

Minutes
Legislation and Policy Committee Meeting
Board of Directors of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership
March 17, 2021
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
[Zoom Meeting]

Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Chair Marianne Radcliff, who noted that a quorum was present.

Members present: Chair Marianne Radcliff, Carrie Chenery, Deborah Flippo, and Ned Masee, *ex officio*

Members absent: Bill Hayter and Dan Pleasant

Other Board Members: Secretary Brian Ball, Dan Clemente, Rick Harrell, Secretary Aubrey Layne, and Vince Mastracco

VEDP staff present: Lindsay Barker, Vince Barnett, Christine Bell, Jamie Canup, David Devan, Jason El Koubi, Stephanie Florie, Sharon Grant, Bob Grennell, Sandi McNinch, Lori Melancon, Debbie Melvin, Stephen Moret, Christy Morton, Jordan Snelling, and Carrie Vuori

Guests present: Charles Kennington, Kim McKay, and Deputy Secretary Cass Rasnick

Opening Remarks

Chair Radcliff welcomed guests to the electronic meeting of VEDP's Legislation and Policy Committee. Chair Radcliff shared these remarks: "As you well know, the Governor declared a state of emergency in March 2020, due to the potential spread of COVID-19. Because an in-person meeting is unsafe and we wish to discharge our lawful purposes, duties and responsibilities, we are permitted by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, as amended by the State Budget, to meet by electronic means without a quorum of our members being physically assembled at one location.

We are gathered now in a Zoom environment that is open to the public. Should anyone from the public get disconnected from the public Zoom environment and be unable to re-engage, he or she should call (804) 278-7702 and speak to Jennifer Garrett. We will do our best to re-engage and will halt the public portion of the meeting until the connection can be re-established.

Here are reminders of a few things that will be different than our in-person meetings:

- Everything on the public Zoom environment will be recorded, and the recording will be posted on VEDP's website.
- All votes will be taken by roll call.

- Please use the mute function unless you are speaking—and remember to unmute at the appropriate time.
- During the public comment period, any member of the public wishing to make a comment may simply unmute and speak at that time or use the Chat function and ask to be given an opportunity to speak.
- Likewise, committee members may simply unmute themselves to speak or use the Chat function during the meeting."

Public Comment Period

Chair Radcliff solicited public comments. There were none.

Approval of Minutes for January 27, 2021 Meeting

Chair Radcliff asked for approval of the minutes from the January 27, 2021, meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Flippo and seconded by Ms. Chenery, and the minutes were approved as presented by roll call vote:

Upon the vote:	Ms. Radcliff	Aye
	Ms. Chenery	Aye
	Ms. Flippo	Aye
	Mr. Hayter	Absent for vote
	Mr. Pleasant	Absent for vote

General Assembly Budget and Legislative Results – Christy Morton

Ms. Morton began by sharing a general overview of the 2021 General Assembly sessions. The General Assembly regular session started on January 13 and was initially planned for a 30-day session. Ms. Morton mentioned they implemented bill limits this year due to the short session, and there were approximately 1,500 bills introduced.

Ms. Morton shared that on February 4, Governor Northam called for a special session to begin on February 10. The addition of the special session aligned with the typical 46-day short session and allowed them to continue working on the budget and pandemic relief. Ms. Morton mentioned the General Assembly adjourned on March 1, and they are scheduled to reconvene on April 7 to consider any amendments that the Governor may make to bills or budget.

Ms. Morton reviewed the following VEDP budget initiatives approved by the General Assembly.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Additional investment (\$M) FY22</u>
Virginia Talent Accelerator	2.4
Virginia Jobs Investment Program ¹	2.0
Office of Education and Labor Market Alignment ¹	0.5
Virginia Business Ready Sites Program ¹	5.0
International Trade Plan Funding	1.1
Microsoft ¹	5.6
CMA CGM ²	6.3

¹Included in the Governor’s introduced budget

²Announced after the release of the Governor’s introduced budget

Ms. Morton thanked the Governor's office, the Secretary of Commerce and Trade and his team, and the General Assembly, and the money committee staff partners for all of their work with us throughout the session on these and other initiatives.

Ms. Morton talked about the following bills that VEDP requested this year.

