local match. GO Virginia funds may be used for middle mile broadband infrastructure projects as well as digital literacy and internet relevance programming connected to business growth and expansion opportunities.

Executive Committee Report

Region 8 Funded Projects Status Report

Elizabeth McCarty, Director of Planning, Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC), gave a brief summary of the RAAMP project. The project was funded by Region 8 starting in April 2018 and had its final drawdown in September 2019, with all match being met. Walt Johnson, applicant for the project, said the funding by GO Virginia was exactly what was needed to allow Byers Mechanical to expand operations for the training of welders.

Ms. McCarty noted the next deadline for project applications to be submitted to the CSPDC is Friday, December 13th.

A Region 8 Funded Projects Status Report was included in Council packets. Time was given for questions but there were none.

Financial Status Report

Brandon Davis, Executive Director, Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission (NSVRC), reported Region 8 has roughly \$2 million in per capita funds that are unallocated. Financial reports were included in Council packets and Mr. Davis said he would be happy to answer any questions. There were none.

Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Advisory Committee

Mary Lou Bourne, Committee Chair of the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Advisory Committee (E2), said the group is working as a “connector”, cultivating good ideas and fostering entrepreneurs with assets and resources. The committee has met four times and has representatives from up and down the Shenandoah Valley. A survey has gone out to entrepreneurs to gather their feedback and a roadmap of resources is being compiled, which will be on the Shenandoah Valley Innovation Coalition (SVIC) website.

Public Comment

No public comment.

New Business

Chairman Pace directed everyone to the 2020 calendar included in Council packets and made available to guests. The calendar includes Region 8 project application deadlines as well as Council meeting dates.

Chairman Pace also requested Council members take time to review the email and attachments from Chris Lloyd, McGuire Woods Consulting, included in their packets. One document is a Leadership Survey distributed to each region with Regions 8's responses. Information on plans to “ramp up” the overall social media presence for GO Virginia were also included.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the Council, Chairman Pace adjourned the meeting at 12:00pm.