**GO Virginia Region 8 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 8:30 AM

Zoom Meeting: [*https://zoom.us/j/98295022821?pwd=eSCdOanIuMF5eGCwQvGN6lhCsa1r5l.1*](https://zoom.us/j/98295022821?pwd=eSCdOanIuMF5eGCwQvGN6lhCsa1r5l.1)

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| **Committee Member** | **Representing** | **Attendance** |
| Yolanda Shields, Chair | YesBuilds! | ✓ |
| Janet Clarke, Vice Chair | Clarke Consulting | X |
| Kim Blosser | Laurel Ridge Community College | ✓ |
| Mike Stolartz | UTS Systems | X |
| Lai Lee | High Meadows Strategies, LLC | ✓ |
| Conrad Helsley | NSVRC Commissioner | ✓ |

*Guests in attendance: Alison Varner-Denbigh (Region 8 Executive Director) and Brandon Davis (NSVRC – Support Organization)*

At 8:30, Chair Yolanda Shields welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Executive Director Alison Varner-Denbigh called roll and a quorum determination was made. A motion was made by Conrad Helsley to approve the April 1, 2025 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, Lai Lee seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimously approved.

Committee discussed the Rockbridge-Lexington Regional Workforce Modernization & Scale Up Grant Summary. They agreed to move the proposal to the full grant application process. Committee made the recommendation to split the cybersecurity program out and present two separate grant applications.

Alison presented project updates on the Talent Pathways Initiative, the Growth & Diversification Plan, the close-out of two projects, $22,737.30 unused Blue Mountain RIFA project returned, project pipeline and the brainstorming session consolidated workbook.

Under other business; Alison mentioned the need to identify potential regional council members for the two open seats (preferably in Agriculture & Manufacturing), identify another executive committee member to replace Mark Merrill, the HIH/JMU access, and upcoming social media platforms activating this month.

Executive Committee adjourned at 9:11am.

*Next Executive Committee meeting – Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 8:30 AM (Virtual)*