

**GO Virginia Hampton Roads
Regional Council**

**MEETING NO. 17
May 7, 2020**

Meeting number seventeen of the GO Virginia Hampton Roads Regional Council (“Regional Council”) was held Thursday, May 7, 2020, at 10:00am. This meeting was held electronically, pursuant to Governor Ralph Northam’s Executive Order 53, prohibiting all public gatherings of 10 or more individuals, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the public were invited to participate.

<u>Members Present:</u>	Shawn Avery	Jeffrey Holland
	Timothy J. Bentley	Bob McKenna
	John R. Broderick	Jerry Miller
	Patrick Coady	J.D. Myers, II
	Anne C. H. Conner, Vice Chair	John F. Reinhart
	Marcia Conston	Katherine Rowe
	William B. Downey	Jeffery Smith
	Jack L. Ezzell, Jr.	Bryan Stephens
	Thomas R. Frantz, Chair	Bruce Thompson
	Maria Herbert	Thomas G. Tingle

<u>Members Absent:</u>	Kenneth Alexander	Michael Gentry
	R. Bruce Bradley	John Olson
	Robert Dyer	McKinley Price
		Gary Warren

Staff Present: James K. Spore, President & CEO, Reinvent Hampton Roads
Donna S. Morris, Executive Vice President, Reinvent Hampton Roads
Gia M. Freeman, Administrative Assistant, Reinvent Hampton Roads

1. Call to Order and Opening Comments

Chairman Frantz called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked members to refer to the guidelines distributed in the agenda packet. Due to the electronic format of the meeting the agenda is limited to essential reports and actions needed. Mr. Frantz mentioned there were four items on the agenda requiring action. Other reports and discussion items will be deferred to the July meeting. He asked Ms. Morris to conduct a roll call to determine members of the Regional Council on the call. Following the roll call it was determined that a quorum was participating.

Mr. Frantz invited Ms. Conner to introduce and welcome Dr. Marcia Conston to the Regional Council. Ms. Conner shared notable highlights from her career in higher education and Dr. Conston expressed appreciation for being invited to serve on the Regional Council.

2. Approval of February 6, 2020 Regional Council meeting minutes

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 6TH MEETING AS PRESENTED IN THE AGENDA MATERIALS.

3. Report of the Nominating Committee

Mr. Frantz commended Ms. Conner and the Nominating Committee for the work they have done to prepare a slate of members and officers for the new year, effective July 1, 2020. Ms. Conner thanked Mr. Bradley and Mr. Tingle for serving on the committee. Several items to consider for action include the reappointment of Regional Council members whose terms expire June 30th, the appointment of two new members, and approval of officers for the 2020-2021 year.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVED THE REAPPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS TO THREE YEAR TERMS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2020: MAYOR DYER, MR. REINHART, DR. ROWE, DR. SMITH, MR. STEPHENS, MR. THOMPSON, AND MR. TINGLE.

Ms. Conner indicated at the last Regional Council meeting that Mr. Jim Kibler, President of Virginia Natural Gas, submitted a letter of resignation upon being elected to serve on the Reinvent Hampton Roads Board of Directors. Additionally, a request not to be reappointed was received from Mr. Gary Warren, President & CEO of ivWatch.

The Nominating Committee recommends adding Ms. Christen Faatz, Senior Vice President – Corporate Finance & Accounting of The Franklin Johnston Group and Ms. Cheryl McLeskey, President & CEO of McLeskey, a commercial and residential real estate development and leasing company to fill these vacancies on the Regional Council.

Mr. Frantz added the reason for Mr. Kibler’s resignation is that no more than two members can serve on both the Regional Council and the Reinvent Hampton Roads Board. Having more than two members on the Reinvent Board would make the meetings open to the public.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVED THE APPOINTMENT OF MS. CHRISTEN FAATZ AND MS. CHERYL MCLESKEY TO FILL THE TWO THREE-YEAR TERMS PREVIOUSLY HELD BY MR. KIBLER AND MR. WARREN.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVED THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS FOR 2020-2021:

MR. THOMAS R. FRANTZ, CHAIR
MS. ANNE C.H. CONNER, VICE-CHAIR
MR. JAMES K. SPORE, TREASURER (President & CEO/Reinvent Hampton Roads)
MS. DONNA S. MORRIS, SECRETARY (EVP, Reinvent Hampton Roads)

4. Consideration of GO Virginia Grant Applications

Mr. Frantz asked members to review information behind TAB E in the agenda packet. This section includes a summary of the GO Virginia Board’s redirection of \$14.66 Million from statewide competitive funding pool to the Economic Resilience and Recovery Program. The materials explain well the reasons for redirecting these funds.

Mr. Spore reported on applications that were submitted and considered by staff and two subject matter Grant Review Committees. Mr. Spore recognized and thanked each member of the two review committees for committing their time and valued expertise to the process.

