



## 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 Grant Review Committee Minutes

Wednesday, October 14, 2020, 10:00am to 11:30am

Virtual Committee Meeting

COVID-19 Crisis/Social Distancing Restrictions

FIRST	LAST	AFFILIATION	ATTENDED
Tracy	Fitzsimmons	Shenandoah University, Committee Chair	X
Devon	Anders	InterChange Group	X
Kim	Blosser	Lord Fairfax Community College	X
Kathlynn	Brown	SRI International	X
Ashley	Driver	Howell Metal Company	X
Mike	Goertzen	Serco, Inc.	X
John	King	Virginia Poultry Growers Cooperative	X
Mark	Merrill	Retired - Valley Health System	X
Rick	Till	HR Dynamics LLC	X

Support staff participating included Ashley Shickle (NSVRC & Region 8 Interim Program Coordinator), Bonnie Riedesel (CSPDC), Elizabeth McCarty (CSPDC), and Jen Weaver (SVP & GOVA Administrative Coordinator). Jay Langston (SVP & Region 8 ED Ad Hoc Advisory Chair) also joined the meeting as the applicant.

#### Call to Order

The October 14, 2020 Grant Review Committee meeting for GO Virginia Region 8 was called to order by Chair Tracy Fitzsimmons at 10:00a.m.

#### Roll Call/Quorum Confirmation

Chair Fitzsimmons noted per FOIA requirements all Grant Review meetings are now public with proper notice given, are recorded, and minutes will be taken. She then did roll call and confirmed eight committee members were in attendance which established quorum. Rick Till joined the meeting after roll call.

#### Grant Review Committee Action

##### *Approval of September 21, 2020 Grant Review Committee Minutes*

The minutes of the September 21, 2020 Grant Review Committee meeting were reviewed. Mark Merrill motioned for the minutes to be approved; seconded by Mike Goertzen. The minutes were approved unanimously.

##### *Review of Site Enhancement Application*

Chair Fitzsimmons requested Jay Langston give a brief update on the application. Dr. Langston said nine localities are still included with ten different sites to be advanced in tier levels. He said revisions have been made to the application to clarify the timeframe and better explain the return on investment. Ashley Shickle then noted the guidance provided by the Region 8 Executive Committee. To date Region 8 has spent no funding on site

development projects, one of the four pillars of the GO Virginia initiative. She said Executive members are eager to spend funds on site enhancement. She added the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has encouraged projects to consider sites with a regional scale, which this proposal does.

Time was then given for discussion on the application. A question was raised on the return on investment referenced in Tables 1 and 2. Most sites appear to have returns in the short to mid-term range but a few show no activity. There was concern of the perception this gives. Dr. Langston said he had been very conservative in the timeline but had no problem with adding values for the three sites with no activity.

A question was also raised on the GO Virginia budget for FY21 and FY22. Ms. Shickle shared a spreadsheet of the committed and projected revenues/expenditures and noted that her understanding is FY21 funding remains intake but she is unsure about FY22.

Several members noted their support of the proposal based on the need for higher tier sites and the broad geographic representation of this project. Though the return on jobs is less predictable than other projects Region 8 has considered, site development was said to be a great use of resources.

A motion was made by Mike Goertzen to recommend the Site Enhancement proposal for approval to the Region 8 Council contingent upon approval of the \$1million GO Virginia funding for next budget year; seconded by John King.

Devon Anders stated he would recuse himself from any votes on the Site Enhancement proposal due to a conflict of interest. Rick Till noted he was recently appointed to the Frederick County EDA but had confirmed there was no direct conflict regarding this proposal.

A motion was made by Mark Merrill to amend the original motion to remove the contingency; seconded by Mike Goertzen. Devon Anders recused himself. The motion to amend was approved unanimously.

Upon no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken to recommend the approval of the Site Enhancement proposal to Council with the expectation that, prior to presentation at the October 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, the correction would be made to the Bath County Industrial Park's locality, page numbers would be added to the application, and the addition of data to the Return on Investment tables for the three sites originally left blank would be completed. A roll call vote was taken with Devon Anders recusing himself. The vote was unanimous for recommendation.

### **Update on Fast Access Proposal: Local Ordering, Communication, and Agriculture Logistics Initiative**

Ashley Shickle updated the committee on the status of the "Local Ordering, Communication, and Agriculture Logistics Initiative" which had been recommended for approval at the last Grant Review meeting. Ms. Shickle had become aware of proposals in both Region 1 and Region 6 that were similar in concept and she was working to see if the various ideas could be combined or coordinated to increase efficiency. If the project changes, the application will be brought back before the Grant Review committee. If the application remains the same as what was approved originally, it will go before the Region 8 Council for vote. Ms. Fitzsimmons said she was happy to hear the proposal could potentially be made into an even better, stronger application.

### **Updates: Policies & Procedures**

Ashley Shickle noted all Region 8 committee meetings are now public. To ensure consistency moving forward, staff will be drafting Standard Operating Procedures which the Committee Chair and members will be provided for review and feedback.

### **Public Comment**

No one from the public participated.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Region 8 Grant Review Committee the meeting was adjourned at 10:40a.m. by Chair Fitzsimmons.