Thomas R. Frantz, Chair
Lynn P. Taylor, Vice-Chair

GO VIRGINIA REGION 5 COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, October 29, 2026
10:00 am –12:00 pm: Regional Council Meeting
Tech Center Research Park, 700 Tech Center Pkwy, Suite 200, Newport News, VA 23606

10:00am	Welcome and Call to Order Welcome new Regional Council Member and recognize special guests in attendance	Tom Frantz
10:10am	Public Comment	Tom Frantz
10:15am	Approve Meeting Minutes from July 23, 2026 -**TAB A– ACTION ITEM**	Tom Frantz & Council
10:20am	GO Virginia State Board Updates a) Region 5 at a Glance (since FY2018)	Sara Dunnigan, *Deputy Director of Economic Development and Community Vitality, DHCD*
10:40am	PROJECT SPOTLIGHT a) Secure Energy Future Center	Chelsea Olivieri, *President and Founder of COSOLVE and Managing Director, Virginia Tech Corporate Research Center*
10:55am	GO Virginia Grant Updates **a)** GO VA Impact and Return on Investment **b)** GO VA Quarterly Grant Report – **TAB B** ⇒ Special UPDATE: **Start in Hampton Roads** **c)** Project Pipeline	Nancy Grden Lauren Roberts Carter, *VP, Marketing & Communications, HRCC and Executive Director of Start in Hampton Roads*
11:10am	Regional Updates	Nancy Grden
11:15am	Other Business **a)** 2027 Grant Application Timeline & Meeting Dates– **TAB C**	Tom Frantz
11:30am	Adjourn	Tom Frantz

Next Meeting: VIRTUAL– January 21, 2027 @ 10:00 a.m.

TAB A

GO VA Region 5 Council Meeting
July 23, 2026, MEETING #42
MEETING MINUTES

Meeting number forty-two of the GO Virginia Hampton Roads Regional Council ("Regional Council") was held Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. This meeting was VIRTUAL.

Present:	Monique Adams	Terry Banez	Patrick Coady
	Steve Cook	Janet Days	Marshall Everett
	Tom Frantz	Sharon Goodwyn	Mark Johnson
	Sarah Jane Kirkland	Aubrey Layne	Monty Mason
	Thomas McCarthy	Bob McKenna	Josh Miller
	Paul Nolde	Mark Perryman	Doug Pons
	Casey Roberts	Rob Shuford, Jr.	Jennifer Smith
	Lynn Taylor		
Absent:	Marcia Conston	Jeff Holland	John Olson

Hampton Roads Executive Roundtable Staff:
Nancy L. Grden, President & CEO
Donna Morris, Executive Vice President
Drew Lumpkin, VP External Affairs and Strategic Initiatives
Diane Nolan, Director of Operations & Project Management

I. Call to Order/Welcome:
Chairman Tom Frantz called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Frantz welcomed the new Regional Council Members: Terry Banez, Janet Days, Marshall Everett, Monty Mason, Thomas McCarthy, and Josh Miller.

Recognized guests in attendance included: Cody Anderson (DHCD), Thomas Sarsfield (Delegate Virgil Thornton's office), Steve Harrison (Alliance), Brandon Tomlinson (Alliance), Kathleen Jabs (W&M), Shayla Prince (VMA), Andrew Nissman (HRWC), Shawn Avery (HRWC), Whitney Lester (HRWC), and Ali Broemeling (HRWC).

II. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

III. Approval of April 23, 2026, Regional Council meeting minutes:
Mr. Frantz presented April 23, 2026, meeting minutes for consideration.

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MINUTES OF APRIL 23, 2026, REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING AS REVISED.

