



GO Virginia Region 8 Executive Committee Minutes

Friday, July 3, 2020, 8:30am to 9:30am

Virtual Executive Committee Meeting

COVID-19 Crisis Restrictions

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

Jen Weaver, Administrative Coordinator, also participated in the meeting.

Call to Order

The July 3, 2020 Executive Committee meeting for GO Virginia Region 8 was called to order by Chair Chris Kyle at 8:30a.m.

Quorum Confirmation/Virtual Meeting Guidelines

Chair Kyle noted all Executive Committee members were participating in the virtual meeting. He said the virtual meeting was taking place due 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 June 16, 2020 Executive Committee Minutes

The minutes of the June 16, 2020 Executive Committee meeting were reviewed. Keith May motioned for the minutes to be approved; seconded by Joanie Eiland. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Review/Approval of Grant Review Sub-Committee Recommendation

Bonnie Riedesel presented the "Reopening Staunton, Augusta, Waynesboro (SAW)" proposal which will develop foundational elements and resources to "reboot" and assist tourism-related activities in the SAW area. The project is being submitted as part of the Fast Access program under the GO Virginia's Economic Resiliency and Recovery (ERR) initiative. The Region 8 Grant Review sub-committee reviewed the application and has recommended it for approval. Ms. Riedesel noted since the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) had assisted the applicant with writing the proposal, she would recuse herself from any vote taken by the Executive Committee on this project.

Discussion followed with questions raised on how exactly the grant money would be spent and whether the project replicated any tourism initiatives already going on in that area. The question was also raised on whether waiting for approval until the full Council meeting July 14th would significantly impact the outcome.

A recommendation was made by Keith May to have full Council vote on this project at the meeting on July 14th as well as give approval for the Region 8 Executive Committee to take action on upcoming Fast Access proposals when appropriate for timeliness. All Executive Committee members were in agreement.

Other Business

Joanie Eiland noted the original Region 8 Council and Region 8 Executive Committee were set up in a very intentional way and in accordance with the guidelines established by the GO Virginia State Board. She has concerns with the resignation of some original members and addition of new members, the structure of the Council has veered away from the desired composition. Ms. Eiland said she feels more representation is needed from the northern part of Region 8, more private sector members, as well as an emphasis on diversity on both Council and the Executive Committee to fairly reflect the mission of Region 8.

Executive members said they agreed and will pursue the structure per the current guidelines as a priority moving forward.

Public Comment

No one from the public participated.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Region 8 Executive Committee the meeting was adjourned at 9:20a.m by Chair Kyle.