



Region 8

*Cities of: Buena Vista, Harrisonburg, Lexington, Staunton, Waynesboro, & Winchester
Counties of: Augusta, Bath, Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Page, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah, & Warren*

GO Virginia Region 8 Grant Review Committee Minutes

Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 10:58 a.m. – 12:04 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting: AD Engineering - 1133 Wissler Rd, Mt Jackson, VA 22842

Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89168204957?pwd=oHlCylFQqhiEw7bYhP5EEqKUIH0h2u.1>

FIRST	LAST	AFFILIATION	ATTENDED
Tracy	Fitzsimmons*	Shenandoah University, Committee Chair	Virtual
Ashley	Driver (Vice)	AD Engineering	X
Devon	Anders**	InterChange Group	X
Mike	Goertzen	Serco, Inc.	X
Emily	Marlow-Beck	Marlow Auto Group	X
Keith	May	Cottonwood Commercial	Virtual
Mary	McDermott	Retired Legal Counsel, NTelos	X

*Tracy Fitzsimmons recused herself physically from the meeting during the Tech Hubs discussion and vote. She returned for the TPI discussion and vote.

**Devon Anders arrived after roll call and was present for all votes.

Also present; Deborah Flippo (Region 8 Executive Director), Joel Hensley (Region 8 Administrative Coordinator), Nick Sabo (Winchester Regional Airport Authority, Executive Director). Sharon Johnson (Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board, Executive Director) attended virtually.

Call to Order

The April 9, 2024 Grant Review Committee meeting for GO Virginia Region 8 was called to order by Chair Tracy Fitzsimmons at 10:58 a.m.

Roll Call/Quorum Confirmation

After brief introductions, Joel Hensley took roll call, and a quorum was confirmed.

Approval of January 9, 2024 Grant Review Committee Minutes

On the motion by Devon Anders and second by Mike Goertzen, the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Grant Review Committee Action

Deborah provided an update on allocated but unspent funds that DHCD and NSVRC discovered. A portion of these funds now reallocated to the Region 8 per capita balance can be used to add scope and increase funding request to the application about to be discussed. Deborah reminded the Committee of the upcoming financial swipe.

Planning Grant Application-Winchester Regional Airport Tech Hubs

Nick Sabo, Executive Director of the Winchester Regional Airport provided information on his application and how the study grant could provide a benefit to the Airport and their strategic plans, but also how it could be of benefit to the region. The airport is a part of the Virginia Advanced Air Mobility Alliance as well as other partnerships, but the glaring question regards a trained workforce. Winchester Airport would like to consider studying current assets and demand for careers in the aviation sector. He also shared other exciting opportunities that are happening at the Airport including a NASA study which is looking at how the Airport can generate their own sources of energy. After some discussion, Mike Goertzen motioned to recommend approval of the Winchester Regional Airport Pipeline study to the full Region 8 Council, including a potential increase in scope, with a corresponding increase in the budget to maximize the strategic use of Region 8 funds prior to the end of the fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Mary McDermott and the project vote passed unanimously.

Talent Pipeline Initiative (TPI) Project Proposal from Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board (SVWDB)

Deborah Flippo summarized the TPI program and its purpose. She introduced Sharon Johnson, the Executive Director for SVWDB who was selected by the Executive Committee to be qualified to perform as the Region 8 TPI Coordinating Entity, and then submitted this proposal. The Committee discussed the Talent Pathways Initiative to analyze the region's advanced manufacturing and transportation and logistics industries. Members discussed with Ms. Johnson identifying industry leaders and her intention to work with stakeholders such as the Shenandoah Valley Partnership, local colleges and universities and education leaders. Discussion also centered around identifying transferable skills that can be used across various industries within the region, and emerging markets and industries that can be attracted to the region.

Devon Anders motioned to recommend approval of the TPI proposal from the Shenandoah Valley Workforce Development Board to the full Region 8 Council, seconded by Ashley Driver. The Committee approved the recommendation unanimously. Keith May left the meeting before the vote.

Project Update: Emil & Grace Shihadeh Innovation Center

Joel Hensley noted that Winchester City Public Schools were on spring break last week and that he looked forward to having an update ready from either the Shihadeh Center or the Rockbridge Area Advanced Manufacturing project for the full Council meeting on April 23. He discussed the post-project updates that are provided at the Council meeting and a potential Post-Project Review Committee.

Public Comment

No one from the public participated.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Region 8 Grant Review Committee the meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m. by Chair Fitzsimmons.