

**GO Virginia Hampton Roads  
Regional Council**

**MEETING NO. 18**

**July 30, 2020**

Meeting number eighteen of the GO Virginia Hampton Roads Regional Council (“Regional Council”) was held Thursday, July 30, 2020, at 10:00am. This meeting was held electronically, pursuant to Governor Ralph Northam’s Executive Order, limiting public gatherings due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the public were invited to participate by phone.

**Members Present:**

Shawn Avery  
R. Bruce Bradley  
Patrick Coady  
Marcia Conston  
William B. Downey  
Robert Dyer  
Jack L. Ezzell, Jr.  
Christen Faatz  
Thomas R. Frantz, Chair

Maria Herbert  
Jeffrey Holland  
Cheryl McLeskey  
Bob McKenna  
J.D. Myers, II  
John Olson  
John F. Reinhart  
Bryan Stephens  
Bruce Thompson  
Thomas G. Tingle  
Michael Gentry  
Jerry Miller  
McKinley Price  
Katherine Rowe  
Jeffery Smith

**Members Absent:**

Kenneth Alexander  
Timothy J. Bentley  
John R. Broderick  
Anne C. H. Conner, Vice Chair

**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, Opening Comments and Roll Call**

Chairman Frantz welcomed everyone and 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 specific items on the agenda requiring action, including the consideration of eight GO Virginia grant applications. He asked Ms. Morris to conduct a roll call to determine members of the Regional Council participating. Following the roll call a quorum was confirmed.

Mr. Frantz recognized and welcomed new members, Ms. Christen Faatz and Ms. Cheryl McLeskey.

**2. Approval of May 7, 2020 Regional Council meeting minutes**

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MEETING AS PRESENTED IN THE AGENDA MATERIALS.

**3. GO VA State Board Actions taken at the June 23, 2020 meeting**

Mr. Frantz asked Mr. Spore to provide an update. Mr. Spore asked members to refer to TAB B of the agenda packet. The materials outline actions taken by the State GO Virginia Board at their June 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Region 5 had three grants approved – the Off-shore Wind Supply Chain Hub (\$ 529,000);

the Eastern Shore Hydro-drone Program (\$ 99,000); and an Economic Recovery and Resilience FAST Access grant approved by the DHCD staff to support the 757 Resilience and Recovery Framework (\$ 100,000). Mr. Spore also reported that Region 5 is a partner in a multi-regional competitive grant awarded to GENEDGE Alliance, led by Region 1, to re-tool Virginia's Manufacturers (\$ 2,950,000). The board also approved the withdrawal of the 757 Seed Fund grant as requested by Region 5.

#### **4. Statewide Competitive Fund – Project Guidance**

Chairman Frantz discussed the GO Virginia Statewide Competitive Fund. This fund provides additional money to regions in addition to Per Capita allocations. Competitive funds are available to support projects that benefit two or more regions, offering an extraordinary opportunity for the Commonwealth. Two or more of the nine regions can come together on a project that aligns with each participating region's economic growth and diversification plan and meets the GO Virginia criteria. Two or more localities in each participating region must be supportive and actively involved in the project. One region takes the lead in submitting the application, but the partnering councils are required to formally approve the project. If the grant is awarded an advisory committee, comprised of representatives from each participating region, is formed to monitor progress and outcomes. There are several competitive projects currently in the pipeline.

Mr. Frantz invited any members having questions or suggestions on potential competitive projects to reach out to him, Ms. Conner, Mr. Spore or Ms. Morris.

#### **5. Quarterly GO VA Grant Progress Reports**

Mr. Frantz invited Ms. Morris to provide an overview of the quarterly reports from GO Virginia grants awarded to date. Ms. Morris referred to TAB D, and the report designed to capture key project activities and progress between April 1 and June 30, 2020. She mentioned that while COVID-19 has impacted GO Virginia projects, it has also sparked innovation and project leaders have developed creative ways to deliver expected outcomes. Several examples were referenced.

Most of the grants are on track despite the pandemic, but they continue to be monitored. Staff is working with sub-grantees to make necessary budget or outcome adjustments as a result.

Mr. Bradley referenced an outcome listed in the Virginia Digital Shipbuilding Program, which was the creation of 8,500 jobs over five years. He questioned whether they would be able to achieve that goal considering in the last quarter only 18 new jobs were created. Ms. Morris indicated that the applicant has not changed the project outcomes as of this report, but they will be asked each quarter if adjustments should be made and the results will be included in the quarterly reports going forward.

#### **6. Status of GO VA Funding**

Ms. Morris reported that Per Capita grants awarded to date in Region 5 total \$5,884,421. With the additional leverage of roughly \$ 5,500,000, the total investment in projects is roughly \$ 11,400,000 in Region 5.

The slide behind TAB E captures the allocation of Per Capita funds to Region 5 since the program started. Enhanced Capacity Building (ECB) grants are for requests under \$ 100,000 and are administratively approved by the State. ECB grant awards also come out of the region's Per Capita allocation. Each region has a cap each Fiscal Year of \$250,000 from the Per Capita allocation that can be used for ECB requests.