Eastern Shore of Virginia Hydro Drone Near Shore Shallow Water Bathymetric Survey Program: The Eastern Shore Foundation requests \$ 99,300 to support a pilot project focused on development of an advanced technology as well as a significant economic business opportunity for

the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

As indicated in the agenda packet behind TAB C, this application is a resubmission, with significant revisions. This Enhanced Capacity Building (ECB) grant is for one year. Over \$117,000 has been provided as in-kind match to support this project. It is a multi-faceted pilot program that will develop an advanced technology, test the platform, and develop a feasible business model. If successful it will lead up to a workforce development/training/certification program involving Eastern Shore Community College and Old Dominion University.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVED THE REQUEST TO SUPPORT THE ENHANCED CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED TO FUND THE EASTERN SHORE HYDRO DRONE PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 99,300. *Mr. Broderick and Mr. Coady abstained.*

Offshore Wind Supply Chain Hub Development Program: The Hampton Roads Economic Development Alliance (HREDA) requests \$ 529,788 from the Economic Resilience and Recovery Program allocation to Region 5.

As referenced earlier by Mr. Frantz, the GO Virginia Economic Resilience and Recovery (ERR) Program was created in response to unprecedented economic conditions facing Virginia due to the near and long-term effects of the coronavirus on regional economies. This is a two-year grant that will follow the same review and approval process as general per capita grant applications. The match requirement is reduced from 1:1 to 2:1, and the local government match is waived.

The grant application for consideration will establish a program to build an Offshore Wind (OSW) supply chain in the region, supporting the growing \$100 Billion East Coast OSW industry and position the region as a premier location for OSW supply chain companies to invest. There are over 2000 companies in the OSW supply chain. With the General Assembly action this session and the progress that Dominion Energy is making, Virginia is positioned well as a leader when compared to other states that have been working in this space for a long time.

Support has been provided by local economic development organizations. It is expected that all eleven cities that are members of HREDA will support this initiative, in addition to the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission. Letters of support will be collected and provided with the application.

The project is aligned with the Economic Growth and Diversification Plan, with emphasis on economic diversification and creation of higher-paying jobs. If the program is successful, it will be sustained through support from the OSW supply chain companies that locate here in the region.

Mr. Frantz recognized the potential impact of this project on the region and the State. Mr. Reinhart indicated that the Governor's Office for OSW was cut with the recent budget reductions so there is no statewide person to drive this project. He enthusiastically supports this opportunity but must abstain from voting as he is involved in HREDA and a member of the VPA staff participated in the application review.

Mr. Coady asked if the Eastern Shore was part of the HREDA project. He mentioned the Eastern Shore has two deep water harbors without obstructing bridges, a surplus of underemployed watermen and heavy construction experienced workers needing work due to the closure of the Bayshore Concrete facility. The Eastern Shore facilities referenced have been visited and as part of Region 5 and these assets (infrastructure and talent) will be included.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVED THE REQUEST TO SUPPORT THE ECONOMIC RESILIANCE AND RECOVERY GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED TO FUND THE OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY SUPPLY CHAIN HUB DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 529,788. *Mr. Reinhart abstained.*

Mr. Spore indicated we are received many inquiries about the ERR Program. He asked Regional Council members to think about possible projects, encouraging anyone interested in pursuing either ERR Program or general GO Virginia per capita or competitive grant to contact the Reinvent Hampton Roads office.

5. Quarterly Progress Reports on GO Virginia approved grants

Chairman Frantz mentioned that Mr. Bradley suggested that each project's anticipated outcomes/metrics at the end of the grant be included with their quarterly progress report. The report was adjusted to reflect this addition. Ms. Morris indicated that while most projects had either met or exceeded goals this quarter, the COVID-19 pandemic will have an impact in the next quarter. The Reinvent Hampton Roads (RHR) staff and the GO Virginia staff at DHCD continue to assist grant recipients, offering them flexibility during this time if needed.

6. GO Virginia Board Updates

Mr. Spore indicated many of the items in this section of the agenda packet have been discussed. Mr. Frantz reminded everyone to take time to go through the materials including the recently approved state board policies, and the listing of all the statewide grants awarded to date.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

8. Other Business

Dr. Katherine Rowe sent a couple of questions via email to Mr. Frantz, which he shared with the Regional Council:

1. Is there anything the Regional Council can do to accelerate the pace of testing at scale? For example 500 per day may be needed by September for large institutions planning to open in September.
2. How might we work together (through the Regional Council) to advance and invest in regional adaptations that will make us more pandemic proof, long term? Could a region commit to go "touchless" in all lavatory facilities, for example, and put funds behind that, issue regional RFPs, etc.? Or institute temperature screening at points of sale (take your temp when you swipe your credit card)? These are the kinds of global actions that could help speed economic recovery and make our regional economy more resilient in the longer term.

Mr. Downey indicated these are two separate questions on testing. Currently, looking at whether someone has the virus is a specific task and only good for that day as it could change. The question may revolve more around antibody testing. There are several different companies that are getting FDA approval and will be more readily available. A challenge now is collection kits and the supply chain is improving. Mr. Downey said he would be happy to share some of the research they have seen if it helps, but he does think depending on timing he expected we will see some improvement

in the mid to late summer, with approval of the antibody testing. Mr. Frantz thanked Mr. Downey for this information and agreed to share the questions posed by Dr. Rowe with everyone.

9. Adjourn

Mr. Frantz thanked everyone for their participation and thanked the support staff for their commitment, perseverance and dedication during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The next Regional Council meeting will be held on July 30, 2020 at 10:00am at a location to be determined. There being no further business, Mr. Frantz adjourned the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna S. Morris

Donna S. Morris
Secretary to the Regional Council

APPROVED



Thomas R. Frantz
Chairman of the Regional Council