



**GO Virginia Region 8 Executive Committee Minutes**

Wednesday, December 4, 2019, 10:00am to 12:00pm

SVP Offices, Suite 1100

220 University Boulevard, Harrisonburg, VA 22807

FIRST	LAST	AFFILIATION	ATTENDED
Joanie	Eiland	Elk Trucking, Inc.	
Chris	Kyle	Shentel	X
Keith	May	Cottonwood Commercial	
George	Pace	Shenandoah Valley Angel Investors	X
Brandon	Davis	Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission	Phone
Bonnie	Riedesel	Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission	X

Also Attending: Mary Lou Bourne, Chair, Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Advisory Committee; Faith McClintic, Program Director; Ashley Shickle, Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission; Jen Weaver, Administrative Coordinator.

**Call to Order**

The December 4, 2019 Executive Committee meeting for GO Virginia Region 8 was called to order by George Pace at 10:00am.

**Approval of May 23, 2018 Minutes**

The minutes of the May 23, 2018 Executive Committee meeting were reviewed. Bonnie Riedesel motioned for the minutes to be approved; seconded by Chris Kyle. The minutes were approved unanimously.

**Council Member Attendance**

Chair Pace stated he feels an addition needs to be made to the by-laws to provide guidance on member attendance at Council meetings, particularly since Region 8 has moved to quarterly meetings. He suggested wording such as "Any member of the GO Virginia Region 8 Council who misses two or more Council meetings per year, for two consecutive years, will be asked to resign." Discussion followed with all in agreement the addition was needed as well as fair.

Mary Lou Bourne motioned to accept the addition to the by-laws as stated and take before full Council for approval; seconded by Chris Kyle. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Social Media Platform**

Faith McClintic, Program Director, reported Region 8 is being featured on the GOVA social media platforms (i.e. Facebook, LinkedIn, etc.) the week of December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The RAAMP project and BRCC Cybersecurity project are being highlighted through press releases and articles.

## **Simplifying Funding Approval Process**

Chair Pace noted in December he will be attending a GO Virginia meeting in Richmond for regional leaders to share feedback and best practices for improving the initiative. He said he would like suggestions to share at that meeting on streamlining the funding approval process. Several members noted providing documents for the match amount could be made less burdensome and may not be necessary to prove for every draw. It was also suggested GO Virginia could provide templates and checklists that could be shared with the project applicants so they are educated upfront about expectations.

## **Survey Feedback**

Chair Pace also said during the December meeting he will be attending in Richmond, time will be given to discuss the results of the GO Virginia regional survey distributed by Chris Lloyd. He plans to address the issue with securing local match and will suggest doing away with the \$50,000 threshold and lowering the percentage required. Chair Pace noted he agrees with the merit of collaboration with localities and therefore does not plan to push for “no match”. He does feel, however, more options should be available to meet that requirement. Executive Committee members were in agreement and noted it is difficult for many of the rural localities to come up with match money and often funding requests don’t align with the timing of local budgets.

As well, Chair Pace said he will address the problem with the arduous bureaucracy and feels confident other regions will voice their frustration.

## **Approved Capacity Building Grants**

Region 8 has two funded enhanced capacity building grants that are approaching one year since approval. Bonnie Riedesel reported the Staunton Innovation League Tech-Lab study has drawn all needed funds. At this time, the applicant does not plan to move forward with a project due in part to issues with local match and the burdensome paperwork. Results of the study, however, may be incorporated into a bigger entrepreneurial project for Region 8.

Ashley Shickle reported the Shenandoah Valley Talent Solutions Strategy study had been completed and results delivered to the participating localities. The talent solutions team will now review the final report and decide options for moving forward.

## **Upcoming Grant Proposals**

Chair Pace requested updates on projects that are in the pipeline. Faith McClintic reported the Economic Gardening project application is done but the applicant is still working on the match requirement. She also said the project relating to site development had been put on hold until VEDP finished their statewide site characterization study.

Bonnie Riedesel said the Shenandoah Valley Aviation Park proposal is awaiting word on the grant submitted to the Economic Development Administration (EDA). SHD should have a response in March. The EDA money could then be used as match to GO Virginia funding for infrastructure to expand the aviation park. Ms. Riedesel also reported the CSPDC is awaiting word on a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant they submitted to do a feasibility study for a local food hub. The USDA funds could be used as match for a GO Virginia enhanced capacity building grant.

Mary Lou Bourne said progress is being made on the entrepreneurial roadmap, which will list programs and assets available in the region. This will feed into the Shenandoah Valley Accelerator project which may be ready for submission in April.

Ashley Shickle reported the workforce project is not ready at this time but the JMU Industrial Hemp Initiative application would be submitted by the December deadline.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Executive Committee, Chairman Pace adjourned the meeting at 12:30pm.

DRAFT