



## 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

Monday, September 21, 2020, 2:00pm to 3:00pm  
Virtual Committee Meeting  
COVID-19 Crisis/Social Distancing Restrictions

FIRST	LAST	AFFILIATION	ATTENDED
Tracy	Fitzsimmons	Shenandoah University, Committee Chair	X
Devon	Anders	InterChange Group	
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	
Rick	Till	HR Dynamics LLC	X

Support staff participating included Ashley Shickle (NSVRC & Region 8 Program Coordinator), Bonnie Riedesel (CSPDC), Elizabeth McCarty (CSPDC), and Jen Weaver (SVP & GOVA Administrative Coordinator). Joanie Eiland, Region 8 Vice-Chair, also joined the meeting.

Barrett Hightower, LOCAL-I project applicant, participated except during closed session.

#### Call to Order

The September 21, 2020 Grant Review Committee meeting for GO Virginia Region 8 was called to order by Chair Tracy Fitzsimmons at 2:00p.m.

#### Roll Call/Quorum Confirmation

Chair Fitzsimmons noted all Grant Review meetings are now public, recorded, and minutes taken. She then did roll call and confirmed six committee members were in attendance which established quorum.

#### Grant Review Committee Action

##### *Approval of August 11, 2020 Grant Review Committee Minutes*

The minutes of the August 11, 2020 Grant Review Committee meeting were reviewed. Mike Goertzen motioned for the minutes to be approved; seconded by Rick Till. The minutes were approved unanimously.

##### *Review of Fast Access Proposal: Local Ordering, Communication, and Agriculture Logistics Initiative (LOCAL-I)*

Ashley Shickle reviewed the guidelines for Fast Access grants and gave a brief overview of the Local Ordering, Communication, and Agriculture Logistics Initiative (LOCAL-I). Barrett Hightower, LOCAL-I applicant, then shared more details of the project and answered questions. She noted logistics and distribution are an issue for local agricultural producers with direct sourcing based on farmers' markets being fragile, particularly during the recent pandemic.

Committee members questioned if supply chains already in place would be utilized as well as if higher education partners would be resourced. Ms. Barrett said they are not looking to “re-invent the wheel” and are very much wanting to look at established models as well as work with higher education partners to share ideas. She also noted they will welcome any producers as part of the initiative, not just members of the Common Grain Alliance, and in no way are a political movement. Discussion also centered on whether this project could be expanded into a GO Virginia competitive grant as the Common Grain Alliance is a non-profit based in Virginia but reaches all Virginia regions and other states.

#### *Motion to Enter Closed Session*

A closed session was held in accordance with allowable closed meeting requirements, specifically for discussion or development of grant proposals by a regional council established pursuant to Article 26 (§ 2.2-2484 et seq.) of Chapter 24 to be submitted for consideration to the Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board.

A unanimous roll call vote in open session confirmed that the discussion conformed to the closed meeting requirements.

#### *Recommendation of Fast Access Proposal: Local Ordering, Communication, and Agriculture Logistics Initiative (LOCAL-I)*

A motion was made by Chair Tracy Fitzsimmons to recommend the Fast Access Proposal: Local Ordering, Communication, and Agriculture Logistics Initiative (LOCAL-I) for approval; seconded by Mike Goertzen. A roll call vote was taken with the motion passing unanimously.

#### **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 3:25p.m. by Chair Fitzsimmons.