**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 MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, July 25, 2023, 10:00 am to 12:00pm

Hybrid Full Council Meeting

Emil & Grace Shihadeh Innovation Center, 536 Jefferson St, Winchester, VA 22601

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| **FIRST** | **LAST** | **AFFILIATION** | **ATTENDED** |
| Jon | Alger | James Madison University | Virtual |
| Devon | Anders | InterChange Group |  |
| Emily | Marlow Beck | Marlow Auto Group | X |
| Kim | Blosser | Lord Fairfax Community College | X |
| Robin | Crowder | Retired K-12 Superintendent |  |
| John | Downey | Blue Ridge Community College | X |
| Ashley | Driver | AG Stacker, Inc. | X |
| Joanie | Eiland | Elk Trucking, Inc. |  |
| Tracy | Fitzsimmons | Shenandoah University | Virtual |
| Mike | Goertzen | Serco, Inc. | X |
| Conrad | Helsley | NSVRC Board | X |
| Chris | Kyle | Shentel | X |
| Lai | Lee | High Meadow Strategies | X |
| Connie | Loughhead | Des Champs Technologies | Virtual |
| Keith | May | Cottonwood Commercial | X |
| Mark | Merrill | Retired - Valley Health System | X |
| Kathy | Moore | Moore Public Relations |  |
| Yolanda | Shields | Yesbuilds |  |
| Jeff | Stapel | Shickel Corporation | X |
| Robin | Sullenberger | Highland County Economic Development Authority | X |
| Janet | Clarke\* | Clarke Consulting, LLC. | X |
| Mary | McDermott\* | Shenandoah Valley Angel Investors | X |
| Doug | Moyer\* | Sentara RMH Medical Center | X |

***\*New Council Members were Approved After Roll Call Was Taken\****

*Support staff attending included: Deborah Flippo (Region 8 Executive Director), Bonnie Riedesel (CSPDC), Jay Langston (SVP), Cody Anderson (DHCD) and Joel Hensley (Region 8 Administrative Coordinator).*

*In person guests included: Jason Van Heukelum (Winchester City Public Schools), Lee Ann Whitesell (Shenandoah Valley Center for Advanced Learning), Nick Sabo (Winchester Regional Airport), Patrick Barker (Frederick Co. EDA), Steve Dalton (Genedge), Joe Petty (Warren County), and Mary Sullivan (Valley Internship Workgroup).*

*Virtual guests included: Alison Denbigh (Staunton Innovation Hub), Mary Lou Bourne (JMU), and Ellen Miller & Sam Lesemann (JLARC)*

**Call to Order and Welcome**

The July 25, 2023, Council meeting for GO Virginia Region 8 was called to order by Chair Chris Kyle at 10:03 a.m.

# Roll Call

Deborah Flippo, Region 8 Executive Director, took roll call and a quorum was confirmed.

# Welcome to Shihadeh

Chair Kyle welcomed everyone to the Region 8 Council hybrid meeting and welcomed the guests in attendance. Chair Kyle introduced three potential new council members: Janet Clarke, Mary McDermott and Doug Moyer.

Dr. Jason Van Heukelum welcomed guests to the Emil and Grace Shihadeh Innovation Center. He provided a background on the Center and the successes the school has enjoyed. He also discussed the benefits GO Virginia funding brought to the school and the opportunities provided to students. Chair Kyle thanked Dr. Van Huekelum for hosting.

**Nominating Committee**

Chair Kyle provided the biographies and credentials for the three new potential Council members. Chair Kyle turned to Nominating Committee Chair Jeff Staple.

Jeff Staple asked council for one vote for: the 2-year reappointment of Devon Anders, John Downey, Keith May, and Mark Merrill (terms ending May 16, 2025) and a 1-year appointment of Joanie Eiland (term ending May 16, 2024); and the nomination of three new members for 4-year terms: Janet Clarke, Mary McDermott and Doug Moyer. There were no objections to a single vote request. Jeff Staple recommended and motioned for approval; Mark Merrill seconded. A roll call vote was taken by Joel Hensley and the motion passed unanimously.

Chair Kyle announced Mark Merrill will be nominated as Chair for a 1-year term at the January 2024 Council meeting, mentioned future succession planning for Region 8, and addressed the strategy of staggering terms.

**Approval of April 2023 Council Meetings**

The minutes for the April 26, 2023 virtual Council meeting were reviewed. Mike Goertzen motioned for the minutes to be approved; seconded by Robin Sullenberger. The minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote with one abstaining vote.

**DHCD Future Match Requirements: Cody Anderson**

Cody Anderson provided a presentation regarding match guidelines and the regional performance funds. Cody discussed the original 1:1 match requirement which was changed to a reduced 2:1 requirement during the pandemic. The waiver will be expiring in October of 2023. The original match requirements will return with a few exceptions: the $50,000 locality contribution minimum is being removed and a 2:1 requirement will remain for planning grants. He discussed the new waiver process for total match and local match requirements. These criteria include localities under fiscal distress and/or projects that are considered an Extraordinary Economic Opportunity.

