**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 21, 2025, 11:30a – 12:32a

All Virtual Meeting

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **FIRST** | **LAST** | **AFFILIATION** | **ATTENDED** |
| Tracy | Fitzsimmons | Shenandoah University, Committee Chair | ✓ |
| Ashley | Driver (Vice) | AD Engineering | ✓ |
| Devon | Anders | InterChange Group | ✓ |
| Mike | Goertzen | Serco, Inc. | ✓ |
| Emily | Marlow-Beck | Marlow Auto Group | ✓ |
| Mary | McDermott | Retired Legal Counsel, NTelos | ✓ |
| Doug | Moyer | Sentara Rockingham Memorial Hospital | X |
| Cary | Nelson | H.N. Funkhouser | X |
| Anthony | Tongen | James Madison University | ✓ |
| Bobby | Hobbs | CornerStone Bank | ✓ |

Also present: Alison Varner-Denbigh (Region 8 Executive Director), and Nina Fox (Page County)

**Call to Order**

The January 21, 2025 Grant Review Committee meeting for GO Virginia Region 8 was called to order by Chair Tracy Fitzsimmons at 11:30 a.m.

**Roll Call/Quorum Confirmation**

After brief introductions (including three new committee members), Alison Varner-Denbigh called the roll, and a quorum was confirmed.

**Approval of October 8th and 21st, 2024 Grant Review Committee Minutes**

On the motion by Mike Stolarz and second by Mary McDermott, the minutes were approved by unanimous vote with the exception of Anthony Tongen and Bobby Hobbs who abstained due to not being present at the October meetings.

**Grant Review Committee Action**

The main topic of the meeting was the review of a new grant application, which had undergone significant changes since its initial proposal in October 2024. Alison explained that the grant had been reclassified as a planning grant due to the project changes and the feedback from the executive committee and DHCD. The committee also discussed the source of funds for the grant, confirming that it was entirely from their region’s budget. The conversation ended with a discussion about the competitive pot of money and the requirements for accessing it.

**Enter into Closed Session**

Chair Fitzsimmons made the motion for the GO Virginia Region 8 Grant Review Committee to convene into Closed Session for discussion or development of grant proposals by a regional council established pursuant to Article 26 (§2.2-2484 et seq.) of Chapter 24 of the Virginia Administrative Code to be submitted for consideration to the Growth and Opportunity Board. Bobby Hobbs seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Exit from Closed Session**

The GO Virginia Region 8 Grant Review Committee unanimously certified that to the best of their knowledge that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under Chapter 37 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia and that only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by this Committee.

**Committee Action**

*Page County – Regional Meat Processing Organization Formation - $87,450 Planning Grant*

Bobby Hobbs motioned to approve this application. Emily Marlow Beck seconded, and the Committee unanimously voted to approve.

**Public Comment**

No one from the public participated.

**Adjournment**

The Region 8 Grant Review Committee meeting was adjourned at 12:32 a.m. by Chair Fitzsimmons, to reconvene on April 8, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. with location TBD. Tracy Fitzsimmons will not preside over her last committee meeting as chair thus moving Ashley Driver to start as Chair of the Grants Committee April 1, 2025.