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GO Virginia Region 8 Executive Committee Agenda

Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at 8:30 AM

Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/96593533837?pwd=Dw72qIxbwGyz69gDRtKNRBtLIXufz.1>

- Welcome/Call to Order *Dr. Yolanda Shields, Chair*
- Roll Call and Quorum Confirmation Alison Varner-Denbigh, ED
- **Review 4/7/26 Meeting Minutes** *Dr. Yolanda Shields, Chair*
- **Grant Project Summary Review** Alison Varner-Denbigh, ED
 - Regional Aviation Innovation Corridor - CSPDC
- **Project Pipeline Update** Alison Varner-Denbigh, ED
- **DHCD Survey Results** *Dr. Yolanda Shields, Chair*
- May Dates & Deadlines Alison Varner-Denbigh, ED
- Other Business *Dr. Yolanda Shields, Chair*
- Adjournment: Next Executive Meeting — *Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 8:30am (virtual)*
Note: **Second** Tuesday of the Month

Legend: FYI Only, **For Review & Feedback**, **For Review & Vote***



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Agenda Item Summary

Agenda Date: May 5, 2026

Consent Item: No

Action Needed: No

Item Title: April Meeting Minutes

Regular Item: Yes

Informational Purposes: Yes

Recommendation:

No Action needed.

Background:

Prior months' meeting minutes to create an official, historical record of discussions, decisions, and action items, ensuring accountability, transparency, and continuity, while also serving as a legal document and reference tool for attendees and absent stakeholders, preventing misunderstandings and guiding future decisions. The focus is on what was decided, not verbatim conversations, documenting key outcomes like motions, votes, and assigned tasks.

Budget Impact: None.

Attachments:

April 2026 Meeting Minutes



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GO Virginia Region 8 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 8:30 AM

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/95553779085?pwd=fOj1WdBEi5HPfl1zaCdoiA8NRikj9G.1>

Committee Member	Representing	Attendance
Yolanda Shields, Chair	YesBuilds!	✓
Janet Clarke, Vice Chair	Clarke Consulting, LLC	✓
Kim Blosser	Laurel Ridge Community College	✓
Mike Stolarz	UTS Systems	absent
Lai Lee	High Meadows Strategies, LLC	✓
Conrad Helsley	NSVRC Commissioner	absent
Brandon Davis	NSVRC Fiscal Agent	✓

Guests in attendance: Alison Varner-Denbigh (Region 8 Executive Director), Cody Anderson (DHCD), Keith Holland (JMU), Ryan Hall (SCCF), and Waverly Coggsdale

At 8:30am, 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 March meeting minutes was not needed (no votes at prior meeting).

Brandon Davis (NSVRC – fiscal agent) presented the proposed FY27 Capacity Building Budget. No questions were presented. The executive committee will request approval from the regional council on April 28th to submit to DHCD by the May 1st deadline.

Alison presented a Recommendation Letter that requests approval of Dave Urso and Anthony Tongen’s 2-year extensions and for Tracey Luellen to serve on the Executive Committee. Shields did not receive any objection. The Letter will be included as a Consent Item on the April Regional Council Meeting Agenda.

James Madison University’s Competitive Grant Application was presented on the Shenandoah Valley Innovation Commercialization Impact Network. The applicant improved the application based on February EC’s meeting feedback and DHCD’s feedback. There was much discussion and questions were answered. The application will be presented to the regional council in April for approval.

Two brainstorming sessions facilitated in March resulted in multiple grant project ideas which are now reflected on the project pipeline spreadsheet. The last session is scheduled for April 15th in Rockbridge County and a virtual recap session is scheduled for April 24th.

GoTec informational documents were distributed in the EC meeting packet. Alison encouraged discussion on Region 8’s position on the program, acknowledging that there is increased interest by stakeholders to pursue an application. Cody Anderson spoke on the GoTec implementation projects across the state, the required sustainability plan deadline to the State at the June’s meeting, and noted important elements required for a successful application/implementation. EC gave Alison guidance to continue supporting the localities in the development of their application, give an update to the committee at July’s meeting, and hold any applications for the fall or after.



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The April dates and deadlines were quickly reviewed with no questions presented.

Other Business – nothing presented.

The Executive Committee adjourned at 10:03 am

Next Executive Committee meeting – Tuesday, May 5, 2026 at 8:30 AM (Virtual)



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Agenda Item Summary

Agenda Date: May 5, 2026

Consent Item: No

Action Needed: No

Item Title: Grant Proposals

Regular Item: Yes

Informational Purposes: Yes

Recommendation:

No Action needed.

