

**GO Virginia Hampton Roads
Regional Council**

**MEETING NO. 26
August 4, 2022**

Meeting number twenty-four of the GO Virginia Hampton Roads Regional Council (“Regional Council”) was held Thursday, August 4, 2022, at 10:00am. This meeting was held at the Old Dominion University Virginia Modeling, Analysis, and Simulation Center located at 1030 University Blvd., Suffolk, VA 23435.

<u>Members Present:</u>	Shawn Avery	Maria Herbert
	Timothy J. Bentley	Jeff Holland
	Patrick Coady	Bob McKenna
	Anne C. H. Conner, Vice Chair	Cheryl McLeskey
	Christen Faatz	Doug Pons
	Thomas R. Frantz, Chair	John F. Reinhart
	Sally Hartman	Bryan Stephens
		Thomas G. Tingle

<u>Members Absent:</u>	Kenneth Alexander	Jerry Miller
	R. Bruce Bradley	J.D. Myers, II
	John R. Broderick	John Olson
	Marcia Conston	Katherine Rowe
	Robert “Bobby” Dyer	Jeffery Smith
	Jack L. Ezzell, Jr.	Bruce Thompson
	Michael Gentry	

Staff Present: Nancy L. Grden, 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/Welcome

Vice Chair Anne Conner welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. He opened the meeting by recapping the significance of the GO Virginia program to promote collaboration and connectivity that will fuel innovation and ultimately grow an economy that improves the quality of life for all.

Due to the lack of a quorum required to act on several items on the agenda Mr. Frantz confirmed the Executive Committee would hold a special meeting after the Regional Council adjourns. Following discussion of agenda items, the Regional Council will take a “straw” vote, but the Executive Committee will take formal action on specific items requiring immediate approval.

Mr. Frantz reported this would be the last meeting with Mr. Jim Spore, as he recently announced his retirement. The Chairman offered his congratulations for a job “beyond exceptionally” well done. This recognition was followed by a standing ovation from all in attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Spore introduced his successor, Nancy Grden, expressing excitement in what she will bring to the job, as a leader, collaborator, and team player.

Ms. Grden said she is honored to be assuming this role, following Mr. Spore. She has adopted Hampton Roads as her home and envisions enormous opportunity to advance the region. She looks forward to working with the Regional Council.

Mr. Frantz expressed his appreciation to the President and staff at the College of William and Mary for hosting the meeting today. He invited Dr. Katherine Rowe, Regional Council member and President of the College of William and Mary to talk about internships and how important they are in keeping talent in the region. He also mentioned how the college's Strategic Plan emphasizes the value of regional cooperation.

Dr. Rowe thanked everyone for attending the meeting and expressed gratitude to Mr. Spore for his numerous accomplishments in leading Reinvent Hampton Roads.

Dr. Rowe described her time in Boston during the time the Route 128 technology corridor was emerging as a national powerhouse and how important collaboration was in its development – proof that bringing business, higher education and local/state governments together can produce impactful results. She cited the value the Region 5 *Economic Growth and Diversification Plan* had in developing the W&M strategic plan. She shared that the College of William and Mary (W&M) was again ranked the #1 public university for internships by *The Princeton Review*.

The COVID pandemic had a tremendous impact on how universities would operate. In April 2020 when it was clear that students would be at-risk in the pandemic job market, she brought a team together to develop a career pathways initiative, to include internships.

Data shows that students with paid internships are 70% likely to get a job offer from the employer. W&M started tracking first destinations of their graduates. The question asked of students: No matter what degree you earn, six months after you receive that degree are you in a job, at a private school or have a military connection in Virginia or elsewhere? 53% of W&M graduates earned their first destination in Virginia or the Washington DC area.

The W&M goal is to make Virginia a magnet. To accomplish that goal, there needs to be more jobs. Students who are working to pay their way through college are 20% less likely to have first destination landings. Students who have had a paid internship towards the end of their year are 110% more likely to have a first destination. The quality of the work that you do while in college directly impacts your ability to land a job. By 2026, W&M is committed to make an internship available to every graduate if they want that option. She asked Regional Council members to think about the statistics shared and how they can help grow our workforce and fill the gaps that exist.

