



**GO Virginia Region 8 Executive Committee Minutes**

Monday, May 18, 2020, 9:00am to 11:00am

Virtual Executive Committee Meeting

COVID-19 Crisis/Restrictions on In-Person Gatherings

FIRST	LAST	AFFILIATION	ATTENDED
Joanie	Eiland	Elk Trucking, Inc.	X
Chris	Kyle	Shentel, Region 8 Vice Chair	X
Keith	May	Cottonwood Commercial	X
George	Pace	Shenandoah Valley Angel Investors, Region 8 Chair	X
Brandon	Davis	Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission	X
Bonnie	Riedesel	Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission	X

Faith McClintic, Program Director, Ashley Shickle, Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission, and Jen Weaver, Administrative Coordinator, also participated in the meeting. Tracy Fitzsimmons, Chair of the Region 8 Grant Review sub-committee, joined in for a portion of the meeting.

**Call to Order**

The May 18, 2020 Executive Committee meeting for GO Virginia Region 8 was called to order by Chair George Pace at 9:00am.

**Quorum Confirmation/Virtual Meeting Guidelines**

Chair Pace noted all Executive Committee members were participating in the virtual meeting. He said the virtual meeting was taking place due to the Governor’s restriction on in-person gatherings and the need for social distancing. He also acknowledged the necessity for GO Virginia Region 8 work to continue in light of the significant economic distress being caused by the pandemic.

**Approval of December 4, 2019 and April 7, 2020 Executive Committee Minutes**

The minutes of the December 4, 2019 and April 7, 2020 Executive Committee meeting were reviewed. Bonnie Riedesel motioned for both sets of minutes to be approved; seconded by Keith May. A roll call vote was taken and the minutes were approved unanimously.

**Review/Approval of Nominating Sub-Committee Recommendations**

Chair Pace noted the Nominating sub-committee meeting summary distributed in the Executive Committee packets and said three seats are currently vacant on the Region 8 Council with the resignations of Stacy Barrett, Frank Friedman, and John Neff. A recent call for nominations had resulted in two applications being submitted: Terry Short and Bill Wiley. The Nominating sub-committee had met by phone on April 21<sup>st</sup> and were recommending both Mr. Short and Mr. Wiley be approved for the Region 8 Council.

A motion was made by Joanie Eiland to approve Terry Short and Bill Wiley as members of the GO Virginia Region 8 Council; seconded by Chris Kyle. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

## **Review/Approval of Grant Review Sub-Committee Recommendations**

Tracy Fitzsimmons, Chair of the Region 8 Grant Review sub-committee, said there were two applications being recommended for approval by the Grant Review group. Summaries of both projects had been distributed to the Executive Committee members prior to the meeting.

Ms. Fitzsimmons reviewed the first application: the “Back to Work” project from Lord Fairfax Community College Workforce Solutions, designed with the goal of getting adults impacted by COVID-19 back to work in high wage, high demand jobs. She reported since the Grant Review sub-committee had met, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) had reviewed the application and raised some concerns, including the amount of money being spent on marketing and the need for industries to provide letters of support and commitments to interview individuals who successfully complete the credentialing program. Ms. Fitzsimmons continued, however, the Grant Review sub-committee felt this was a good project and very timely given the economic situation caused by the pandemic. Discussion followed on whether the issues raised by DHCD could be addressed in time to meet the application deadline. Ashley Shickle, NSVRC, said she felt confident she could work with the applicant on resolving the concerns and would look at other avenues for marketing.

A motion was made by Chair George Pace to approve the Back to Work project subject to amendments addressing the concerns raised by DHCD; seconded by Chris Kyle. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

The second application presented by Ms. Fitzsimmons was Startup Shenandoah Valley (SV2). The applicant for this project, Staunton Creative Community Fund, will implement and oversee a virtual business acceleration program that will target entrepreneurs. Ms. Fitzsimmons said the Grant Review sub-committee also felt this was a strong proposal in that it created collaboration that will last beyond the GO Virginia funding and embraced the essence of the GO Virginia initiative.