Background:

The Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) is proposing a \$150,000 per-capita planning grant to develop a strategic regional plan to establish the Shenandoah Valley as an aviation innovation corridor. An ad-hoc committee has been formed to guide the project deliverables listed in the attachments, identify aviation stakeholders, and participate in the strategic methodology. If the Executive Committee agrees this project should move forward, then the applicant anticipates submitting the final application for the July 28, 2026, regional council meeting.

Budget Impact:

No: Building Capacity Budget

Yes: FY27 Per-Capita Grant Funding

Attachment(s):

- 1) Aviation Innovation Corridor Executive Summary
- 2) Aviation Innovation Corridor Concepts & OKRs



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Shenandoah Valley Aviation Innovation Corridor

Executive Summary

Applicant: Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission

Investment Strategy: Cluster Scale-Up

Targeted Industry: Transportation & Logistics (Aviation)

Project Summary

The Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission (CSPDC) proposes to develop a strategic regional plan to establish the Shenandoah Valley as an aviation innovation corridor. This planning effort will map the regional aviation ecosystem, identify growth opportunities, coordinate stakeholder efforts, and produce an actionable investment roadmap that positions Region 8 to cultivate and attract aviation-related businesses and jobs.

Background

GO Virginia Region 8 is rapidly emerging as an aviation hub in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Six airports, thirteen colleges and universities, and a strong private sector presence give Region 8 an aviation infrastructure base that few inland Virginia regions can match. Building on this advantage, Region 8 has made a series of targeted GO Virginia investments to advance aviation-related economic development, including:

- Winchester Airport Site Development – enhancing site readiness adjacent to the Winchester Regional Airport;
- SHD Aviation Technology Park – developing an aviation technology campus at Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport;
- Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) Market Study – assessing the region's readiness and growth potential in the emerging AAM sector;
- Shenandoah Valley Aerospace Workforce Pipeline Development – building a career pathway connecting regional education and training programs to aviation employer needs; and
- Industrial site investments near or adjacent to regional airports, including Blue Mountain and Camp 7, advancing shovel-ready industrial capacity to support aviation-related employers.

These projects represent meaningful investment in the aviation sector, but they have largely operated as standalone efforts. Region 8 lacks a unified strategic framework that ties these investments together, articulates a shared vision for the corridor, and charts a coordinated course for future action. The Shenandoah Valley Aviation Innovation Corridor project is intended to build on this momentum by coordinating future aviation-related efforts and identifying the goals, objectives, projects, and key investments necessary to establish Region 8 as a recognized aviation technology corridor.

Scope of Work

The Region 8 Economic Growth & Diversification Plan calls for the region to "perform cluster studies to evaluate market positioning and scale-up opportunities" as a key Cluster Scale-up investment strategy. The aviation sector represents one of Region 8's most compelling cluster scale-up opportunities with established infrastructure, prior GO Virginia investment, and growing national and global interest in aviation innovation, advanced air mobility, and aviation-adjacent manufacturing.

The project will engage a qualified consultant to lead a structured planning process in partnership with the GO Virginia Region 8 Ad hoc Aviation Corridor Committee. The scope of work will encompass three primary areas: ecosystem mapping, a strategic regional assessment, and partner network development. The primary deliverable of this project will be a strategic corridor plan that integrates ongoing regional efforts and sets priorities for future investment. The plan will include:

- A comprehensive inventory of regional aviation assets, including airports, employers, academic institutions, available sites, existing partnerships, and prior planning studies.
- A high-level analysis of the region's competitive positioning that identifies strengths, gaps, opportunities, and the priority investments and timelines needed to support corridor development.
- Recommended organizational framework for ongoing corridor coordination based on engagement of key regional and state partners including the Virginia Department of Aviation, VEDP, VIPC, SVWDB, regional chambers of commerce, airports, and academic institutions.
- Workforce development recommendations that identify gaps in the regional career pipeline and connect education and training programs with employer needs.
- Prioritized list of investment projects and initiatives needed to advance the corridor, with identified funding opportunities and potential lead partners

Budget

The total project budget will be \$150,000. Grant funds will be used to procure a qualified consultant to facilitate the planning process and produce all required deliverables. The required local match will be provided through in-kind contributions from the time invested by members of the Ad hoc Aviation Committee throughout the planning process. Committee members representing airports, economic development organizations, academic institutions, and industry will contribute their expertise and participation in stakeholder sessions, reviews, and planning discussions, constituting a meaningful in-kind contribution toward the required local match.

