 *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 Executive Committee Minutes**

Tuesday, April 1, 2025, 10:00am to 8:30am

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **FIRST** | **LAST** | **AFFILIATION** | **ATTENDED** |
| Yolanda | Shields | YesBuilds, Region 8 Chair | X |
| Janet | Clarke | Clarke Consulting, Region 8 Vice-Chair | X |
| Kim | Blosser | Laurel Ridge Community College | X |
| Mike | Stolarz | UTS Systems |  |
| Lai | Lee | High Meadow Strategies | X |
| Conrad | Helsley | Cottonwood Commercial | X |

Additional Participants in Attendance: Alison Varner-Denbigh (Region 8 Executive Director), Brandon Davis (NSVRC Fiscal Agent), and Jeaniane Clark (LRCC Grant Applicant).

**Call to Order**

The April 1, 2025 virtual Executive Committee meeting for GO Virginia Region 8 was called to order by Chair Yolanda Shields at 8:30a.m.

**Quorum Confirmation**

Alison Varner-Denbigh confirmed the quorum was met per FOIA requirements. No Meeting Minutes to approve from prior meeting.

**Approval Recommendation of Laurel Ridge Community College Powerline Training Program Grant Application**

Jeanine Clarke from LRCC was available to answer questions regarding the application. Overall, well written application with minimal questioning. Janet Clarke motioned to approve the recommendation to the Grants Review Committee, Lai Lee seconded the motion, and the executive committee voted unanimously. Kim Blosser (President of LRCC and Conrad Helsley (SVEC) abstained from vote due to potential conflict of interest.

**Approval Recommendation of FY26 Capacity Building Funds Budget**

Brandon Davis (NSVRC) presented the budget and explained each expense line item. The spreadsheet shared had notes for each expense line item with further explanation. Opened for questioning. Janet Clarke motioned to approve the FY26 Capacity Building Funds Budget to be presented to the April Regional Council for final approval, Conrad Helsley seconded the motion, and the executive committee voted unanimously.

**Approval Recommendation of Regional Council Candidates**

* Mitchell “Mitch” Moore from Shenandoah University (4-year term)
* Hobart “Hobby” Bauhan from Virginia Poultry Federation (4-year term)
* Lisa Botkin from Shenandoah Valley Regional Airport (4-year term)
* Shawn Pellington from McKee Foods (4-year term)

Kim Blosser motioned to approve the recommendation of the above candidates to the April Regional Council for final approval, Janet Clarke seconded the motion, and the executive committee voted unanimously.

**Approval Recommendation of Regional Council Member Term Extensions**

* Yolanda Shields, Current GoVaR8 Chair – 4 year term to April 2029
* Emily Marlow Beck, Marlow Auto Group –2 year term to April 2027
* Ashley Driver, GRC Chair – 2year term to October 2027

Lai Lee motioned to approve the recommendation of the above regional council member term extensions to the April Regional Council for final approval, Conrad Helsley seconded the motion, and the executive committee voted unanimously.

**Executive Director’s Report**

Alison Varner-Denbigh provided the updated internal pipeline project tracking spreadsheet for review. She spoke about the four brainstorming sessions over the last couple weeks. Alison is working to consolidate the feedback and potential projects produced from these brainstorming sessions (with collaboration of Cody Anderson, DHCD).

Alison spoke about the Talent Pipeline Initiative meeting and provided a draft of the TPI Final Grant Report Outline for DHCD submission in July 2025. The CSPDC is working on identifying stakeholders for focus groups for the Growth & Diversification Plan. The G&D committee members will co-host the focus groups with a member of the GoVaR8 council during the month of April and clarify the urgency to schedule the virtual focus group events.

Alison provided PowerPoint slides from the State GO Virginia Meeting on 3/11/25 that included the BioTech Project and GoTec Initiative for inspiration for Region 8. Discussed important upcoming dates and decided to not accept the JMU Spring Game Event Offer to host due to short notice for attendance.

**Public Comment**

No one from the public participated.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Region 8 Executive Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:34 a.m. by Yolanda Shields.