  **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**

Thursday, July 10, 2025, 11:00am – 12:14pm

*Hybrid Meeting:* JMU, 1031 Harrison Street, 2nd Floor, Harrisonburg, VA

*Zoom:* [*https://zoom.us/j/94086390293?pwd=MCnDE6hTIaoluYgsFaRIGfcGDP1hHS.1*](https://zoom.us/j/94086390293?pwd=MCnDE6hTIaoluYgsFaRIGfcGDP1hHS.1%20)

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| **FIRST**  | **LAST**  | **AFFILIATION** | **ATTENDED** |
| Ashley | Driver | AD Engineering (GRC Chair) | X |
| Mary | McDermott | Retired Legal Counsel (GRC Vice Chair) | X (11:16am) |
| Emily | Marlow-Beck | Marlow Auto Group | X |
| Lisa | Botkin | Shenandoah Regional Airport | X |
| Bobby | Hobbs | CornerStone Bank | V |
| Mitch | Moore | Shenandoah University | X |
| Doug | Moyer | Sentera RMH | absent |
| Cary | Nelson | H.N. Funkhouser | V |
| Anthony | Tongen | James Madison University | X |
| Bobby | Hobbs | CornerStone Bank | X |

Also present: Alison Varner-Denbigh (Region 8 Executive Director)

Virtual Attendance: Brandy Flint (Applicant: Rockbridge County), Paige Owens (CTE Mgr), and Robyn Sherman (WBL Mgr).

**Call to Order**

The July 10, 2025 Grant Review Committee meeting for GO Virginia Region 8 was called to order by Chair Ashley Driver at 11:00am.

**Roll Call/Quorum Confirmation**

After brief introductions, Alison Varner-Denbigh took roll call, and a quorum was confirmed. Ashley (Chair) welcomed our two new committee members, Lisa Botkin and Mitch Moore to the group.

**Approval of April 7, 2025 Grant Review Committee Minutes**

On the motion by Anthony Tongen and second by Emily Marlow-Beck, the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

**Grant Review Committee Action**

1. *Rockbridge County Dual Enrollment Cybersecurity Program*

Brandy Flint of Rockbridge County Economic Development introduced the robust Cybersecurity Program that will be hosted at Rockbridge County High School Innovation Center (serving both Rockbridge County and City of Lexington) that offers a unique opportunity to scale up workforce training through dual-enrollment courses in collaboration with Mountain Gateway Community College. This scale-up project will introduce a structured, progressive curriculum in cybersecurity, which includes Computer Information Systems (DE), Cybersecurity I (DE) Fundamentals, Cybersecurity II (DE) Operations, and Cybersecurity III (DE) Advanced Operations. Students will be eligible to earn industry-standard certifications that are highly sought after by employers in the IT Fields such as CompTIA A+, CompTIA Network+ (Net+), CompTIA Security+, and Security Pro Certification. The total proposed request = $39,826.60

1. *Rockbridge County Advanced Manufacturing Modernization & Scale-up*

Brandy Flint presented the second grant application as an initiative focused on expanding certification offerings in both the manufacturing and welding labs, supporting the regional economy and addressing the talent needs for local employers. The manufacturing portion of the grant will include Manufacturing Technician Level 1 (MT1) credentials and OSHA Forklift Operator Certification along with NCCER Core-Introduction to Basic Construction Skills in welding. There will be four dual enrollment Welding Certifications at MGCC available: Flux Core Arc Welding (FCAW), Gas Metal Arc Welding (GMAW), Gas Tungsten Arc Welding (GTAW), and Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) which are all AWS certifications. The total proposed request = $131,128

After the presentation of both applications, Ashley Driver motioned to enter closed session, second by Anthony Tongen, and passed by unanimous vote. Both applications were discussed in more detail. Ashley Driver motioned to exit the closed session, second made by Emily Marlow-Beck, and passed by unanimously.

Mary McDermott motioned to recommend approval of the Rockbridge County Dual Enrollment Cybersecurity Program to the full Region 8 Council, seconded by Cary Nelson. The Committee approved the recommendation unanimously.

Bobby Hobbs motioned to recommend approval of the Rockbridge County Advanced Manufacturing Modernization & Scale-up Program to the full Region 8 Council, seconded by Mitch Moore. The Committee approved the recommendation unanimously.

**GRC Leadership**

 Congratulated Mary McDermott for accepting the position of Vice-Chair of the Grants Review Committee.

**GRC Future Scheduling**

 The group decided to schedule future GRC meetings on the second Tuesdays of each quarter at 11am in Harrisonburg.

**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 12:14 p.m. by Chair Driver.