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

Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 8:30 AM

Zoom Meeting:<https://zoom.us/j/94812620131?pwd=W6YDcnXPJhgjCqaBa6UmHZeCSEbxMb.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 | ✓ |
| 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. Approval of May’s meeting minutes was not needed (no votes at prior meeting).

Alison presented on current project updates. Talent Pathways Initiative will have draft report available for review next week. Growth & Diversification Project is wrapping up focus groups and interviews. LRCC Expressway to Power Grant is awaiting final approval from the state—board meeting is June 10th. Working with Brandy Flint of Rockbridge County in regards to 2 workforce development grants to be presented at GoVaR8’s July council meeting.

Alison further presented on potential projects in the pipeline and gave an update on the Virtual Brainstorming Session Follow-up on 5/21/25. Mike stated that he felt the session was very well attended with ~50 participants, Alison did a great job conducting the meeting & answering questions, and that is was very informative. Alison is working with Clarke County on a Planning Grant for the Camp 7 project (following a June Report) and Sharon Johnson on a TPI implementation project—both projected for October Regional Council Meeting.

Besides grant projects, Alison is working on some administrative and website improvements. The GoVaR8’s “Events” webpage is currently NOT user friendly, Alison will work with Rick Whittington on proposal contract for improvements to be presented at next meeting. She will start working on the “About” page and report her progress.

Executive Committee adjourned at 9:05am.

*Next Executive Committee meeting – Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at 8:30 AM (Virtual)*