The request for one ECB and four Per Capita applications under consideration today equal over \$3.7 Million. If all are approved by the GO Virginia State Board, the remaining balance in the Region 5 Per Capita pool will be of \$ 2,297,000.

## **7. Consideration of GO Virginia Grant Applications**

Mr. Frantz asked members to refer to the information behind TAB F in the agenda packet and invited Mr. Spore to present the applications under consideration and the review process. The total amount requested is \$ 9,856,513, three of which are multi-region Competitive grant applications.

All applications received were reviewed by staff, four subject matter review panels focused on the key GO Virginia priorities (site development & infrastructure, workforce development & credentialing, entrepreneurial ecosystem, and industry clusters) and a general Project Review Committee. Mr. Spore described the process. He recognized and thanked the members of the review panels and project review committees for committing their time and valued expertise to the process.

The agenda packet included information on each application in a format like the one used by the State. The applicants were on the call and available to answer questions.

Hampton Roads Economic Development Site Readiness Program: The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission requests a Per Capita grant for \$ 1,122,240 over two years to complete the due diligence work recommended by earlier studies, including the Enhanced Site Characterization project performed by Virginia Economic Development Partnership for three sites in Region 5. Funding will be used to accelerate the development of these sites to Tier 4. The end goal is to promote availability of shovel-ready sites to prospective businesses, which would in turn help to create higher paying jobs in the region. The application meets GO Virginia requirements and the subject matter panel and review committee recommend approval.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVED THE REQUEST TO SUPPORT THE PER CAPITA GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION TO SUPPORT THE HAMPTON ROADS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SITE READINESS PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 1,122,240.

HRWC Talent Pipeline Development Program: The Hampton Roads Workforce Council (HRWC) requests a Per Capita grant for \$ 663,696 over two years to establish a targeted talent pipeline in Region 5 to close the gap between the number of available jobs in the maritime industry versus the number of qualified candidates for those positions. The grant will be used to fund three positions. The project is envisioned to not only address the current urgent need for middle skilled workers within this targeted industry but will serve as a proof of concept that can be expanded across of other industries. The application meets GO Virginia requirements and the subject matter panel and review committee recommend approval contingent on the applicant receiving key letters of support, which they received.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVED THE REQUEST TO SUPPORT THE PER CAPITA GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE HAMPTON ROADS WORKFORCE COUNCIL TO SUPPORT THE HRWC TALENT PIPELINE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 663,696. *Mr. Avery abstained.*

Cybersecurity Job Creation System (CJCS): SCIPP International, a 501(c)(3) organization, requests a Competitive grant for \$ 1,450,000 over two years to develop and deliver an innovative online program

that will provide students Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification (CMMC) project experience. This program will address the new U.S. Department of Defense mandate for third party cybersecurity accreditation for contractors and sub-contractors beginning January 2021.

The project will not only address the CMMC certification requirement, but graduates will qualify to fill other high-paying risk management positions or start their own consulting practices. Region 5 will be the lead, with Regions 3 and 4 as partners. Region 7 is also considering the application. The application meets GO Virginia requirements and the subject matter panel and review committee recommend approval contingent on the involvement of other community colleges and private partners like ECPI University. The applicant has agreed to reach out to and engage other institutions.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVED THE REQUEST TO SUPPORT THE COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY SCIPP INTERNATIONAL TO SUPPORT THE CYBERSECURITY JOB CREATION SYSTEM PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 1,450,000.

Virginia's Virtual Workforce (VWV): The Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CCAM) requests a Competitive grant for \$ 1,500,000 over two years to deliver simulated and virtual training for advanced manufacturing in automation and robotics. Working with six to twelve manufacturers and targeting 5,000 potential employees, the project will help combat COVID-19's impact on the manufacturing sector as well as provide a more inclusive, convenient and cost-effective approach to training a needed workforce in advanced manufacturing.

The partners in the project include CCAM, Old Dominion University's (ODU) Batten College of Engineering, and the ODU Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center (VMASC). The program will leverage the ODU VMASC training framework created for the maritime industry and Newport News Shipbuilding – the Framework for Accelerating Simulation and Training (FAST) and modify it to service the advanced manufacturing educators and industries in the “mega region” of GO Virginia's Regions 4 and 5. Region 4 will serve as the lead with Regions 3 and 5 as partners. The application meets GO Virginia requirements and the subject matter panel and review committee recommend approval.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVED THE REQUEST TO SUPPORT THE COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE COMMONWEALTH CENTER FOR ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TO SUPPORT THE VIRGINIA'S VIRTUAL WORKFORCE INITIATIVE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 1,500,000.