DRAFT

IV. Approval of one new Regional Council Member and two new Executive Committee Members

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED, THE REGIONAL COUNCIL UNAMIMOUSLY APPROVED GREG GROOTENDORST FROM THE HAMPTON ROADS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION AS A NEW REGIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER AND SARAH JANE KIRKLAND AND ROB SHUFORD, JR. AS MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

V. GO Virginia State Board Updates

Chairman Frantz introduced Cody Anderson, DHCD Program Administrator for GO Virginia Region 5. Mr. Anderson reported on two upcoming meetings Council members may be interested in attending. The Executive Committee will meet on August 10, 2026, from 1:00–2:00 p.m. to discuss the proposed $10 million recapture of unobligated GO Virginia funds and the GO TEC sustainability plan. He also informed the Council of the State Board Annual Meeting on September 15, 2026. The meeting will be held in person, with a virtual participation option available.

VI. PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Chairman Frantz turned the meeting over to Nancy Grden, who introduced the project spotlight: EVRIFA, the Eastern Virginia Regional Industrial Facility Authority. EVRIFA is led by Steve Harrison, COO of the Hampton Roads Alliance, and EVRIFA Executive Director.

Mr. Harrison presented an overview of EVRIFA, highlighting, the importance of business-ready sites to attract economic development opportunities and maintain Virginia's competitiveness. He reviewed EVRIFA's history, governance, membership, and funding structure, emphasizing regional collaboration among participating localities. The Council received an update on EVRIFA's first project, the Kings Creek Commerce Center, including ongoing site-readiness and infrastructure-planning activities. The presentation concluded with EVRIFA's long-term goal of strengthening regional coordination to advance site readiness and economic development opportunities.

VII. GO Virginia Grant Application and Updates

Chairman Frantz turned the meeting over to Nancy Grden who invited each applicant to provide a brief overview of the three grant requests under consideration. Kathleen Jabs presented the AUKUS Center of Excellence: Playbook project submitted by The College of William & Mary. Shayla Prince presented the Maritime Talent Pipeline Program submitted by the Virginia Maritime Association (VMA). Andrew Nissman presented the Advancing Maritime Career Pathways project submitted by the Hampton Roads Workforce Council. Following questions from Council members, the following action was taken on each application:

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE AUKUS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE: PLAYBOOK PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE COLLEGE OF WILLIAM & MARY REQUESTING $100,000. (Regional Council member Monty Mason abstained).

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE MARITIME TALENT PIPELINE PROGRAM PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY VIRGINIA MARITIME ASSOCIATION (VMA) REQUESTING $100,000.

DRAFT

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE ADVANCING MARITIME CAREER PATHWAYS PER CAPITA GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY HAMPTON ROADS WORKFORCE COUNCIL (HRWC) REQUESTING $1,200,000. (Regional Council member Steve Cook abstained).

VIII. Regional Update

Nancy Grden presented regional updates, beginning with *Start in Hampton Roads*. She reminded the Council that the Roundtable and Hampton Roads Workforce Council (HRWC) commissioned the Fahrenheit Study, which helped inform the initiative. The VEDP pilot project demonstrated regional demand, leading to a $200,000 GO Virginia investment, matched by a $100,000 commitment from HRWC. She noted that the Hampton Roads Chamber is leading the initiative and highlighted the *Start in Hampton Roads* magazine and the landing page, **www.startinhamptonroads.com**.

Ms. Grden also provided an update on the HAMMER (Hampton Roads Advanced Manufacturing and Modernization for Emerging Robotics) program and invited Council members to attend the HAMMER Open House, taking place that day from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

She also provided an update on emerging federal Maritime Prosperity Zones (MPZs) and Opportunity Zones (OZs). She noted the potential for MPZs to strengthen the region's maritime industrial base through targeted federal support and private investment. She also discussed the Commonwealth's Opportunity Zone designation process, regional outreach efforts led by the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC), and the importance of positioning Hampton Roads to take advantage of future federal opportunities, noting that other states are moving quickly.