Several economic pillars Dr. Rowe referenced included data sciences, water economy, and democracy. As W&M thinks about data and talent development, they see a number of significant opportunities with many resources locally that cover the bases to diversify the economy.

Mr. Frantz thanked Dr. Rowe for the update and stated there were many reasons why she was selected to be President, one of which was the tremendous job she did in the Boston area, bringing universities and the business community together to produce impactful results.

2. **Approval of February 3, 2022, Regional Council meeting minutes**

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT SUPPORTED APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 3, 2022 MEETING AS PRESENTED IN THE AGENDA PACKET.

3. Report of the Nominating Committee

Mr. Frantz invited Vice Chair, Anne Conner to provide the report and recommendations from the Nominating Committee, found behind TAB B of the agenda packet. Ms. Conner thanked Mr. Tingle and Mr. Bradley for serving on the committee. The following recommendations were made:

- a. **APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS TO THREE YEAR TERMS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022: MR. FRANTZ, MR. GENTRY, MS. HERBERT, MR. MCKENNA, MR. MILLER, MR. MYERS, AND DR. OLSON.**
- b. **APPROVE THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS TO THREE YEAR TERMS EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2022: MS. SALLY HARTMAN (RIVERSIDE HEALTHCARE), MS. LYNN TAYLOR (ZELTECH), AND MAYOR DOUG PONS (CITY OF WILLIAMSBURG)**
- c. **APPROVE THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS FOR 2022-2023:**
MR. THOMAS R. FRANTZ, CHAIR
MS. ANNE C.H. CONNER, VICE-CHAIR
MS. NANCY GRDEN, PRESIDENT (President & CEO/Reinvent Hampton Roads)
MS. DONNA S. MORRIS, SECRETARY/TREASURER (EVP, Reinvent Hampton Roads)

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT SUPPORTED APPROVAL OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE AS PRESENTED.

James K. Spore was unanimously approved to be recognized as President Emeritus

4. **Quarterly Progress Reports on GO Virginia Approved Grants**– Mr. Frantz invited Ms. Morris to provide an update on projects currently underway. She referenced the report included in the agenda packet behind TAB C.

To date thirty-three grants have been submitted by and awarded to Region 5 with fourteen of that number complete. The projects that remain active are on track, with five exceeding projected outcomes and deliverables.

The GO Virginia State Board approved the local match waiver requested for the Virginia Cyber Alliance and Virginia Digital Shipbuilding Program grants. Before adjustments were made due to the COVID pandemic, 20% of the total GO Virginia ask had to be matched with local dollars (localities or entities that represent multiple local governments). The 20% applied to the Virginia Cyber Alliance and Virginia Digital Shipbuilding grant awards, but due to staff turnovers in participating localities and delay between execution of the match and request for documentation neither were able to confirm that requirement was met. In such cases you can request a match waiver from the GO Virginia State Board. The Board approved both local match waivers at their April meeting. This will enable the ODU Research Foundation to draw the remaining funds and complete the formal fiscal closeout.

The State Board also took action to extend the 2:1 match (plus waiving the local match) through June 2023 and relaxed the match requirement for competitive grant requests from 1:1 to a 2:1 match.

In each Regional Council meeting it is important to hear directly from a grant recipient about progress made on GO Virginia funded programs. Two projects were highlighted from grant recipients.

Neighborhood received a planning grant for only \$85,222 in August 2021 and in less than a year, they have expanded a space that will enable them to assist those in an underserved community build their leadership skills and gain employment.

Josh Jones and Steve Green, co-Founders of *Neighborhood*, shared how their non-profit is connecting neighbors with skills, services, and support in the neighborhood where they live - South Norfolk, in the City of Chesapeake. This project demonstrates the enormous value that can come from a small GO Virginia investment.

Mr. Spore introduced Mr. Keith Cannady, Deputy Director of Hampton Roads Planning District Commission and manager for the Hampton Roads Economic Development Sites Readiness Program. Mr. Cannady provided an update on the progress made in elevating three sites (Shirley T. Holland Intermodal Park/268 acres; Tech Center Corporate Research Center/64 acres; and Innovation Park/163 acres). The overall estimated project progress made to date is at roughly 90%.

