

GO Virginia - Region 4 Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 20, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 p.m.
GROW Capital Jobs Foundation Conference Room
200 S. 3rd Street, Richmond, Virginia

Members Participating:

Brian Anderson, Chandra Briggman, Dr. Joseph Casey, Elizabeth Creamer, Katie Fessler, Moses Foster, Bill Goodwin, Todd Haymore, Dr. Mark Moore, Dr. Paula Pando, Chuck Pollard, Dr. Michael Rao, Carter Reid, Natalie Slate, Monica Smith-Callahan, Paul Tuck, and Charles Wilson

Members Unable to Participate:

Will Clements, Mark Hourigan, Dr. Ted Raspillar, Martha Shickle, and Lorin Sodell

Guest Speakers

Elizabeth Creamer, CCWA; Bob Holsworth DecideSmart; Dr. Perry Rivers, Virginia State University (VSU)

Others in Attendance:

Serena Barry, Ann Isbell and Kim Allman, GROW Capital Jobs Staff; George Crowell, Harris, Hardy and Johnstone; Annie Conte and Joseph Dennie, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD); Denny Morris, GROW Capital Jobs Foundation Board Member; Jay Ellington Crater Planning District

Call to Order:

The meeting of the Region 4 Council convened with a majority of members participating. Mr. Todd Haymore, Vice Chair of the Council, chaired the meeting and called the meeting to order. Ms. Ann Isbell served as secretary and recorded the minutes of the meeting.

Citizen Comment:

No comments were made by the public; the public comment period was closed.

Consent Agenda:

Resolved, upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the Council meetings of May 31, 2023 were approved as presented and provided to Council members for review prior to the meeting.

Financial Report

Mr. Crowell was unable to attend the meeting and Mr. Flohr provided a brief overview of the Financial Report noting there is \$137K of cash on hand as of August 31, 2023. These funds represent additional cash available to cover Foundation expenses above the funding from DHCD. The Foundation also has funds available from DHCD for the FY2023 budget of \$250K and the FY2024 budget of \$250K. All project funding is up to date.

Resolved, upon motion duly made and seconded, the August 31, 2023 financial report was approved as presented and provided to Council members for review prior to the meeting.

Foundation Report:

Mr. Flohr reported that contracts for the Reynolds Community College project for lab technician talent development (ARISE) and the GOTEC project focused on career connection labs for middle schools in Dinwiddie, Prince George, Petersburg, Hopewell and Colonial Heights have both been finalized.

Mr. Flohr further reported that the GROW Capital Jobs Foundation support team met in person with the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) team to discuss the GO Virginia program and answer their questions. Several questions were raised about verification of the established GO Virginia metrics and follow up of projects beyond the performance period to insure they were being sustained for continued successes. They identified 35 projects from the 9 regions to review which included four projects in Region 4. He also informed the Council members they would be receiving a survey via email and asked the members to respond in a timely manner.

Mr. Flohr also informed the Council that Region 4 staff participated in the DHCD retreat on September 11 followed by the GO Virginia state board meeting on September 12. Joy Polefrone from the Alliance for Better Medicine participated on a panel to present an update on the Advance Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Scale Up, the importance of the initial planning grant and the continued support from GO Virginia. At the GO Virginia Board meeting on September 12 the Mid Atlantic Broadband project led by Region 3, with support from Region 4, confirmed receipt of the federal match required for final approval of the project. This \$5 million grant includes middle mile access for MaMac and other sites in the Crater/Virginia Gateway Region footprint.

Project Presentation

Ms. Elizabeth Creamer of CCWA presented the proposal for the Talent Pathways Initiative (TPI) on behalf of Brightpoint Community College, the coordinating entity selected by the TPI task force and previously approved by the Council. Coalitions of the two clusters selected for Region 4 (Advanced Pharmaceutical Manufacturing and Information Technology) will develop and present comprehensive plans that identify strategies and highest-impact pathway projects for future implementation, including training programs that prepare regional residents for available jobs. The outcomes will include a situational analysis of the region's workforce needs; an asset map of the region's training resources, including CTE, workforce, certifications, and degrees, along with a gap analysis and a talent pipeline development plan. The applicant is requesting \$250,000 in GO Virginia funds and will secure the required 2:1 match.

Resolved, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Talent Pathways Initiative was approved for review by the GROW Capital Jobs Foundation Board and Subject Matter Experts contingent on final match documentation prior to submission.

Growth & Diversification Plan Update:

Bob Holsworth, DecideSmart, provided the Council with a status of the work being done to update the Growth and Diversification plan. Mr. Holsworth informed the Council that the 2023 review is not intended to write an entirely new plan but to sharpen focus in a manner that can best impact economic development goals. He outlined that examples of the guidance from DHCD included developing a closer relationship with VEDP. In addition, the final product will identify opportunities that may not qualify for GO Virginia funding but will be useful in pursuing other grant opportunities such as main street entrepreneurial activities and job growth in construction and health care.

Project Spotlight

Dr. Patrice Perry-Rivers presented an update on the Region 4 project "VSU Minority Small Business Launch Center". Dr. Perry-Rivers reported that due to immense interest and a void in the small business support market, the project has exceeded its key metrics prior to the end of the grant period and the program has been recognized regionally and internationally for impact and substance.

Adjournment:

There being no other business, and upon motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

Todd Haymore, Vice Chair

Ann M. Isbell, Acting Secretary