Ms. Grden reported on the recently closed out HRH2/Secure Energy Future Center (SEFC)grant on April 30, 2026 and official opening of the Center. The next in-person Regional Council meeting will be held at SEFC in October. She also reported on the active planning, per capita, and competitive grants,

IX. Other Business:

ON A MOTION MADE AND SECONDED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED THE REGIONAL COUNCIL POLICY #2 – ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION IN REGION 5 REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS AS PRESENTED IN THE AGENDA PACKET.

IX. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Mr. Frantz at **11:44 a.m**.

Respectfully submitted,

_____

Donna S. Morris
Secretary to the Regional Council

APPROVED

_____

Thomas R. Frantz
Chairman of the Regional Council

DRAFT

REGION 5 Q3 2026 QUARTERLY GRANT UPDATE

PLANNING GRANTS

Versability TECH Center – Versability – CLOSED – August 2026

- Developed architectural plans for the **75,000-square-foot TECH Center** to serve as an accessible, regional workforce training hub for maritime, advanced manufacturing, logistics, and technology sectors.
- Held **two Employer/Workforce Think Tank events**, gathering input from employers, workforce organizations, and education partners on workforce needs, training priorities, certifications, equipment, and partnerships.
- Identified **nine potential training areas**: HVAC, welding, forklift/logistics, marine painting and coating, sheet metal, unmanned systems, additive manufacturing, building maintenance, and cybersecurity.
- Employer and partner feedback informed **curriculum planning, certification pathways, facility requirements, and an implementation roadmap**, including expanded opportunities for people with disabilities and other underutilized workers.
- The project established a foundation for continued TECH Center development through **employer partnerships, fundraising, capital planning, and future public and private funding opportunities**.

SITES PLANNING GRANT

Hampton Roads Playbook Sites Planning (EVRIFA)

- **Milestones:** Completed all four Q3 milestones (100%), including selection of Timmons & Hickey Global to update the regional asset map and conduct the EVRIFA-led sites and aviation studies, establishment of a schedule for future asset map updates, and hiring of the EVRIFA staff member.
- **Activities:** Selected Timmons & Hickey Global following an RFP process that received three proposals. The Hampton Roads Playbook Aligned Sites and Business Attraction Readiness Study is underway, covering aviation and uncrewed systems, industrial site readiness, major project readiness, site prioritization, market-ready site profiles, and the regional asset map.
- **Outcomes:** This is a planning grant with no committed measurable outcomes. The primary deliverable, the regional sites and business attraction readiness study, remains in progress.
- **Barriers/Financial Reporting:** No remittance request was submitted for Q3. A request will be submitted in a future quarter once eligible expenses and proof of payment are documented.

IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

Start in Hampton Roads – HR Chamber Foundation

- **Milestones:** Met jobs portal development and content integration milestones. Portal testing and launch remain scheduled for Q4 2026, with testing beginning in early November and public launch planned for November 19, 2026.
- **Activities:** Continued developing and refining portal and microsite content, coordinating with the platform developer, and conducting outreach to employers, workforce partners, and regional stakeholders.

- **Outcomes:** Served 2 of 35 target businesses through the Featured Employer program: Hampton Roads Transit and Plasser American. Job placements remain at 0 of 70, and intern placements at 0 of 20, as the portal is not yet operational.
- **Barriers/Financial Reporting:** No remittance request was submitted in Q3. The first request is anticipated in Q4 following receipt of the remaining $75,000 in grant match funding from the Hampton Roads Workforce Council. No other barriers were reported.

Economic Access Initiative – Neighborhood

- **Milestones:** Completed Expansion Class 3 ahead of schedule in September. The Advisory Committee met on September 3 to coordinate recruitment, training, funding, employer requirements, and participant transitions into maritime employment.
- **Activities:** Advanced development of a dedicated Huntington Ingalls Industries (HII) pre-hire pathway for Neighborhood participants, coordinating efforts among the Hampton Roads Workforce Council, TCC Skilled Trades Academy, HII, Virginia Ship Repair Association, and other partners. Planning continued for the next cohort, beginning in October, focused entirely on maritime and industrial careers.
- **Outcomes:** Of 16 participants enrolled, 11 graduated, and 6 secured shipbuilding and repair jobs, earning a median wage of $27.54 per hour ($57,283 annually). Q3 outcomes reported include 5 businesses served, 11 credentials awarded, and 6 job placements. No individuals were reported as newly trained during Q3.
- **Barriers:** No barriers reported. The upcoming cohort will test the coordinated workforce model and identify opportunities to streamline participant transitions from recruitment through training and employment.