5. Consideration of GO Virginia Grant Applications

Mr. Spore referred to the grant summaries and recommendations of the Subject Matter Review Committee found behind TAB D of the agenda packet. The Subject Matter Review Committee included Regional Council members Ms. Cheryl McLeskey and Mr. Tom Tingle, along with Mr. Jim Noel (York County EDA), Mr. Russ Held (Virginia Port Authority), and Mr. Burrell Saunders (Saunders + Crouse Architects). They provided valuable feedback that was shared with the grant applicants and included in the summaries contained in the agenda packet.

- a) ARIEL Openseas Technology Innovation Hub, an Enhanced Capacity Building application submitted by Old Dominion University Research Foundation, requests a \$100,000 planning grant to create an actionable implementation plan that identifies key benefits, applications, barriers/gaps, and resources needed to create Region 5 as a multi-state offshore wind testbed. After careful review and discussion with the applicant, the committee recommended postponing approval of this application until more detail is provided on how ARIEL and the Hampton Roads Alliance are working together on this project, to avoid redundancies; identify the localities working in this space; and, provide an outline of what the plan will be, specific to offshore wind.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT SUPPORTED THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUBJECT MATTER REVIEW COMMITTEE TO POSTPONE APPROVAL OF THE OPENSEAS TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION HUB PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION AS PRESENTED.

- b. I-64 Innovation Corridor Global Internet Hub Growth Plan, an Enhanced Capacity Building request of \$100,000 submitted by the City of Virginia Beach to develop a strategic growth plan to coordinate, direct and accelerate the digital infrastructure community and stakeholders in making the I-64 Innovation Corridor a Global Internet Hub. This is a joint request with Region 4 that will be split between the two regions, if approved.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT SUPPORTED THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUBJECT MATTER REVIEW COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE I-64 INNOVATION CORRIDOR GLOBAL INTERNET HUB GROWTH PLAN INITIATIVE PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION, CONTINGENT ON APPROVAL BY GO VIRGINIA REGION 4, CREATE THE STRATEGIC PLAN IN SIX MONTHS, AND INCORPORATE ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT AND REPRESENTATION FROM SMALLER COMMUNITIES IN BOTH REGIONS.

- d. Hampton Roads Economic Development Sites Readiness: Phase II, a per capita grant request of \$3,751,545 by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission to elevate two sites in Region

5 from Tier 2 to Tier 4 with confirmation that infrastructure can be completed in 12 months. A site characterization report will be completed for a third site.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT SUPPORTED THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE SUBJECT MATTER REVIEW COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE HAMPTON ROADS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SITES READINESS: PHASE II PER CAPITA GRANT APPLICATION AS PRESENTED.

- e. Maritime Entry-To-Employment Training (MEET) program, a per capita grant request of \$1,090,527 from Old Dominion University Research Foundation to expand the initial courses developed in the Coastal Virginia Maritime Advancement Programs (COVA MAP), forming a pipeline from (1) course development to (2) hands-on training and skills development in both industrial and academic environments to (3) integrated trades work coordination and trade certifications, preparing students for immediate productive employment. This application was previously approved by the Regional Council but deferred by the GO Virginia State Board. The suggestions offered by the State were addressed in the resubmission.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT SUPPORTED RESUBMISSION OF THE UPDATED MARITIME ENTRY-TO-EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PER CAPITA GRANT APPLICATION AS PRESENTED.

6. GO VIRGINIA State Board Updates

Mr. Spore invited Regional Council members to refer to TAB E of the agenda packet for more detail. The GO Virginia State Board held a two-day retreat in Richmond on April 21-22, 2022. The retreat program was designed to inform, educate, and inspire all to think about how GO Virginia can continue to deliver on its mission and make an even bigger impact in key areas of strategic importance to Virginia's economic growth strategies - including talent development.

7. **Public Comment** – NONE
8. **Other Business** – NONE
9. **Adjourn** – There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna S. Morris
Secretary to the Regional Council

APPROVED

Thomas R. Frantz
Chair of the Regional Council