  **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**

Monday, April 7, 2025, 2:00pm – 2:35pm

*Hybrid Meeting:* JMU, 1031 Harrison Street, 2nd Floor, Harrisonburg, VA

*Zoom:* <https://zoom.us/j/96367744146?pwd=iNE1aDP7hAw2vi3P4lYcKOGjwkD6qF.1>

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| **FIRST**  | **LAST**  | **AFFILIATION** | **ATTENDED** |
| Ashley | Driver | AD Engineering, Committee Chair | X |
| Devon | Anders\* | InterChange Group |  |
| Mike | Goertzen | Serco, Inc. | X |
| Emily | Marlow-Beck | Marlow Auto Group |  |
| Mary | McDermott | Retired Legal Counsel, NTelos | X |
| Doug | Moyer | Sentara RMH |  |
| Cary | Nelson | H.N. Funkhouser |  |
| Anthony | Tongen | James Madison University | X |
| Bobby | Hobbs | CornerStone Bank | X |

Also present: Alison Varner-Denbigh (Region 8 Executive Director) and Rebecca Hess (JMU admin/IT Support). Jeanian Clark (LRCC Grant applicant) attended virtually.

**Call to Order**

The April 7, 2025 Grant Review Committee meeting for GO Virginia Region 8 was called to order by Chair Ashley Driver at 2:00pm.

**Roll Call/Quorum Confirmation**

After brief introductions, Alison Varner-Denbigh took roll call, and a quorum was confirmed.

**Approval of January 21, 2025 Grant Review Committee Minutes**

On the motion by Mary McDermott and second by Mike Goertzen, the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

**Grant Review Committee Action**

*Implementation Per-Capita Project: LRCC “Expressways to Power”*

 Jeanian Clark of the Laurel Ridge Community College discussed the development of the powerline worker program, which aims to address the lack of workforce in the powerline industry and is expected to start in September 2025. The program will be co-piloted with Southside Community College, with students attending classes at LRCC and completing the final component at Southside CC. The program is industry-certified and recognized nationally. The initial program is a cohort of 12 students who will move through the program together, receiving 7 industry certifications. After the initial program, the cohorts will consist of 30 students each with 3 cohorts a year, totaling 90 students trained per year. The GRC was impressed with the clarity and the quality of the application. After the presentation, the team planned to move into the closed session to discuss the application in more detail. Bobby Hobbs motioned to recommend approval of the “Expressways to Power” Powerline Training from Laurel Ridge Community College to the full Region 8 Council, seconded by Anthony Tongen. The Committee approved the recommendation unanimously.

**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 2:55 p.m. by Chair Driver.