Hampton Roads Advanced Mfg. Modernization w/ Emerging Robotics Program (HAMMER) – GENEDGE

- **Milestones:** SCA achieved 100% completion of all program milestones. TST Fab continues work on Package 3, with project completion expected in Q4 2026.
- **Activities:** HAMMER is transitioning to a hands-on, step-by-step approach to cobotic welding, including technology assessments, workforce training, integration planning, process qualification, and capital access support. Outreach included presentations at two maritime manufacturing and fleet maintenance industry events.
- **Outcomes:** Added 7 new businesses served and 11 new people trained in Q3. No job placements have occurred to date; placements are expected following cobot purchases and completion of TST Package 3.
- **Barriers:** No barriers reported.

HR Economic Development Sites Readiness: Phase II

- **Three Oaks Industrial Site:** The City of Chesapeake completed the sale of the property in August 2026. DHCD confirmed that remaining grant funds **cannot be used for site improvements following the sale**. Water and sewer lines and the pump station have been installed.
- **Southampton Commerce and Logistics Center:** Site improvements are complete, and the consultant is finalizing **Tier 4 certification**. Due to project delays and inflation-related cost increases, the project is experiencing budget overage. HRPDC and Southampton are exploring and **reprogramming a portion of the remaining Three Oaks funds** to address the overage, pending the final Tier 4 cost determination.
- **Beale Farm:** The **site characterization report is complete**, with no barriers identified.

HR Playbook: DEFENSE – Hampton Roads Alliance

- **Milestones Completed:** Documented defense delegation findings, finalized the Defense Capabilities Matrix development contract with TeamingPro, advanced the National Defense Manufacturing Innovation Center proposal, and completed planning for the October 27 Ironclad Maritime Summit. The Hampton Roads Playbook Steering Committee met multiple times.
- **Milestones In Progress:** Ambassador CORE recruitment is underway (50% complete), with a council charter drafted and convenings planned for Q4.
- **Delayed Milestone:** Supply chain consulting and business recruitment remain at 0% pending consultant selection. The team is evaluating combining consultant roles to improve efficiency, with selection expected in Q4 2026.
- **Outcomes:** Attracted 4 businesses and expanded 2 businesses, generating 159 jobs. Business expansions included Defense Maritime Solutions (32 jobs; $30M+ investment) and Wilson Pipe (15 jobs; $3.5M investment). No businesses have been directly served through supply chain consulting to date.
- **Activities:** Continued Hampton Roads Playbook implementation, Ambassador CORE development, defense industry engagement, and operations of the DEAL Room at TowneBank.
- **Barriers/Financial Reporting:** No remittance request was submitted for Q3 because no reimbursable expenses were incurred. No other barriers are anticipated.

HR Mobility Innovation Center (MIC)

- **Milestones:** The project steering committee convened (50% complete). Curriculum development, infrastructure development, and system installation are 10% complete; surveillance and C2 system integration is 5% complete; equipment delivery and configuration is 10% complete; and FAA coordination is 5% complete.
- **Activities:** The NNEDA and USI Memorandum of Agreement was executed in September, and the City of Newport News issued the initial MIC purchase order to USI on September 29, positioning the project to begin procurement and subcontracting.
- **Outcomes:** No new outcomes were reported this quarter.
- **Barriers/Financial Reporting:** Site decisions for the NNPRCC location, including utilities, environmental and survey work, contracting responsibilities, and City approvals, remain a potential scheduling dependency. No remittance request was submitted in Q3. NNEDA expects to submit its first request by year-end with documentation of realized match contributions.