Building Materials Flood Resiliency Testing Module: Preservation Virginia requests a Per Capita grant for \$ 421,000 over two years to construct a first of its kind laboratory test module in Suffolk, VA to serve Hampton Roads and other coastal regions. The project will position Region 5 as a leader in effective approaches to flood resiliency in the built environment. Data will be collected on the effectiveness of building materials and methods used to share with architects, engineers, contractors, historic preservation professionals, state and local floodplain managers and property owners for more informed design of flood resiliency retrofits for buildings and flood prone areas. The project will target the creation of green jobs in this space. The application meets GO Virginia requirements and the subject matter panel and review committee recommend approval, contingent on the pending conditional use permit for the lab space in Suffolk and the engagement of higher education institutions actively involved in materials engineering and coastal resilience. The applicant has reached out to Virginia Tech and a letter of support from Old Dominion University has been received.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVED THE REQUEST TO SUPPORT THE PER CAPITA GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY PRESERVATION VIRGINIA TO SUPPORT THE BUILDING MATERIALS FLOOD RESILIENCY TESTING MODULE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 421,000.

Greater Williamsburg Target Industry Sector Analysis: The Greater Williamsburg Partnership requests an Enhanced Capacity Building grant for \$ 36,375 for one year to update the Greater Williamsburg Target Industry Sector Analysis that Market Street Services, Inc. was contracted to conduct in 2016. This update will help Greater Williamsburg assess the collateral damage from the COVID-19 pandemic. The application meets GO Virginia requirements and the subject matter panel and review committee recommend approval, suggesting that the applicant ask the contractor hired to adjust the scope of work to include a follow-up review following COVID-19 to determine if the recommendations are still valid. The applicant agreed to this adjustment and also to absorb any additional costs.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVED THE REQUEST TO SUPPORT THE ENHANCED CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE GREATER WILLIAMSBURG PARTNERHIP TO UPDATE THE GREATER WILLIAMSBURG TARGET INDUSTRY SECTOR ANALYSIS THE AMOUNT OF \$ 36,375.

Virginia's Autonomous Workforce and Economic Development Program: Autonomous Research for Societal Enhancement (ARISE) requests a Per Capita grant for \$ 1,500,000 for two years to (1) Assist local universities in attracting Unmanned Systems, Environmental Robotics and Autonomous Unmanned Traffic Management (UTM) research investments to Hampton Roads while creating UTM services markets aimed at enabling Smart City Mobility; (2) Accelerate economic development by leveraging the City of Hampton's technology accelerator and various other centers across the region; and (3) Develop legal analysis of Smart City Mobility that can be used by policy makers and the public in designing laws and regulations concerning Smart City Technology. The project will be based at Ft. Monroe due to its strategic location in the region, shallow and deep-water boat ramps, and Class G uncontrolled airspace. It will complement the GO Virginia-supported York County Unmanned Systems Facility and Eastern Shore Hydro Drone Project. The application meets GO Virginia requirements and the subject matter panel and review committee recommend approval contingent on the applicant addressing the feedback questions. The applicant provided answers to those questions and they are included in the agenda packet for reference.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVED THE REQUEST TO SUPPORT THE PER CAPITA GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY AUTONOMOUS RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR SOCIETAL ENHANCEMENT TO SUPPORT THE VIRGINIA'S AUTONOMOUS WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 1,500,000. *Mr. Frantz abstained.*

Launching A Coastal Resilience and Adaptation Economy: Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS) requests a Competitive grant for \$ 3,139,401 for two years to build resilience entrepreneurship capacity, create a consortium to build professional services capacity and talent pipeline and brand Virginia as a global leader in the emerging resilience economy. The Middle Peninsula Chesapeake Bay Public Access Authority will provide space for the testing facility. In addition to holding a business plan competition (conducted by RISE), constructing pilot projects/test design solutions & services/validate business plans, creating 30 small businesses by the end of year 3, establishing the

water technology cluster, and creating a consortium to foster collaboration, the project will create a Resilience Innovation Center. The application meets GO Virginia requirements and the subject matter panel and review committee recommend approval based on the applicant being able to answer specific questions regarding how the project is organized with multiple partners and how the GO Virginia funds would be used and the match sources. Answers to these questions were provided by the applicant and included for reference in the agenda packet. Region 6 is the lead and Region 5 is a partner in this application.

Mr. Downey asked how this project would complement the earlier Building Materials Flood Resiliency Test Module application recommended for approval. Mr. Spore indicated that the two projects are compatible and do not compete.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVED THE REQUEST TO SUPPORT THE COMPETITIVE GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE TO SUPPORT LAUNCHING A COASTAL RESILIENCE AND ADAPTATION ECONOMY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 3,139,401. *Mr. Tingle abstained.*

8. **Public Comment** - No public comment.
9. **Other Business** – Mr. Bradley expressed thanks to the Reinvent staff and grant review committees for the work and due diligence to prepare for the meeting. Mr. Frantz concurred and thanked all the Regional Council members for their active participation and leadership.
10. **Adjourn** - Mr. Frantz indicated the next Regional Council meeting will be held on October 29, 2020 at 10:00am at a location to be determined. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Donna S. Morris*

Donna S. Morris

Secretary to the Regional Council

APPROVED



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Thomas R. Frantz  
Chairman of the Regional Council