Shenandoah Valley Aviation Innovation Corridor

Objective 1: Map the Shenandoah Valley aviation ecosystem to establish a comprehensive regional baseline.

Key Results:

1. Inventory all aviation-related stakeholders, including airports, K–12 and Governor Schools, technical centers, community colleges, universities, and industry employers across Region 8.
 2. Map the regional aviation supply chain, identifying existing suppliers, manufacturers, and service providers, and assess gaps and opportunities to attract or develop businesses that support aviation and AAM industry growth in the region.
 3. Document existing aviation career pathways and identify gaps in the career development pipeline, supported by regional demand data (including the AAM workforce study).
 4. Compile a complete inventory of available sites (e.g., Camp 7, Blue Mountain) and relevant completed planning studies, regional initiatives, and investment projects.
 5. Catalog existing public/private partnerships and relationships with industry organizations, associations, and state/federal entities.
-

Objective 2: Develop a strategic regional plan that positions the Shenandoah Valley for aviation industry growth.

Key Results:

1. Identify and benchmark comparable aviation innovation corridors, documenting their assets, development strategies, and lessons learned.
2. Document ongoing aviation-related efforts already underway by Region 8 stakeholders and integrate them into the strategic plan to avoid duplication.
3. Produce a high-level regional assessment that defines what the region does well, where Region 8 is uniquely positioned for growth, and what priorities and timelines are required to support that growth.
4. Identify market-driven economic growth opportunities tied to the aviation sector that are supported by evidence of demand.
5. Develop career development recommendations with solutions grounded in regional labor demand data.

Objective 3: Build and activate a strong partner network to support corridor development and implementation.

Key Results:

1. Identify collaboration opportunities and pathways toward formal engagement from key partners in support of corridor development including the VA Department of Aviation, VEDP, VIPC, SVWDB, regional Chambers of Commerce, airports, and academic institutions.
2. Benchmark the organizational and governance structures used by comparable aviation corridors and recommend a formal framework or entity suited to the region's partner landscape and long-term corridor goals.

Objective 4: Create a marketing package that communicates the Shenandoah Valley's aviation assets and growth potential to external audiences.

Key Results:

1. Produce a polished marketing package highlighting the region's aviation infrastructure, workforce pipeline, available sites, and strategic positioning.
2. Identify target audiences for the marketing package (e.g., site selectors, aviation employers, state agencies) and define a distribution plan.
3. Summarize Virginia's statewide aviation attraction benefits including tax incentives, economic conditions, and relevant state policies that strengthen the value proposition for prospective employers and investors.



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Agenda Item Summary

Agenda Date: May 5, 2026

Consent Item: No

Action Needed: No

Item Title: Project Pipeline

Regular Item: No

Informational Purposes: Yes

No Action Required. Information Only.
Review & Discuss the Project Pipeline Forecast

Background:

The Project Pipeline – No action needed at this time. The Project Pipeline illustrates a proposed pathway for Region 8 to review & approve Per-Capita grant funding applications with the goal of allocating the funding pool by the end of the fiscal year. The forecast includes the project name, applicant, type of grant application, the requested funding amount, and the anticipated quarter of the application submission for review by the regional council. The project pipeline FY27, FY28, and other projects in ideation with unknown application submission dates at this time.

Budget Impact:

Project Pipeline forecasts the impact on the Per-Capita Grant Funding and Competitive Grant Funding to provide situational awareness for consideration of current and future projects

