



Go Virginia Region One

Target Industry Working Group Meeting. Nov 5th, 2018

Information and Emerging Technology

In Attendance: Chris Horton, Stephen Mullins, Jonathan Belcher, Jeff Rowlett, Sam Wolford, Jim Baldwin, Becki O'Quinn, Robyn Lee, Dan Minahan, John Grimes

Via Phone: Ashvin Raj

Updates and introductions: Robyn Lee gave a brief update on the progress of the SWVA HUB Link Project. Robyn mentioned that part of this work will include compiling the inventory of programs offered at colleges in the region. Becki and the group shared about the findings from the HUB Zone conference last month and the need for “Back end operations” in SWVA. These include accounting, administrative support and human resources. Jonathan Belcher announced a “Doing Business with the Government” event through VCEDA to educate the region on connecting businesses with federal contracting opportunities.

“TRY SWVA” – Dan – “Should we actually focus on individuals and small teams instead of companies in as a whole”? Companies don’t want to lose their staff because people are relocating to SWVA, but people could stay in SWVA, work remotely for their company, and experience the culture here while also communicating the story of improved broadband and benefits of the region. **Chris-** Outside entrepreneurs could be drawn through a type of Entrepreneur Challenge, as well as workforce development opportunities. Business plans, infrastructure and financial advising could all be offered to outside entrepreneurs. Marketing could be an important part of such a plan, and may be considered for funding as long as it is for a specific program instead of an economic development recruitment effort.

TRY SWVA Committee: – Chris Horton, Dan Minahan, John Grimes and Robyn Lee volunteered to investigate more possibilities around this project idea.

Graphene – Jonathan Belcher and Robyn Lee discussed the Virginia Tech: Coal to Graphene Market Study and the location of SureCarbon/EnviraCarbon’s Research and Development Facility to Wise County. Virginia Tech’s proposal to GO Virginia was recommended for funding by the Region One Council. The proposal is awaiting approval of DHCD and the State Board, which will be announced at the December 11th State Board meeting.

CyberPatriot- BSides SWVA Event- Nov. 29th – UVA-Wise, MECC and SWCC, along with Virginia Cyber Arrange will be hosting a Cyber Security event – This event takes place from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and includes:

- Guest speakers on cyber security
- CTF event for cyber security- Team A attempts to hack Team B and vice-versa. The largest of these competitions in the country is called CyberPatriot.

Chris Horton – Nanodiscovery, which came from an incubator in central Florida, created technology that allows for health analyses of livestock from birth to old age. The technology allows for early detection and prevention of disease, as well as a comprehensive animal health history for bovines. Could this technology be located here? There may also be the need for an assembly plant for this piece of technology that would not only accelerate the process for disease testing in bovines, but could also eventually be used in healthcare.

- Data analysis
- Facility to assemble
- Disease prevention
- Health histories and customized care

Other Ideas to Consider (Chris): Hemp

- 3-d printed homes via “Hempcrete”
- Batteries
- CBD oil
- Seed production

Could these ideas fit into a spiraling maker space concept? – If so, there would be a need for 10k acres for growing hemp. This could translate to \$3M in revenue for the region.

Final Thoughts:

- **New Idea:** Dan- Could there be a database of all the current workforce in the region with a security clearance?
- **New Tech Company located in the area** – Johnathan: TDEC data entry company. Typing skills are needed.
- **Three new drone businesses:** These businesses focus on crops, photography and infrastructure inspection.
 - Remote Agridrone
 - Brad Deel
 - Praise Aeronautics
- **Project Cloud prospect visit:** (British Company) Hyper Scale Cloud Computing (Handling Big Data) - This company is looking for advanced IT skills, AI, People Skills, Software Development and Programming.

Next Meeting Date: December 5th at 2:00 p.m.

Location: Bristol Chamber of Commerce