Joanie Eiland and Chair George Pace noted they would be recusing themselves from voting on this application. A motion was made by Keith May to approve the Startup Shenandoah Valley project; seconded by Chris Kyle. A roll call vote was taken with Chris Kyle, Keith May, Brandon Davis, and Bonnie Riedesel all voting in favor of the motion. The motion was approved.

## **GenEdge Manufacturing Retooling Statewide Competitive Project**

Chair Pace directed Executive members to the GenEdge competitive project being introduced by Region 1. This project will work with manufacturers in Virginia in retooling and transitioning of operations to production of PPE and related goods, as well as focus on preparations for “on-shoring” products currently made overseas. Region 1 is not asking for funding from Region 8 but, simply, endorsement.

A motion was made by Brandon Davis for Chair George Pace to work with Faith McClintic on drafting a letter of endorsement to Region 1; seconded by Keith May. A roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

## **Virginia Small Business Development Centers (SBDC) GO Virginia Statewide ERR Proposal**

Chair Pace then introduced the Economic Resiliency and Recovery proposal introduced by George Mason University in support of the Virginia SBDC network. The proposal will ensure cash match funds are available to draw down the full annual SBDC federal allocation. No funding from Region 8 is being requested, only support. Discussion followed with concern raised on whether this was setting a precedent for similar entities to seek GO Virginia funding. It was also noted the SBDC had already received a substantial amount of funding through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES). A clarification was made that GO Virginia funding would be used to sustain current capacity while the additional CARES money would be needed for contract services to address the increased SBDC workload brought on by the economic crisis.

A motion was made by Bonnie Riedesel for Faith McClintic to draft a letter of endorsement for the SBDC proposal; seconded by Keith May. A roll call vote was taken with Chair George Pace voting no; all other Executive members voted in favor. The motion was approved.

## **New GO Virginia Policy Decisions/Next Steps & Economic Resiliency and Recovery (ERR) Policy and Fast Response, Faith McClintic, Program Director**

Faith McClintic re-iterated GO Virginia's commitment to help with the economic recovery and discussed ways in which the initiative is pivoting to provide more funding with relaxed requirements, including dedicating up to \$14.66 million from the statewide competitive pool to create the GO Virginia Resiliency and Recovery Grant Program. Each Regional Council will be able to apply for up to \$1.0 million from the competitive pool to support strategic initiatives in response to the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, with the remaining \$5.66M being reserved for multi-regional proposals that have a significant statewide economic impact. Local match requirements will be waived under the ERR policy and total match requirements will be reduced by half. To accelerate the deployment of resources, DHCD will administratively approve applications of \$100,000 or less that meet the program guidelines through a Fast Access process. Regions may access up to \$300,000 using the Fast Access process. Ms. McClintic said she has had numerous people reach out and several projects are already in the works.

Chair Pace noted depending on the number of projects submitted to Region 8 through the ERR program, to avoid delays in funding the Grant Review sub-committee will need to meet more frequently to vet the proposals, with additional virtual Council meetings required outside the dates already set to follow.

## **FY21 Budget Proposal – Brandon Davis, Executive Director, NSVRC**

Brandon Davis directed members to the proposed FY21 budget distributed prior to the meeting. He reviewed the various line items and noted the actual wording of the categories may be changed by DHCD prior to being presented to the GO Virginia State Board. Mr. Davis said budget has remained about six months ahead and he hopes to maintain that timeline.

A motion was made by Keith May to approve the proposed FY21 budget as presented; seconded by Bonnie Riedesel. A roll call vote was taken: Joanie Eiland and Chris Kyle had left the virtual meeting; Keith May, Chair George Pace, Brandon Davis, and Bonnie Riedesel all voted in favor. The motion was approved.

## **Other Business**

Chair Pace presented a list of COVID-19 industry "winners and losers" he compiled and discussion followed on ideas to help some of those negatively impacted including colleges, universities, and hospitality related fields.

## **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Region 8 Executive Committee, a motion was made by Bonnie Riedesel to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Keith May. A roll call vote was taken: Joanie Eiland and Chris Kyle had left the virtual meeting; Keith May, Chair George Pace, Brandon Davis, and Bonnie Riedesel all voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25am.