Attachment(s): Project Pipeline

FY27 Remaining Project Pipeline

Project Name	Applicant	Industry Sector	Application Type	Funding	Estimated \$ Request	Application Estimate	Per-Capita Funds	Notes
Shenandoah Valley Aviation Innovation Corridor Study	CSPDC (SHD)	T&L (Aviation)	Planning	Per-Capita	\$ 150,000.00	July '26	\$ 1,050,000.00	Ad-hoc Committee has been implemented to create the project scope & consultant deliverables
Site Discovery Study	SVP	All	Site Planning	Per-Capita	\$ 50,000.00	July '26	\$ 1,000,000.00	Augusta, Rockbridge, & Rockingham Counties (Page & Frederick Co potentially)
Crowd Sourcing Capital Initiative	SCCF	All Industries	Implementation	Per-Capita	\$ 75,000.00	Oct '26	\$ 925,000.00	Ryan Hall (POC) Similar to 757 SEED Fund
GO2Work Scale-up	VCTC	Manufacturing	Implementation	Per-Capita	\$ 250,000.00	July/Oct '26	\$ 675,000.00	Expand Industrial Maintenance (Electronics, PLC components, automation) and CNC machining
GoTec Implementation	Shenandoah (2) & Augusta (2)	All Industries	Implementation	Per-Capita	\$ 600,000.00	Oct '26	\$ 75,000.00	POC=Jenna French (\$150K/middle school) = 4 funded Schools in Phase 1, hope additional will be implemented with match/other funding
Regional Workforce Resource Guide & Provider Network	SVWDB	All Industries	Planning	Per-Capita	\$ 50,000.00	Jan '26	\$ 25,000.00	Ecosystem Infrastructure/Outreach Project. Asset Mapping Exercise. "Education & Awareness"
Ag Innovation BioHub	JMU	Agriculture & Life Sciences	Implementation	One Region Competitive	\$ 1,500,000.00	Jan/April '27		Patrice Ludwig (JMU POC)
Wine Industry Supply Chain	Region 9 (Nelson 151)	Agriculture Value-Add	Planning	Multi Region Competitive	\$ 250,000.00	Jan/April '27		Growing the traded sector by supporting supply infrastructure (Processing, exporting, & so on) for Vineyards, Wineries, stakeholders (https://virginiawinecoalition.org/)
BRCC AMT Expansion Project	BRCC	T&L (Aviation)	Implementation	Per-Capita	\$ -	April '27		Potentially part of the 3 Community College Competitive Grant.
Regional Workforce (3 Community Colleges)	LRCC/BRCC/MGCC	Manufacturing	Implementation	One Region Competitive	\$ 2,000,000.00	April '27		Potentially includes the BRCC AMT Scale-up Project above
Supply Chain & Logistics Workforce Development	Southern Virginia University (SVU)	T&L and Manufacturing	Implementation	Per-Capita	\$ -	Plan B	Tyler Orr	Partner: MGCC and Private Business for internships
Engineering Implementation & Scale-up Program	Blue Ridge Technical Center (BRTC)	Manufacturing	Implementation	Per-Capita	\$ 324,237.50	Plan B	Vince Gregg	On Hold: Superintendent "not now" Stabilize School Budget First. Application is completed.

Project Concepts in Development

Project Name	Applicant	Industry Sector	Application Type	Funding	Estimated \$ Request	Application Estimate	Point of Contact	Notes
GoTec Program Expansion	Rockbridge Co (4) & Clarke Co (1)	All Industries	Implementation	Per-Capita	\$ 750,000.00	Oct '28	Brandy Flint	Phase III - 5 Schools @ \$150k each
Regional Commercial Kitchen	Waynesboro	Agriculture Value-Add	Implementation	Per-Capita			Greg Hitchin/Chrissy (Vector Industries)	Researching: Greg Hitchin, POC. Used by SAW area
Ag Ecosystem Initiative	Clarke Co/Front Royal	Agriculture	TBD	Per-Capita			Cheryl Cullers & Cammie Fausey	Clarke Co has a building -->Convert to Agriculture Center and Front Royal has land -->Land Lab
Forklift & Scissor Lift	VA Innovation Accelerator	Agriculture Value-Add	Implementation	Per-Capita			Annette Patterson	8/7/25 Email Request
Community Computer Lab	Highland County Public Schools	All Industries	Implementation	Per-Capita	\$ 75,000.00		Nick Nycum	need a computer lab with computers/equipment for DE classes, Teachers use for certifications, & Community use for career development/Remote Work
Commercial Kitchen Oven & Stand-up Mixer	The Highland Center	Agriculture Value-Add	Implementation	Per-Capita			Mary Beth Gutshall	Low ROI due to locality size but needed to support area entrepreneurs & farmers
VAST Program (Scale-up)	VMI	Manufacturing	Implementation	Per-Capita			Shawn Addington	Timing: Not ready to scale
TBD--Idea not yet solidified	Staunton, Waynesboro, & H'burg Cities		Planning	Per-Capita			Cassie Farrish	Seeking Superintendent's Approval: Cassie (Staunton City Schools) will send me the missing information. Emailed 3/13/26 & 4/11)
Youth Career Pathways Gap Solution	Staunton, Waynesboro, & H'burg Cities	Manufacturing and IT & Emerging Technologies	TBD	Per-Capita			India Harris	Project Specifics Need Identified: 6th-8th Grades: GoTec Program, 9th-10th Gap Solution Proposal, 11th-12th Grade: CTE/DE/TechSchools



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Agenda Item Summary

Agenda Date: May 5, 2026

Consent Item: No

Regular Item: No

Action Needed: No

Informational Purposes: Yes

Item Title: DHCD Survey Results

No Formal Action Required. Information Only.
Review, Discuss, and Identify Opportunities for Improvement.

