



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 Agenda

Thursday, July 6, 2023, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Virtual Only Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86024076290?pwd=aGxRWmtUeUljRXITNkYyeitKU2hBdz09>

FIRST	LAST	AFFILIATION	ATTENDED
Tracy	Fitzsimmons	Shenandoah University, Committee Chair	X
Devon	Anders	InterChange Group	X
Kim	Blosser	Lord Fairfax Community College, Committee Vice-Chair	
Ashley	Driver	AD Engineering	
Mike	Goertzen	Serco, Inc.	X
Diar	Kaussler	Abrahamic House	
Lai	Lee	High Meadow Strategies, LLC	X
Mark	Merrill	Retired - Valley Health System	X

Deborah Flippo (Region 8 Executive Director) Lee Ann Whitesell, Nicholas Sabo & John Longnaker (applicants), , Bonnie Riedesel (CSPDC), Brandon Davis (NSVRC) and Joel Hensley (Region 8 Administrative Coordinator) attended the meeting.

Call to Order

The July 6, 2023, Grant Review Committee meeting for GO Virginia Region 8 was called to order by Chair Tracy Fitzsimmons at 9:00 a.m.

Roll Call/Quorum Confirmation

Joel Hensley took roll call and Chair Fitzsimmons confirmed virtual quorum was met.

Grant Review Committee Action

Mike Goertzen motioned for approval of the April 4, 2023 Grant Review Committee Minutes. Mark Merrill seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

There was brief discussion and clarification regarding the future of match requirements. Distressed areas may still have a 1:1 match waiver. Deborah Flippo stated that we are waiting to see the State guidance.

Review/Recommendation for Submitted Proposals

Per Capita Application: SVCAL Make It and Send It

Lee Ann Whitesell provided an overview of the Shenandoah Valley Center for Advanced Learning (SVCAL) grant application called "Make It and Sent It." She explained how her application fits GO Virginia Region 8's Growth and Diversification Plan targeted industry sectors, including Small Manufacturing & Transportation Logistics. Her application is asking for \$884,000 for equipment. Deborah Flippo mentioned that this application received extremely positive feedback from DHCD due to the program's strong match, partnership with BRCC, local government commitment to marketing the program, clear pathways for students, local industry involvement and potential high return.

The mention of a "pilot program" was clarified to mean a testing program, not an aerial "pilot" program. Discussion revolved around clarifying the job vacancy rate in the region, the location quotient (LQ) and the meaning of the LQ numbers. Lee Ann believes that this program will create 420 trained students to help fill vacancies in the job market. Lee Ann referred back to the G&D plan's 1% annual increase in job openings related to the industry sectors that are the focus of this project. The Committee agreed and suggested data and job vacancy information be added to the application. The Committee also suggested changing the name of the project.

Enhanced Capacity Building: Winchester Airport Northside Parcel Planning Study Grant Application

Nick Sabo, Winchester Airport Authority Executive Director, provided information regarding his \$100,000 ECB grant application. He mentioned this project also falls under the targeted sector industry categories listed in Region 8's G&D Plan, including Light Manufacturing, Information technology, Transportation and Logistics.

The committee asked if there were any anticipated environmental issues with the project. The Airport does not anticipate any issues as a similar environmental assessment took place fifteen years ago. Mr. Sabo also mentioned the project will attract high paying jobs and will help any potential adjustments needed to the stormwater plan.

Closed Session

Mark Merrill motioned to move to closed session, seconded by Mike Goertzen.

Return to Open Session

Mark Merrill motioned to return from closed session to open session, seconded by Mike Goertzen.

Recommendations

Mark Merrill motioned to recommend the SVCAL "Make It and Send It" Per Capita Application w/ improvements to make workforce-need data clearer and to change the name of the project. The motion was seconded by Mike Goertzen and approved unanimously.

Mark Merrill motioned to recommend the Winchester Airport Northside Parcel ECB application, seconded by Mike Goertzen and approved 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 10:15 a.m. by Chair Fitzsimmons.