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.

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.
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
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Secretary to the Regional Council

APPROVED

Thomas R. Frantz
Chairman of the Regional Council