Background:

DHCD hired a consultant that emailed every regional council member throughout the 9 GO Virginia regions to seek feedback on mission alignment, roles and governance, engagement, operations, resources, and cross-regional collaboration. 50% of Region 8's council completed the survey which was the average participation rate of the survey overall.

Key Findings for Improvement:

- Reactive Approach—focused on current activity rather than visioning the region's future
 - Potential Solution: Focus on one "micro" industry for regional strategic initiatives. FY27=Aviation Innovation Corridor. FY28=Food & Beverage and so on.
- Communication and marketing to potential grantees
 - Continue Annual Brainstorming Sessions
 - Grow the outreach/followers of the social media platforms and CRM database for newsletters/email communications
 - Create an informational flyer about GoVaR8
 - Improve website to be more user friendly
 - Strengthen Relationship with Focus Industry Associations
- Lack of awareness of other region's needs and priorities
 - Request from DHCD a listing of all approved grants across the state & distribute to the regional council for foundational information
 - Going forward, share the State GO Virginia Meeting Packet that includes other region's project proposals
- Region 8 CEO/Executive Director Turnover
 - EC has made structure changes to help with this issue
 - Alison has been implemented improvements to assist w/ future leadership transition

Budget Impact:

No Impact.

Attachment(s):

Region 8 Survey Results Summary Report

GO VIRGINIA

Regional Council Assessment

REGION 8

Shenandoah Valley / Central Appalachian Plateau

Summary Report | 2026

REGION 8 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarizes the results of the GO Virginia Regional Council Assessment for Region 8 (Shenandoah Valley / Central Appalachian Plateau). A total of 13 council member(s) completed the survey. The following pages present quantitative rating results, open-ended response themes, and key findings across mission alignment, roles and governance, engagement, operations, resources, and cross-regional collaboration.

Council Overview

Region	Region 8 — Shenandoah Valley / Central Appalachian Plateau
Total Survey Respondents	13
Chair	1
Vice Chair	0
Members	12
Committee Participation	Grant review committees

Q5 | MISSION, VISION & PURPOSE

Respondents rated three statements related to understanding and using GO Virginia's mission to guide their work as a Regional Council member.

Understand the mission and purpose of GO Virginia	92% Agree or Strongly Agree
Agree with the mission and purpose of GO Virginia	92% Agree or Strongly Agree
Use the mission and purpose to guide decisions	85% Agree or Strongly Agree

Q6 | ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES & RELATIONSHIPS

This section covers self-assessed understanding of council roles, relationships with the State Board, and perceptions of staff support.

Council Member Relationships

Understand own roles and responsibilities	85% Agree or Strongly Agree
Respect fellow council members	Predominantly Agree/Strongly Agree
Feel respected by fellow council members	Predominantly Agree/Strongly Agree

State Board Relationships

State Board is responsive to regional priorities	62% Agree or Strongly Agree
State Board initiatives reflect regional needs	Predominantly Agree or Strongly Agree
Relationship with State Board is productive	Predominantly Agree or Strongly Agree

Staff Relationships

Staff provides sufficient support	100% Agree or Strongly Agree
Respect the staff	Predominantly Strongly Agree
Feel respected by staff	Predominantly Agree/Strongly Agree

Q7 | ENGAGEMENT

Received adequate orientation when joining	77% Agree/Strongly Agree
Attend a majority of council meetings	92% Agree/Strongly Agree
Come to meetings prepared	Predominantly Agree/Strongly Agree
Receive meeting agendas in a timely manner	Predominantly Agree/Strongly Agree

Q8 | OPERATIONS

Projects approved are aligned with regional priorities	100% Agree/Strongly Agree
Meetings are efficient and effective	Predominantly Agree/Strongly Agree
Council decisions are transparent and inclusive	100% Agree/Strongly Agree
Council has the right mix of skills and experience	Predominantly Agree/Strongly Agree

Q9 | RESOURCES

Aware of Planning/Implementation funds from the GA	100% Agree/Strongly Agree
Understand the application process for accessing funds	Predominantly Agree/Strongly Agree
Deploying these funds is a priority	Predominantly Agree/Strongly Agree
Region sufficiently works to access and deploy funds	100% Agree/Strongly Agree

