

**GO Virginia Hampton Roads
Regional Council**

**MEETING NO. 28
February 2, 2023**

Meeting number twenty-eight of the GO Virginia Hampton Roads Regional Council (“Regional Council”) was held Thursday, February 2, 2023, at 10:00am. This meeting was held in the Hampton Roads Community Foundation board room, 101 W. Main Street, Suite 4500, Norfolk, VA 23510.

Members Present:

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| Shawn Avery | Sharon Goodwyn |
| Timothy J. Bentley (phone) | Sally Hartman |
| Patrick Coady | Bob McKenna |
| Anne C. H. Conner, Vice Chair | John F. Reinhart |
| Marcia Conston | Bryan Stephens |
| Christen Faatz | Lynn Taylor |
| Thomas R. Frantz, Chair | |

Members Absent:

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| Kenneth Alexander | John Olson |
| Robert “Bobby” Dyer | Doug Pons |
| Maria Herbert | Katherine Rowe |
| Jeff Holland | Jeffery Smith |
| Cheryl McLeskey | Bruce Thompson |
| Jerry Miller | Thomas G. Tingle |
| J.D. Myers, II | |

Staff Present:

Nancy L. Grden, President & CEO, Reinvent Hampton Roads
 Donna S. Morris, Executive Vice President, Reinvent Hampton Roads
 Monica Goldsborough, Exec. Assistant, Reinvent Hampton Roads

1. Call to Order/Welcome

Chairman Frantz called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance. He recognized new Regional Council member, Ms. Sharon Goodwyn and members of the GO Virginia staff from DHCD, Ms. Sara Dunnigan, Mr. Billy Gammel, and Mr. Cody Anderson.

Due to the lack of a physical quorum Regional Council members agreed all items requiring formal action will be presented as planned. Feedback will be shared with the Executive Committee for formal action on behalf of the Regional Council, as delineated in the bylaws.

2. Public Comment – None

3. Comments from Deputy Secretary of Commerce and Trade

Chairman Frantz introduced Deputy Secretary of Commerce & Trade, Ms. Chelsea Jenkins, who joined the meeting by phone.

Ms. Jenkins is assigned to work with our region. She briefly discussed the Governor’s priorities as they relate to Commerce and Trade. She reported that the Governor’s staff has been taking data collected to develop action plans around issues like clean energy. Formal working groups will be established to look

at opportunities and challenges prior to the next General Assembly session. She highlighted out-migration as an issue in need of attention.

4. Approval of the November 3 2022 meeting minutes

THERE WAS CONSENSUS, AMONG MEMBERS PRESENT THAT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FORMALLY APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 3, 2022 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING AS PRESENTED IN THE AGENDA PACKET.

5. Reinvent Hampton Roads Re-organization Update

Ms. Grden reported that Reinvent Hampton Roads Board of Directors and the Hampton Roads Business Roundtable have formally approved the merger of the two entities, but an official announcement has not been made. At the December meeting the Reinvent Board elected Mr. Dennis Matheus, President & CEO of Sentara Healthcare and Mr. Cliff Fleet, President & CEO of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation as Co-Chairs of the new entity.

In addition, a council of regional organizations has been assembled, led by the executives of the Chambers of Commerce, and comprised of the leaders of regional organizations that all play a role in economic development. The approach will be one of collaboration.

6. GO Virginia State Updates

Ms. Sara Dunnigan thanked the Regional Council for their work and the regional collaboration that is practiced well in this region. She made specific reference to the work being done with Region 4 (Richmond). Ms. Dunnigan provided an update on the following items:

- a. Governor's Budget directs a portion of the general fund to support talent pathway development collaborations in no more than three targeted industry clusters. Special projects related to workforce needs in agriculture technology industries as well as initiatives related to shipbuilding, offshore wind, and road and tunnel construction are targeted for funding.
- b. GO Virginia Project Development Framework, showcases strategy questions associated with specific projects funded in Region 5.
- c. GO Virginia Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) is currently reviewing the effectiveness of the GO Virginia program. Specifically to: determine whether regional collaboration on economic development efforts has improved because of GO Virginia; evaluate whether the GO Virginia Board has developed; evaluate the quality of the performance metrics used for GO Virginia projects and the extent to which project performance is monitored; evaluate the success of projects that have received GO Virginia funds; and assess whether the information provided by regions when applying for projects, including regional workforce data, is used in a meaningful way. The review will also determine whether agency support for GO Virginia is appropriately placed in the Department of Housing and Community Development, whether there is any overlap between the GO Virginia program and other economic development efforts and assess the adequacy of funding. The report is expected to be complete in the Fall, 2023.
- d. Economic Growth & Diversification (EG&D) Plan Review – Mr. Gammel went through the EG&D Plan requirements. Councils may choose to update and amend their Growth & Diversification plans beyond requirements, but at a minimum each council should review their current plan and complete the template that was developed and shared with the support organization staff. Updates will be due to DHCD no later than October 31, 2023.

