



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 Executive Committee Minutes

Friday, September 4, 2020, 9:00am 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 Chair	X
Connie	Loughhead	Des Champs Technologies	X
Keith	May	Cottonwood Commercial	X
Rick	Till	HR Dynamics LLC	X

Brandon Davis (NSVRC), Bonnie Riedesel (CSPDC), Jay Langston (SVP & Region 8 ED Ad Hoc Committee), Ashley Shickle (NSVRC & Interim Region 8 Program Coordinator), and Jen Weaver (SVP & Region 8 Administrative Coordinator) participated in the meeting. Robin Sullenberger also joined the meeting.

Call to Order

The September 4, 2020 Executive Committee meeting for GO Virginia Region 8 was called to order by Chair Chris Kyle at 9:00a.m.

Quorum Confirmation/Virtual Meeting Guidelines

Chair Kyle noted all Executive Committee members were participating in the virtual meeting so quorum was met. He said the virtual meeting was taking place due to the continued 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 August 14, 2020 & August 28, 2020 Executive Committee Minutes

The minutes of the August 14, 2020 & August 28, 2020 Executive Committee meetings were reviewed. Joanie Eiland motioned for the minutes to be approved; seconded by Connie Loughhead. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business

Update on Site Enhancement Application

Ashley Shickle reviewed several summary documents provided to the Executive Committee members prior to the meeting. One addressed the three questions raised by the Grant Review Committee regarding the Site Enhancement application: 1) how important is site development?

2) what is the impact of committing a large percentage of Region 8 funds to site development?

3) how strong is the proposal based on DHCD guidelines?

Discussion followed with comments made on how other states are doing a much better job on site development so GO Virginia funding provides a great opportunity to give the region, and the state, a more competitive edge on luring new business. Clarification was also provided on how the return on investment (ROI) is calculated for site proposals since the numbers are harder to quantify compared to other projects. It was noted Region 5, which submitted a successful GO Virginia site development project, used the same type of ROI.

Questions were raised on the timeline of the application and when the State budget, particularly GO Virginia funding, might be finalized. Ms. Shickle said she planned for the Site Enhancement application to be re-submitted by the next Region 8 deadline, September 25th. The application would then be presented to the Grant Review Committee on October 14th for potential recommendation to full Council at their October 20th meeting. The timeline for when a State budget would be finalized is still uncertain, but at this time GO Virginia funding remains intact.

The Executive Committee reached agreement for Ms. Shickle to draft a statement of guidance for the Grant Review Committee on behalf of Ms. Eiland, Ms. Loughhead and Mr. Till. All felt it was important to show support for the proposal while upholding responsibility for recommendation to the Grant Review Committee. Chair Kyle and Mr. May recused themselves from the application discussion due to their involvement with the Shenandoah Valley Partnership.

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 9:40a.m. by Chair Kyle.