



## Region 8

*Cities of: Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton, Waynesboro, & Winchester  
Counties of: Augusta, Bath, Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Page, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, & Warren*

### GO VIRGINIA REGION 8 COUNCIL

Tuesday, July 14, 2020, 10:00am to 12:00pm  
Virtual Full Council Meeting  
COVID-19 Crisis/Restrictions for Social Distancing

FIRST	LAST	AFFILIATION	ATTENDED
Jon	Alger	James Madison University	X
Devon	Anders	InterChange Group	
Kim	Blosser	Lord Fairfax Community College	X
Kathlynn	Brown	SRI International	
Greg	Campbell	Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport	X
Robin	Crowder	Retired K-12 Superintendent	
John	Downey	Blue Ridge Community College	X
Ashley	Driver	Howell Metal Company	X
Joanie	Eiland	Elk Trucking, Inc.	X
Tracy	Fitzsimmons	Shenandoah University	
Mike	Goertzen	Serco, Inc.	X
Conrad	Helsley	NSVRC Board	
Mike	Keyser	BARC Electric Cooperative	
John	King	Virginia Poultry Growers Cooperative	X
Chris	Kyle	Shentel	X
Connie	Loughhead	Des Champs Technologies	X
Keith	May	Cottonwood Commercial	X
Jill	McGlaughlin	Classic Kitchen & Bath	X
Mark	Merrill	Valley Health System	X
Kathy	Moore	Moore Public Relations	
Terry	Short	Waynesboro City Council & CSPDC Board	X
J.J.	Smith	Valley Proteins	X
Jeff	Stapel	Shickel Corporation	X
Rick	Till	HR Dynamics LLC	X
Judith	Trumbo	Virginia Mennonite Retirement Community	
Bill	Wiley	Howard Shockey & Sons, Inc.	X

Support Staff Attending Included: Brandon Davis (NSVRC), Ashley Shickle (NSVRC), Elizabeth McCarty (CSPDC), Faith McClintic (Program Director), Mary Lou Bourne (JMU & E2 Advisory Committee), Jay Langston (SVP & ED Ad Hoc Committee), Jen Weaver (SVP & GOVA Administrative Coordinator)

## **Call to Order**

The July 14, 2020 Council meeting for GO Virginia Region 8 was called to order by Chair Chris Kyle at 10:00a.m. With the resignation of former Chair George Pace, Mr. Kyle noted he had accepted the position of Region 8 Council Chair.

## **Welcome and Recognition of New Council Members**

Terry Short and Bill Wiley, recently added members to the Region 8 Council, were welcomed by Chair Kyle and given opportunity to introduce themselves.

## **Introduction of Council Members & Guests**

Time was given for each Council member to introduce themselves. Jen Weaver, Administrative Coordinator, acknowledged Region 8 support staff as well as guests joining the meeting.

## **Council Action**

### *Approval of January 28, 2020 Minutes*

The minutes of the January 28, 2020 meeting were reviewed. Jeff Stapel motioned for the minutes to be approved; seconded by John King. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### *Grant Proposal Study & Review Committee Recommendations and Discussion*

Faith McClintic, Region 8 Program Director, reviewed the Fast Access application process as part of the Economic Resiliency and Recovery (ERR) program. Elizabeth McCarty, Deputy Director, Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, then reviewed the "Reopening Staunton, Augusta, Waynesboro (SAW)" proposal submitted for consideration under the Fast Access funding. The Region 8 Grant Review Committee had reviewed the application and recommended for approval.

Discussion followed with Council members questioning if health precautions would be communicated as part of the campaign, if tourism was an acceptable sector for funding, and if this model could be expanded to the entire region.

Dr. John Downey motioned for the "Reopening Staunton, Augusta, Waynesboro (SAW)" project to be approved; seconded by Connie Loughhead. Roll call vote was taken and the motion was approved unanimously.

## **Executive Committee Report**

### *Actions from Recent Meetings*

Chair Kyle re-iterated the importance of the Fast Access grant funding during the current economic crisis and requested approval from full Council for the Region 8 Executive Committee to take action on upcoming Fast Access proposals when appropriate for timeliness. It was agreed the Grant Review Committee would be convened to review and make recommendations regarding Fast Access applications, followed by a vote from the Executive Committee unless scheduling aligned to allow timely consideration by the full Council.

Chair Kyle also reported two new Council members had recently been appointed to the Executive Committee: Connie Loughhead and Rick Till.

### *Financial Status Report*

Brandon Davis, Executive Director, Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission, reviewed the financial statements provided to Council members in their packets. He noted several Region 8 projects were in the process of being closed out. A Council member suggested it would be helpful to have a structure in place where project outcomes were presented when grant funding was done.

## **Updates on Project Pipeline & GO Virginia Program**

Faith McClintic, Region 8 Program Director, reported lots of interest and activity going on in the region. She currently knows of five potential proposals that may tap funding from the Economic Resilience and Recovery (ERR) program. Since any Fast Access requests made through the ERR initiative need to be turned around quickly, the Grant Review Committee is establishing standing dates to meet.

Ms. McClintic also reviewed the Region 8 project pipeline, updating Council members on the status of each priority project and noted good progress has been made. She is hoping to host some type of summits in late fall to cultivate more project ideas

Jay Langston, Chair of the Region 8 Economic Development Ad Hoc Group and Executive Director of the Shenandoah Valley Partnership, reported on the recent two day visit from Tom Barkin, President of the Richmond Federal Reserve Bank. Mr. Barkin spent his time in the Valley participating in various roundtables, webinars, and CEO meetings. Mr. Langston also reported he had submitted an application for a site enhancement project for consideration by Region 8. As well, he is developing a workforce application that would leverage the collaboration throughout the region to produce a substantive project addressing economic issues brought on by the pandemic.

### *Region 8 Funded Projects Status Report*

Elizabeth McCarty, Deputy Director, Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission, reviewed the Project Status Report included in Council packets. She noted Region 8 has allocated approximately \$1.8 million to date, with four projects under contract just since April 2020.

## **Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Advisory Committee Update**

### *Presentation on Startup Shenandoah Valley (SV2)*

Mary Lou Bourne shared her excitement with the approval of the Startup Shenandoah Valley (SV2) project by the GO Virginia State Board. She said the project is getting attention across the State as it utilizes a different model of virtual versus in-person to provide resources to entrepreneurs. In light of the pandemic, this is particularly timely. As well, the program is a way to bring many pieces together in a cohesive fashion to communicate quickly. Ms. Bourne noted she has had conversations with both Tom Barkin, President of the Richmond Federal Reserve Bank, and Senator Mark Warner and feels it is important to keep the Valley relevant.

## **Other Business**

Chair Kyle said he wanted to take a few minutes to recognize the great work George Pace had done as Chair of Region 8, as well as his service to the entire community with the Angel Network being just one example.

A motion was made by Mark Merrill to endorse a resolution of appreciation for the service of George Pace as Chair of the GO Virginia Region 8 Council; seconded by John King. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. John Downey noted the need to do a better job regarding ethnic diversity on the Region 8 Council. Faith McClintic, Program Director, agreed and said this will be particularly important with the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) implementing a regional Council certification process. Chair Kyle said diversity needs to be a priority for everyone as vacant Council seats are filled.

## **Public Comment**

Chair Kyle said he felt the electronic format for the meeting had worked well and anticipated the option for virtual participation would continue even with in-person meetings. He requested any feedback or comments from public guests. There was no public comment.

**Next Council Meeting:** Tuesday, October 20, 2020; Location: CrossKeys Vineyard

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to come before the Council, Chair Kyle adjourned the meeting at 11:30a.m.