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

Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at 8:30 AM

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/98018374112?pwd=MWw1wxQcsfLD3RCgQa1D2brpWScMYp.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 | X |

*Guests in attendance: Alison Varner-Denbigh (Region 8 Executive Director), Brandon Davis (NSVRC), Sharon Johnson (SVWDB), Mason Bishop and Matt McKinney (WorkEd Consulting)*

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 June’s meeting minutes was not needed (no votes at prior meeting).

Alison spoke about her review of the latest Talent Pathways Initiative report. She thanked Mason and Matt for improving the report based on the initial feedback in late June. Alison noted a few additional improvements to be made prior to the TPI Ad-Hoc committee distribution.

Alison stated there is a potential for two grants to be presented at the July Regional Council Meeting, both from Rockbridge County, that was approved by the executive committee in June. The Grants Review Committee will review and vote on 7/10/23.

In June, both the Page County Meat Processing Grant and the LRCC Expressways to Power Grant received final state approval plus were included in a Governor’s Press Release. The Growth & Diversification Project has completed the industry expert interviews. The next G&D committee meeting on 7/10/25 will review the first couple chapters of the final report, receive an update on June’s progress, and identify next steps. Alison discussed potential grant projects in the pipeline for the next quarter (October).

Our DHCD program manager, Cody Anderson, has been reassigned and will no longer be Region 8’s primary contact (he will be the secondary/backup). DHCD made a new hire, Jacob “Jack” Honig who will be our new primary contact. Alison scheduled for an introduction at 1pm today.

The Executive Committee adjourned at 9:37am.

*Next Executive Committee meeting – Tuesday, August 5, 2025 at 8:30 AM (Virtual)*