FAA Uncrewed Aerial Systems College Initiative & Talent Pipeline – Eastern Shore Community College

- **Milestones:** Established the Advisory Council and began fall academic and workforce classes on September 8 **(both 100% complete)**. The airport Memorandum of Agreement and hangar lease are each 80% complete. Aircraft upgrades and maintenance are 40% complete, software/equipment assessments 45%, business plan development 50%, and ecosystem mapping 50%. Airframe insurance procurement is 30% complete.
- **Activities:** Drafted the Statement of Work for aircraft upgrades and maintenance, evaluated three hangar options with Accomack County and EDA officials, drafted applications for three FastForward programs (CNC Programming & Machining, Additive Manufacturing, and Project Management), and purchased CNC programming simulators and equipment.

- **Outcomes: 48 successful completers trained in Q3.** No new jobs, businesses served, intern placements, apprenticeships, programs, credentials, dual-enrollment completions, or mentor contributions were reported this quarter.
- **Barriers:** Five online certification programs lost approval for students using Veterans Benefits following a federal change. ESCC has placed four programs on inactive status while exploring alternative delivery methods; this is expected to affect enrollment and credential projections. CompTIA Cloud+ remains available through a certified local instructor.
- **Financial Reporting:** The Q3 remittance request is expected to be submitted in October 2026.

COMPETITIVE GRANTS

Small Business Opportunity Center (SBOC)

- Provided services to **185** unique entrepreneurs
- Awarded **53** certifications
- Helped found **4** businesses
- Helped create **6** jobs
- Delivered **1,963** in training contact hours
- Helped businesses we support raise **$3,675**
- Participated in small business training events or workshops with **586** participants

Dominion Energy Innovation Center: SCALE

AED Commercial Real Estate

Careers in Aquaculture 2.0

- **Activities:** Continued expanding the online learning modules and secured enrollment of 6 new students from Northumberland County High School through an established teacher partnership. Students are expected to earn credentials in Spring 2027.
- **Outcomes:** Six additional students enrolled in the online aquaculture program. Credentials are pending completion of the semester and will not be available before this reporting period closes.
- **Funding and Program Expansion:** Secured federal funding to expand the program to include finfish alongside shellfish aquaculture. The program is expected to be rebranded Promoting Careers in Seafood and expanded across the Chesapeake Bay region, pending federal announcement approval.
- **Barriers:** Public disclosure of the federal funding and expansion details remains restricted until the federal announcement is made.
- #Students and Teachers trained – 6
- # Businesses Served – 0
- # Internships Placed – 0
- # Credentials Awarded - 0

2027 Grant Application Timeline

Step 1 – Region 5 & SME Review	Step 2 – Regional Council Decision	Step 3 – DHCD Decision	Step 4 – State Board Decision
Region 5 Application Deadline - NOON	**Region 5 Council Meeting 10:00 am – 12:00 pm**	**State Application Deadline - NOON**	**GO VA State Board Meeting - 1:00 p.m.**
December 11, 2026	**Thursday, January 21, 2027 # 44 VIRTUAL**	January 22, 2027	March 23, 2027
March 18, 2027	**Thursday, April 8, 2027 #45 In-person - VersAbility**	April 16, 2027	June 8, 2027
June 24, 2027	**Thursday, July 15, 2027 #46 VIRTUAL**	July 16, 2027	September 14, 2027
September 16, 2027	**Thursday, October 7, 2027 #47 In-person - TBD**	October 15, 2027	December 7, 2027

Quarterly Reports DUE prior to Region 5 Council Meetings At NOON
January 7, 2027
March 25, 2027
July 1, 2027
September 30, 2027

Planning Grant Rolling Deadline NOON
1/22/27
3/19/27
4/16/27
6/18/27
7/16/27
9/17/27
10/15/27
12/17/27