



## GO VIRGINIA REGION ONE COUNCIL

JUNE 1, 2017

Minutes

The GO Virginia Region One Council held its second meeting on June 1, 2017 at The University of Virginia's College at Wise located in Wise, Virginia.

Members present were Beth Rhinehart, Duane Miller, Cathy St. Clair, Dean Sprinkle, David Olive, George Cridlin, Moir Beamer, Josh Lewis, Ron McCall, Travis Staton, Richard Edwards, Donna Henry, Mike Quillen, Mike Stollings, and David Leonard.

**Welcome and introductions:** Mike Quillen, Chair of the Region One Council presided over the meeting and Ms. Becki Joyce recorded minutes. Mr. Quillen called the meeting to order and confirmed a quorum was present. Chancellor Donna P. Henry, offered a welcome to the committee and public.

Richard Edwards gave the motion to approve the minutes. Dean Sprinkle seconded the motion and the council approved.

### **Report Items:**

#### **Overview of GO VA Orientation (April 20)**

Mike Quillen gave an overview of the GO VA orientation held on April 20 indicating the Region One Council was strongly represented and the orientation was very informative. There was good information from chairs and vice chairs. The council learned that it was under tight timeframes. A draft budget was due May 26, 2017 for the Executive Committee to review. The Executive Committee will meet again on August 6, 2017.

Mr. Quillen also informed the council that the diversification plan is due the end of August, citing it will be a very aggressive endeavor to meet that date. He also updated the council on the individual liability question posed in the last meeting, stating the committee still does not know if anyone is covered by liability insurance, but DHCD is still looking in to it.

He also updated the committee in regards to Conflict of Interest. Regional boards do not have to fill out the final disclosure or do the test. Board members will be required to read and view the material and sign off. UVa-Wise will provide the conflict of interest material and document that each member has signed off. UVa-Wise will provide a report to the Executive Committee that all council members have received and reviewed.

### **Committee Reports**

**Economic Development:** Josh Lewis and Duane Miller reported they had met with the Economic Development Directors, including Jonathan Belcher with VCEA. The committee will continue holding their economic development meetings to coincide with the day of the Region One Council meetings.

1. The economic developers requested another opportunity for local elected officials to be brought up to speed on GO Virginia. Duane indicated that there needed to be additional educational meetings or individual presentations to each board in the region. UVa-Wise will present to Board of Supervisors or Industrial Development Authorities as requested by the local or regional economic development directors.
2. Will Wampler with McGuire Woods informed the council that VEDP is doing a strategic plan and that he would communicate with the board so there is no duplication of the two initiatives.

Josh Lewis indicated there was a question regarding the Collaborative Jobs Act as to any box or parameters on the funds once they are returned. Josh requested there be a way or mechanism to insure the funds go to some form of economic development effort. The Collaborative Jobs Act will give regional projects of at least two jurisdictions a six year refund of personal income tax, promoting profit sharing along regional lines. Josh requested to be updated on any limitations on what those funds can be used for from those localities.

**College & Universities:** Dean Sprinkle reported that the information from the first meeting and request for input has just been disseminated to the colleges and universities. With very little information at this time they are in a wait and see mode.

**Chambers of Commerce:** Beth Rhinehart reported they had 9 of 13 chambers at their initial meeting. The Chambers learned more about GO Virginia and what the opportunities are – and agreed the chambers can be a great avenue to disseminate information to a large group of businesses. Beth stated the greatest thing was the recognition of how collaborative the chambers are. The Chambers are eager to work together in a collaborative and participative fashion.

**Non Profit Committee:** Travis Staton – sources of info to find all non-profits in SWVA. What they are and do. Charity status as well as ranking and proficiencies.

**Nominating Committee:** George Cridlin reported the committee met to consider a nominee for Pre-K to 12. The committee discussed three name of superintendents. Keith Perrigan was chosen and recommended as the nominee. George made a motion to nominate Keith Perrigan to the Region One Council, and Mike Stollings seconded the motion. The motion was passed by the council.

#### **Action Items:**

**Council Member Terms:** Mike Quillen reported there was still no clear information from the state regarding how to handle terms, however they do think the terms should be staggered. Mr. Quillen suggested everyone choose a slip of paper with 2, 3 and 4 year terms in order to designate the term length. The Council members chose terms, and UVa-Wise will update the roster accordingly.

**Growth and Diversification Plan:** Mike Quillen reported the Growth and Diversification Plan is sophisticated in terms of what is being requested. The plan is due August 25<sup>th</sup> and requires outside assistance to complete. If an RFP is required through state procurement procedures, it could take 2 to 3 weeks to get applications in. Other alternatives would be to use state approved agencies.

The plan is a 50,000 feet view of what our region would want to focus on in trying to expand and diversify the economy. The State Board has set objectives to move forward to secure higher paying jobs. George Mason has done a considerable amount of work to provide baseline data. Consultants from CA,

NY have contacted us, however they are expensive, and do not know our region well. Mr. Quillen stated we need someone with excellent writing skills and will have to pass state board approval.

Shannon Blevins reported the plan could not be a compilation of all the other strategic plans currently being done by different agencies and organizations in the region. It has to be targeted, but not to the level of prescribing specific projects. DHCD gives an overview of what the plan needs to include.

The plan requires public input. Regional meetings will likely be held in mid to late July, depending upon the availability of facilitators and venues.

Ms. Blevins indicated the plan should build on George Mason's report and the additional data prepared by VEDP. Ms. Blevins stated that the council could look at what George Mason has done, see what is missing, and go externally for missing pieces of information. The Weldon Cooper Center has an exceptional writer who may be able to assist. The state board will approve the Growth and Diversification Plan at the September meeting. If the plan does not align with the state, the board will not approve the plan.

Mr. Quillen indicated the council is not set up to take formal applications yet. He suggested the council align the application process to entities such as VCEDA, Tobacco Commission and others since most projects will be applying to those as well.

### **Budget Review**

Mike Quillen reported that due to time constraints, a budget was put together and approved by the executive committee. DHCD has previewed the budget and at this time it looks good. Mr. Quillen asked for comments or questions from the council. The council requested clarification as to whether the region is considered distressed, as the match is only one-half if deemed so. The State Board and DHCD is still evaluating criteria for determining distressed regions.

After a discussion of line items of the budget, a motion to approve the budget was made by David Sprinkle and seconded by Moir Beamer. The council passed the motion.

### **Discussion of Ideas**

Moir Beamer introduced Blue Ridge Plateau to present their slaughterhouse facility project. The project is located in Carroll County, VA, and would provide custom processing on a large-scale basis.

Richard Edwards spoke on behalf of Dickenson County, Virginia. Mr. Edwards had presented on GO VA to the Dickenson County Board of Supervisors last week. He discussed two potential projects that might serve Dickenson County and the region.

Travis Staton presented the Ignite Program, a cradle to career workforce program to increase the skilled, credentialed and educated workforce of tomorrow. The program would serve 26,000 students and a hands-on career expo will be held on September 26 and 27, 2017.

Mike Quillen reminded the council that the presentations from the SWVA Economic Forum are all online now.

**Public Comment:** David Manley, Wythe County commented that he is encouraged by the collaborative relationship. David emphasized that the economic developers need help communicating and managing the expectations of GO Virginia of their boards.

Scott Robertson of the Tri-Cities Business Journal emphasized keeping the media involved. The media can help get information out to the public about the public sessions and especially to the business community.

**Next meeting dates & locations:** The next meeting date is September 7, 2017, at 10 am at Wytheville Community College, Grayson Hall, Room 219.

Mike Quillen adjourned the meeting.