



## 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

Tuesday, January 9, 2024, 11:04 a.m. – 12:09 p.m.

Virtual Meeting Only

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	X
Ashley	Driver	AD Engineering	X
Mike	Goertzen	Serco, Inc.	X
Lai	Lee	High Meadow Strategies, LLC	X
Mark	Merrill	Retired - Valley Health System	-

\*Kim Blosser arrived after roll call and was present for votes.

\*Council members Mary McDermott and Keith May attended as future members of the Grant Review Committee.

Deborah Flippo (Region 8 Executive Director), Bonnie Riedesel (CSPDC Executive Director), Jay Langston (Executive Director of Shenandoah Valley Partnership), Keith May, Mary McDermott, Rebekah Castle (Augusta Co. Dir. Of Economic Development) and Joel Hensley (Region 8 Administrative Coordinator) attended the meeting virtually.

#### Call to Order

The January 9, 2024 Grant Review Committee meeting for GO Virginia Region 8 was called to order by Chair Tracy Fitzsimmons at 11:04a.m.

#### Roll Call/Quorum Confirmation

After a brief introduction, Joel Hensley took roll call and virtual quorum was confirmed.

#### Grant Review Committee Action

##### *Approval of July 6, 2023 Grant Committee Meeting Minutes*

A motion was made by Ashley Driver and seconded by Lai Lee to approve the July 6 meeting minutes. The motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

##### *Grant Committee Review of Blue Mountain Planning Grant Application*

Jay Langston provided a summary to the committee about his proposed site development project and the Blue Mountain site's potential. He mentioned it is a certified site in the VEDP Certified Sites Program. Deborah

Flippo shared information about previous and similar applications and noted her experiences with DHCD and these types of grant requests.

Committee members discussed the range of possible outcomes that could occur during or after the approval of a grant such as this. The Committee had questions regarding the new marketing agreement Augusta County has with the owner of the property. Rebekah Castle joined the discussion and answered questions.

After some discussion the Committee members suggested including two contingencies with approval. Those contingencies requested “an updated marketing agreement between Augusta County and Blue Mountain, LLC (the landowner) that is acceptable to the Executive Committee, and exploration by the Executive Committee about possible owner investment in the project.”

Mike Goertzen motioned to approve the request with the two contingencies Ashley Driver seconded the motion. The Committee approved the request unanimously.

### **Project Update: Shenandoah Valley Sites Enhancement**

Jay Langston provided an update on this closed project, which provided VBRS characterizations of nine site locations. Of those nine, seven became Tier 4 sites. This project resulted in over 1,000 acres of property resulting in three successful projects to date. These projects created \$319 million in investments and resulted in 485 jobs.

### **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 12:09 p.m. by Chair Fitzsimmons.