Cody updated the Council on GO Virginia’s Competitive Fund and the strategies being discussed with stakeholders. The intention is to incentivize regions to apply for these funds.

**Grant Review Committee Report**

Tracy Fitzsimmons introduced two applications recommended by the Grant Review Committee. She mentioned both were in high need areas on the north and south end of Region 8.

*Enhanced Capacity Building Grant Application: Winchester Regional Airport (WRA) Site Development*

Nick Sabo spoke to the Council about how WRA intends to use a $100,000 ECB planning grant if the application is approved. According to Nick, the study will cover a 27-acre parcel of land that is widely adaptable to many different uses. The study will look at how to improve the site and the various needs including stormwater, parking, and utilities. WRA believes it is a compelling site for future economic development. Nick took questions from the Council and mentioned that WRA is working with an environmental specialist from the FAA and an environmental study will be completed in six months.

*Per Capita Grant Application: Shenandoah Valley Center for Advanced Learning (SVCAL) “GO2Work” Program*

Grant Committee Chair Tracy Fitzsimmons introduced Lee Ann Whitesell, SVCAL Director, requesting a $884,000 Per Capita Grant request. Chair Fitzsimmons mentioned there are a lot of governmental and non-governmental partnering organizations for this project.

Dr. Whitesell provided an overview of how the Region 8 Per Capita Grant funds would be used if the application is approved. The project’s goals are to inform and train students for basic entry level positions or prepare them for post- secondary level education. Lastly, the program will provide for adult education and offering opportunities for apprenticeships.

SVCAL’s grant request will be used to pay for equipment for new programs in industrial maintenance and aviation technology. SVCAL also plans to update existing equipment for their machinery, welding, and mechanical programs.

With a unanimous recommendation from the Grant Review Committee for both applications, a motion was not needed. Chair Kyle called for a roll call vote for the WRA ECB Application. The application was approved unanimously. Chair Kyle called for a roll call vote for the SVCAL Per Capita Grant Application, and the application was approved unanimously.

**Project Reports**

Joel Hensley provided updates to Council on the current open projects which includes the Virginia Innovation Accelerator Program, the Small Business Resiliency Team Round 2, Laurel Ridge Community College’s Advanced Manufacturing Workforce Program, Next Gen Nurses, Shenandoah Aviation Technology Park and SCCF’s Capacitor Incubator.

Region 8 has completed 5 ECB studies, trained 732 students for employment, served 137 businesses, and filled at least 171 job positions. Joel provided an update from BRCC’s Cyber Security Program and the successes of the program since the contract with GO Virginia closed. BRCC has trained 100 students, hired 2 students as instructors, and is working with 2 new businesses that have a direct connection to the program. Discussion ensued about the desire to require post-contract reporting from future applicants.

**Executive Committee Reports and Updates**

*Financial Status Report*

Deborah Flippo provided the financial report on behalf of Brandon Davis. Deborah directed attention to the Dashboard section of the financial report that shows the amount of funds unspent and corrected the amount that Region 8 has remaining. The estimated $97,000 dollar amount did not include funds not spent in fiscal year 2023 which were roughly $31,000. The total amount of unspent PC funds for FY2024 should be ~$128,000.

Deborah asked for a Council vote to approve the FY2024 Capacity Building Budget. Conrad Helsley moved that the Council vote to approve the presented budget, seconded by Ashley Driver, with a unanimous vote.

*Executive Director Report*

Deborah Flippo provided her regular update to the Council. In addition to the work with the two new applicants, she attended the Augusta County Chamber of Commerce Breakfast event and VEDA’s Rural Shared Interest Group event. In June, the GO Virginia State Board held their quarterly meeting and approved Region 8’s Capacitor Incubator application. Deborah expects another ECB grant request in October. Deborah discussed onboarding the three new council members, so they were prepared for service. She also mentioned some upcoming tasks including updating Council Certifications and MOUs with the support organizations, and synthesizing the project pipeline ideas. She mentioned focusing on the Talent Pathways Initiative and how Region 8’s Marketing and Communications will continue to improve.

**Bonnie Riedesel, CSPDC Growth & Diversification Plan****Update**

Bonnie reminded Council of the upcoming review of the Growth and Diversification Plan and that Region 8 is required by DHCD to restate their commitment to the plan or provide any changes to the plan. There are 6 sections to review and a template to be submitted to DHCD which needs to be voted on and approved at the next Council meeting. Bonnie will circulate the plan to the Council for feedback. Once feedback is received, a draft will be prepared for the October 10 Council meeting.

**Patrick Barker, Frederick County Director of Economic Development**

Deborah Flippo introduced Patrick Barker to the Council, and he provided an overview of Frederick County’s economy and how they plan to grow in the future. Frederick County is focused on attracting a talented workforce and having more site-ready locations for industry. He mentioned talent engagement and attraction ideas Frederick County implements including The Widget Cup, Worlds of Work, The Employer Expo, and NSV Talent Coalition.

**Other Business**

No other business.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was given.

**Next Council Meeting:** Tuesday, October 10, starting at 10:00am. Location TBA.

**Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chair Kyle adjourned the meeting at 12:02 p.m.