Q11 | TOP REGIONAL PRIORITIES

The following priorities were most frequently identified by respondents (Q11):

- Manufacturing, Agriculture, and Transportation — core regional industries
- Talent Development and Retention
- Innovation, new business support, and entrepreneurship
- Site development, healthcare, and advanced manufacturing
- Transportation, Logistics, and Bio/life sciences

Q12 | PRIMARY CHALLENGES TO EFFECTIVENESS

Respondents identified the following as the primary challenges facing the Regional Council (Q12):

- CEO/Executive Director turnover creating lack of organizational continuity
- Large geographic area with very different sub-regional needs
- Reactive approach — focused on current activity rather than visioning the region's future
- Serving the full region equitably given its geographic spread
- Communication and marketing to potential grantees

Q13 | PRIMARY STRENGTHS

The following strengths were most frequently identified by respondents (Q13):

- Very collaborative council with a strong knowledge base among members
- Diverse representation across private/public, industry/education, finance/operations/legal
- One of the fastest-growing regions in the state
- Strong grant review committees that actively assist grantees
- Capable Chairperson and Executive Director

Q14 | CROSS-REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Respondents were asked about their awareness of other regions' priorities and use of the collaboration fund.

Aware of other regions' needs and priorities	91% Agree/Strongly Agree on collaboration fund
Own region works to utilize the collaboration fund	58% Agree/Strongly Agree — just beginning to explore this fund
Regional Councils make reasonable efforts to work together	Predominantly Agree or Neutral

Q15 | FUND ACCESS CHALLENGES

Respondents identified the following challenges to accessing and utilizing the three GO Virginia fund categories designated for Regional Councils:

Planning Fund

Planning fund appears to be one of the more accessible funds in the region and tends to secure funding with relative ease.

Implementation Fund

Developing strong sustainability plans for funded initiatives is a challenge. Low respondent count for this fund suggests limited experience to date.

Collaboration Fund

Identifying initiatives that fit all collaboration partners is the primary challenge. The region is just beginning to explore using the collaboration fund.

NOTABLE MEMBER COMMENTS

The following direct comments from respondents illustrate key themes from the open-ended responses:

"We seem to focus on what is currently happening instead of visioning what we'd like to see the region become" — Q12 — primary challenge

"This council has had turnover in the CEO position, which has led to less continuity." — Q12

"We are just now starting to think about using this [collaboration] fund — which is exciting" — Q14
collaboration comment

KEY OBSERVATIONS & FINDINGS

Region 8 is noted as one of the fastest-growing regions in the state. The council is actively building capacity and is just beginning to explore the collaboration fund, which represents a new opportunity. CEO turnover has been identified as a continuity challenge. Grant review committees are seen as a distinctive operational strength.



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Agenda Item Summary

Agenda Date: May 5, 2026

Consent Item: No

Action Needed: No

Item Title: May Dates, Deadlines, & Goals

Regular Item: Yes

Informational Purposes: Yes

Recommendation: No Action needed.

Background:

May Dates & Deadlines:

- 5/1/26: FY27 Capacity Building Budget Due by noon
- 5/1/26: Grant Applications (in CAMS) due noon
- 5/5/26: Executive Committee Meeting (Virtual)
- 5/5/26: JMU Commercialization Kick-off Mtg (JMU) 10:30a-noon
- 5/6/26: Central Region Economic Developers Event by Chamber
- 5/6/26: GoVa Monthly Regional ED Staff Meeting (Virtual)
- 5/8/26: SVP's Economic Forum (Harrisonburg) 8:30a-10a
- 5/8/26: Economic Development Listening Session w/ STC (JMU) 1p-4p
- 5/11/26: DHCD Pitch Calls (TBD date/time)
- 5/11/26: VIEW/VTOP meeting (Virtual) 2p
- 5/15/26: SVP committee meeting (BRCC) 9a-10:30a
- 5/18/26: DHCD feedback loop (TBD Date/time)
- 5/21/26: SVWDB qtrly mtg (H'burg) 10am-noon
- 5/21/26: DHCD monthly support call @ 1p

Projects/Goals in May:

- Support two grants through state procedures for approval
- Assist 2 Planning Grants & 1 Implementation Grant for July Submission
- Follow-up with FY27 pipeline projects (a top priority)
- Review GoVaR8's New Orientation Manual w/ leadership (postponed from previous months)
- Promote GoVaR8 via social media & focus on increasing followers
- Complete/Distribute packets for May's EC meetings

Budget Impact: None.

Attachments: None.