

**GO Virginia Region 5
Regional Council MEETING NO. 31
November 2, 2023**

Meeting number thirty-one of the GO Virginia Region 5 Council (“Regional Council”) was held Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. This meeting was a virtual meeting.

Members Present: Timothy Bentley Marcia Conston Bobby Dyer
Christen Faatz Tom Frantz, Chair Sally Hartman
Maria Herbert Jeffrey Holland Sharon Goodwyn
Mark Johnson Sarah Jane Kirkland Bob McKenna
Doug Pons Casey Roberts Bryan Stephens
Lynn Taylor, Co-Chair

Members Absent: Kenneth Alexander Shawn Avery Patrick Coady
Bob Howard Aubrey Layne Jerry Miller
John Olson Katherine Rowe Thomas Tingle

Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable Staff Present:
Nancy L. Grden, President & CEO
Donna Morris, Executive Vice President
Diane Nolan, Operations Support Manager
Diana Turk, Executive Assistant

I. **Call to Order/Welcome** - Chairman Frantz called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed all in attendance. Following a roll call by Ms. Morris, a quorum was confirmed.

Mr. Frantz remembered John O. “Dubby” Wynne, GO Virginia founder, state and regional leader, and friend, who passed away on October 26th. His service will be held on November 2nd at Galilee Episcopal Church in Virginia Beach.

Mr. Frantz recognized the guests in attendance and members of the GO Virginia staff from DHCD, Sara Dunnigan, and Joseph Dennie, and Diane Kaufman from Senator Kaine’s office and Drew Lumpkin from Senator Warner’s office, among others.

Mr. Frantz talked about JLab and the announcement by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). JLab was selected as the lead for DOE’s new High Performance Data Facility (HPDF) Hub, a \$300-\$500 million computing and data infrastructure resource that will provide researchers with tools, methods, and technologies to maximize the scientific value of data.

Vice Chair, Lynn Taylor, commented on collaboration efforts in our region. She specifically mentioned Secretary Merrick’s meet and greet event, and the State GO Virginia Board meeting she attended on behalf of the Regional Council.

II. **Public Comment** – Chairman Frantz asked for public comment.

Mayor Bobby Dyer made a comment on Virginia Beach having an affordable workforce housing challenge, with reference to projects underway. Their first test vote was held

and prevailed. He also mentioned that every branch of the military has affordable housing on their radar.

Drew Lumpkin from Senator Warner's office talked about the approval of and \$39M in funding for the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind (CVOW) project, which will go towards the existing efforts to transform Fairwinds Landing into an offshore wind hub.

- III. **Approval of the May 4 and August 3, 2023 Regional Council meeting minutes** – Mr. Frantz requested a motion to approve the May 4, and August 3, 2023 meeting minutes, since there was not a quorum present at the August 3, 2023 meeting. There were no comments or questions regarding the May and August minutes, so the following action was taken:

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVED THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 4, 2023 AND THE AUGUST 3, 2023 MEETINGS AS PRESENTED IN THE AGENDA PACKET.

IV. **Consent Agenda/Action Items:**

- **Amendments to GO Virginia Region 5 Council Bylaws** – Mr. Frantz provided an overview of the bylaw changes and outlined the first and second amendments to the Bylaws. He opened the floor for feedback and discussion. Mr. Frantz requested a motion to approve the First Amendment to the GO Virginia Region 5 Council Bylaws.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL FORMALLY APPROVED THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE GO VIRGINIA REGION 5 COUNCIL BYLAWS AS PRESENTED IN THE AGENDA PACKET.

The second amendment was provided for information. Formal action will be requested at the January 25, 2024, meeting.

- **Revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** – Mr. Frantz requested a motion to approve the revision of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Region 5 Council and the Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable to reflect the name change from Reinvent Hampton Roads to Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL APPROVED THE REVISED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) AS PRESENTED IN THE AGENDA PACKET.

- **FY24 Capacity Building Budget**

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL FORMALLY APPROVED THE FY23 CAPACITY BUILDING BUDGET, AS PRESENTED IN THE AGENDA PACKET.

- V. **2023 Economic Growth and Diversification (EG&D) Plan** – Ms. Grden introduced Dr. Vinod Agarwal and Dr. Bob McNab, ODU Dragas Center for Economic Policy and

Analysis, who completed the analysis for this plan. Mr. McNab presented the report and findings.

