*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 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 2 at 8:30 AM

*Virtual Meeting*

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81690457801?pwd=9nwlXwbicaEOqd3atPmyeFG80dbuBR.1>

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **FIRST** | **LAST** | **AFFILIATION** | **ATTENDED** |
| Mark (Chair) | Merrill | Retired-Valley Health System | X |
| Yolanda (Vice) | Shields\* | Yesbuilds | X |
| Kim | Blosser | Laurel Ridge Community College | X |
| Janet | Clarke | Clarke Consulting, LLC. | X |
| Joanie | Eiland | Elk Trucking, Inc. | X |
| Lai | Lee | High Meadow Strategies, LLC | X |
| Connie | Loughhead | Des Champ Technologies | X |

\*Members were present after the roll call.

Deborah Flippo (Region 8 Executive Director), Joel Hensley (Region 8 Administrative Coordinator) and CSPDC Executive Director Ann Cundy attended virtually.

**Call to Order**

The Tuesday, April 2, 2024 Executive Committee meeting for GO Virginia Region 8 was called to order by Chair Merrill at 8:31 a.m.

**Roll Call/Quorum Confirmation**

Joel Hensley took roll call and with all Executive Committee members present, a quorum was confirmed.

**Approval of March 7 Executive Committee Minutes**

Joanie Eiland motioned to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2024 Executive Committee meeting, the motion was seconded by Connie Loughhead. The minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

**Status of Project Applications**

Deborah Flippo provided a status update on the SVP Blue Mountain RIFA Feasibility Study which was approved by DHCD. She said that a new marketing agreement was decided on between the owner and Augusta County. She said that there should be two applications up for consideration at the next Grants Review Committee (GRC). The first being OKV Tech Hub Planning Grant, which is from the Winchester Airport Authority. Deborah reported that she received encouraging feedback from DHCD but that she still needs to receive the application before GRC meets next week. There was some discussion regarding the details of the project. Janet Clarke asked if there were similar programs in other parts of the Commonwealth. Deborah reported that there is still work to be done before the GRC regarding the Talent Pathways Initiative proposal from the SVWDB as well.

Deborah said that upon approval of this project and the TPI application, the Region 8 funds for FY24 will have been utilized.

**Introduction to Ann Cundy, new Executive Director of the Central Shenandoah PDC**

Deborah Flippo introduced Ann Cundy. Ann spoke briefly about her years of experience at the CSPDC and a little about her life and background. Ann said that she would not be able to make the upcoming Council meeting but looks forward to attending future meetings and working with Region 8.

**April 23 Region 8 Council Agenda**

The Committee reviewed the current agenda and discussed how much time would be available for guest speakers and where in the order of the agenda that guest speakers should have the opportunity to speak. The Committee agreed that they want to thank Billy Vaughn for his service as he will be retiring soon. Deborah informed the Committee that they would need to vote on the Capacity Building Funding for the upcoming year and that this is a fixed amount. There was some discussion about whether line-items could be adjusted throughout the year and Deborah said that this is allowed with DHCD approval. Janet Clarke asked if the funding allocation is based on new census data. Deborah said that she would ask. Chair Merrill said he would be meeting with Secretary Merrick this afternoon. Janet Clarke asked if he would convey Region 8’s great reputation and emphasize that the funding “sweep” should not occur.

**Board Development Plans**

The Committee discussed President Jon Alger’s departure from James Madison University. Chair Merrill said that he sent a congratulatory note to President Alger. There was some discussion regarding who would replace him and whether that decision should be made this year, or upon the hiring of a new President. The Executive Committee agreed that JMU should continue to have representation on the Council.

The Committee discussed potential new members and term lengths for each new member. Chair Merrill provided feedback regarding several that he had spoken to recently. Kim Blosser reported the conversations she had with possible future members as well. Janet Clarke mentioned a name that was suggested to her, but that she had not been able to connect with the individual yet. The Committee agreed to recommend Dave Urso, John Graves and Dottie Day to the full Council at the April 23 meeting.

**Future Executive Director and Administrative functions/ Advertisement**

The Committee discussed secession planning in preparation for Deborah Flippo’s departure. Chair Merrill mentioned that he would like to further explore the details of expenditures. The Committee agreed that it would be preferable for the new Executive Director to be an independent contractor. They also discussed the need for continuity and for someone who can be focused on the goals and mission of Region 8.

**Public Comment**

No one from the public was in attendance.

**Adjournment to next meeting**

An Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 4, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. However, Chair Merrill suggested that another meeting take place before that time. The Committee agreed that a future meeting should be after May 13 due to conflicts. With there being no further business, Chair Merrill adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.