Mr. Frantz thanked the DHCD staff for their support and reinforced the point that GO Virginia has been a major driver of inter-regional collaboration.

7. Quarterly GO Virginia Grant Progress Report

Ms. Morris reported 41 grants have been awarded in Region 5 to date. Of that number there are 6 competitive grants managed by other regions, with Region 5 as an active partner.

- 19 are workforce/ talent development projects (47% of total Region 5 led projects)
- 7 are start-up (18% of total Region 5 led projects)
- 4 are site /infrastructure development (28% of total Region 5 led projects)
- 11 are cluster scale-up (7% of total Region 5 led projects)

Nineteen projects are complete, active grants are on-track, and five have exceeded projected outcomes and deliverables.

Of the \$ **18,074,736** awarded to support grants submitted by Region 5, \$ **8,306,624** in GO Virginia funds have been drawn to date, or roughly **46%**.

8. Project Spotlight

At each Regional Council meeting it is important to hear directly from a grant recipient about progress made on a GO Virginia funded program. The Project Spotlight featured was the *Offshore Wind Supply Chain Hub Development Program*. Mr. Matt Smith, Director of Energy & Water Technology at the Alliance provided an update on this project. Key takeaways:

- The 2022-2024 Biennium Budget includes \$2.5 Million to help small and medium-sized Virginia businesses enter the offshore wind industry.
- Sites in Hampton Roads are among the final candidates for offshore wind manufacturing investments totaling over \$1 Billion.
- Virginia, Hampton Roads, the Alliance, and all the project partners are well-known to all major offshore wind companies.
- The supply chain development program is building momentum and will continue well past the grant period.

9. Consideration of GO Virginia Grant Applications

Ms. Grden provided an overview of the Demonstration Site for Clean Energy Transition to Green Hydrogen (HRH2) per capita request (\$1,497,452.19) submitted by the Virginia Tech Foundation and the Talent Pathways Initiative (TPI) application (\$ 250,000) submitted by the Hampton Roads Workforce Council.

Following discussion on each application:

THERE WAS CONSENSUS, AMONG MEMBERS PRESENT THAT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FORMALLY APPROVE BOTH APPLICATIONS AS PRESENTED IN THE AGENDA PACKET.

10. Other Business

- a. Consideration of Mr. Aubrey Layne to replace Council member Mr. Mike Gentry – Vice Chair of the Regional Council and Chair of the Nominating Committee, Ms. Anne Conner reported that Mr. Aubrey Layne expressed interest in being considered for membership on the Region 5 Regional Council. His bio was referenced behind TAB D of the agenda packet.

THERE WAS CONSENSUS, AMONG MEMBERS PRESENT THAT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BE ASKED TO FORMALLY APPROVE MR. AUBREY LAYNE AS THE REPLACEMENT FOR MR. MIKE GENTRY ON THE REGIONAL COUNCIL AS DISCUSSED.

- b. Letter of Support for the GO Virginia Program – Mr. Frantz referenced the draft letter behind TAB D of the agenda packet that would go to members of the Hampton Roads State Legislative Delegation to support the FY2023-24 State Budget, highlighting the GO Virginia program impact on our region. Following a brief discussion:

THERE WAS CONSENSUS, AMONG MEMBERS PRESENT THAT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FORMALLY APPROVE THE LETTER TO THE HAMPTON ROADS DELEGATION SUPPORTING THE GO VIRGINIA FUNDING PROPOSED IN THE FY2023-24 STATE BUDGET, AS PRESENTED IN THE AGENDA PACKET.

- c. Update of the Electronic Participation Policy

THERE WAS CONSENSUS, AMONG MEMBERS PRESENT THAT THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BE ASKED TO FORMALLY APPROVE THE UPDATED POLICY REGARDING ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION IN REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS AS PRESENTED IN THE AGENDA PACKET.

- 11. 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