- Bottom Line Up Front: Region 5 population growth has slowed to zero this decade as the region continues to experience domestic outmigration and the loss of young workers. We are also dependent on Federal government spending, making diversification a necessity rather than a luxury. Both our job growth and our incomes have lagged that of Virginia and the nation. We should focus on key industry clusters with higher-than-average wages.
- In depth analysis of Population – Region 5 has grown slower than the state so our share in the state’s population has declined over time, with another decrease in Region 5’s population in 2022.
- GDP – the early part of the century saw a surge of economic growth. We then had a lost decade of economic growth from 2009 to 2019. 2020 was the COVID shock and then there was a rapid recovery in 2021 and 2022. The forecast for Hampton Roads is that we will have 3 consecutive years of growth.
- Employment, Jobs, and Income – Region 5 accounts for about 30% of all Federal employees in Virginia. The region would need to create 2 civilian jobs to replace the compensation associated with every Federal civilian job. This is accomplished by identifying clusters that are above average compensation and grow those clusters. Right now, our growth lags that of the state and the nation.
- Industry Clusters – there was an addition of life sciences to the key clusters in the region in the last year. This, along with other high-wage industry clusters, are where we want to leverage a large portion of our resources and time.

Ms. Grden then spoke about the 5 Challenges for Region 5:

1. Economic growth has not kept pace with Virginia or the U.S.
2. Overly reliant on a small set of large firms in its Key Cluster areas.
3. Creating small and medium-sized enterprises (SME’s) at a pace far below our peer metro areas.
4. Not creating a workforce for the next-generation knowledge-based economy at a quick enough pace.
5. Lacks a deliberate and coordinated innovation strategy.

Ms. Grden then presented the strategies Region 5 can undertake to address these challenges, as well as a list of key economic development accomplishments during the past two years since the 2021 EG&D Plan was developed; they also provide a foundation for the strategies ahead. She opened the floor for comments and questions.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL FORMALLY APPROVED THE 2023 ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DIVERSIFICATION (EG&D) PLAN, AS PRESENTED IN THE AGENDA PACKET.

VI. Quarterly GO Virginia Grant Progress Reports – Donna Morris outlined the grant progress:

- 44 grants have been awarded.
- The majority of the grants awarded have been in talent and workforce development with the largest investment given in site and infrastructure projects.

- 26 projects have been completed or are in the process of being closed out.
- 6 have exceeded the projected outcomes.
- Of the \$19.9M awarded, \$9.7M, roughly 48%, has been drawn to date.

VII. Consideration of GO VA Competitive Grant Applications – Nancy Grden presented the following grant applications:

- Comprehensive Study of Workforce Development for Western Hampton Roads** (Planning Grant) – this one is specifically focused on mechatronics. The purpose of this study is to understand the needs of the organizations in the region and to make sure that there is an industry scan of what other training programs are available.
- Career & Community Development Program Expansion – Phase 2** (Per Capita Grant) – the organization is a prior GO Virginia Economic Resilience and Recovery (ERR) planning grant recipient. This application is to expand their career and community development programs, adding the cities of Norfolk, Portsmouth and Virginia Beach. They are also requesting a waiver of the total and local match.
- Promoting Careers in Aquaculture 2.0** (GO Virginia Region 6 is the lead in this Competitive Grant Request) – this will promote careers in aquaculture, using a multi-prong approach, creating positive career and growth opportunities for students, teachers, and participating industry partners.

Ms. Grden opened the floor for questions and comments.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL FORMALLY APPROVED THE THREE GRANT APPLICATIONS, AS PRESENTED IN THE AGENDA PACKET.

VIII. Other Business

Roundtable Website Status – Nancy mentioned unveiling the new Executive Roundtable website around Thanksgiving. One of the reasons we are doing this is the amount of information added about GO Virginia and Region 5. It gives this region more visibility about the opportunities to apply for funding and projects we are very excited about with impactful results.

NEXUS – Regional EDA Tech Hubs Application – even though we did not win this grant, it set up the need to create this uncrewed /autonomous systems industry cluster and a set of activities. Many of the awards given were to organizations that have been in place for years, so we need to, as a region, continue to build these clusters to create density.

Brookings Institute, A national think tank organization that focuses on regional economic growth and competitiveness- Nancy Grden and Shawn Avery were asked to speak at the Brookings Metro/Kresge Foundation Summit held in Washington DC on October 18-19; Nancy about GO VA, and Shawn about leveraging GO VA workforce grants to win federal and Navy contracts.

JLARC Update – The report of the GO VA program will be presented at the JLARC meeting on December 11 and to the GO Virginia State Board on December 12.

XI. **Adjourn** - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Tom Frantz at 11:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna S. Morris
Secretary to the Regional Council

APPROVED

Thomas R. Frantz
Chair of the Regional Council

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