- **SB1418 (McPike)** – Waive or reduce the capital investment requirement and/or local match for teleworking jobs for the Commonwealth Development Opportunity Fund
- **HB1967 (Bagby)** – Align VJIP to the Virginia Minimum Wage Act. The minimum wage increases in May. This aligns the threshold to 1.2 times the state or federal minimum wage, whichever is higher.
- **SB1314 (Hashmi)** – Create the office of education and labor market alignment to provide information and analysis on linkages between education and employment outcomes
- **SB1156 (Howell)** – MEI Custom Grant Legislation for Microsoft
- **HB5001 (Torian)** – MEI Custom Grant Legislation for CMA CGM

Ms. Morton shared that all of VEDP's legislation was approved by the General Assembly. She mentioned the Secretary of Commerce and Trade's office, and Cass Rasnick led the efforts for the two MEI Custom Grant bills.

Ms. Morton also spoke about other approved legislation and its impact on economic development. Related items included non-VEDP administered incentives, broadband, tax conformity, new programs/entities, and workgroups.

Chair Radcliff shared she wanted to thank Christy, Stephen, and everyone in the Secretary of Commerce and Trade's office who worked on these initiatives relating to economic development.

Ms. Chenery said congratulations to everyone, and you should be proud.

Ms. Chenery asked a question that referred back to the other budget items impacting economic development. She wondered what was going on with the Transportation Partnership Opportunity Fund (TPOF).

Ms. Morton explained that \$7.4 million had been moved from TPOF to the Virginia Commercial Spaceflight Authority to fund a couple of projects on the Eastern Shore. One project is to support construction of a hangar for unmanned vehicle operations for \$2.4 million, and the second is for \$5 million for the authority to support the development of an improved launch team maintenance facility complex.

Ms. Chenery asked if the Coalfield Tax Credit suggests that there would be zero continued funding for Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA). Ms. Barker mentioned that \$0.5 million in FY22 was provided in the budget for VCEDA since they were canceling the tax credits.

Secretary Ball said he thought they had not sunset it for metallurgical coal, which sunsets in 2023.

Ms. Chenery asked if the new position on Secretary of Labor is a delayed enactment on the next administration? It was discussed that the role of the Chief Workforce Advisor would be rolled into this newly created secretariat and that it would take effect on July 1.

Closed Session

Strategic planning and resource allocations for priority initiatives.

A motion was made by Ms. Flippo and seconded by Ms. Chenery to move into a closed meeting. The motion shown below was approved by roll call vote.

I MOVE THAT THE LEGISLATION AND POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP AUTHORITY CONVENE A CLOSED MEETING PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE §2.2-3711(A)(50) TO ENGAGE IN A DISCUSSION OR CONSIDERATION OF THOSE PORTIONS OF VEDP's STRATEGIC PLAN, MARKETING PLAN OR OPERATIONAL PLAN, THAT MAY RELATE TO TARGET COMPANIES, SPECIFIC ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES AND STAFF FOR MARKETING ACTIVITIES, AND SPECIFIC MARKETING ACTIVITIES THAT WOULD REVEAL TO THE COMMONWEALTH'S COMPETITORS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THE STRATEGIES INTENDED TO BE DEPLOYED BY THE COMMONWEALTH, THEREBY ADVERSELY AFFECTING THE FINANCIAL INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

Upon the vote:	Ms. Radcliff	Aye
	Ms. Chenery	Aye
	Ms. Flippo	Aye
	Mr. Hayter	Absent for vote
	Mr. Pleasant	Absent for vote

Back in Open Meeting, Certification of Closed Meeting – Followed by a Roll Call vote:

WHEREAS, THE LEGISLATION AND POLICY COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP AUTHORITY HAS CONVENEED A CLOSED MEETING ON THIS DATE PURSUANT TO AN AFFIRMATIVE RECORDED VOTE AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE VIRGINIA FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT; AND

WHEREAS, THE ACT REQUIRES A CERTIFICATION BY THIS COMMITTEE THAT SUCH CLOSED MEETING WAS CONDUCTED IN CONFORMITY WITH THE ACT;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE COMMITTEE CERTIFIES THAT, TO THE BEST OF EACH MEMBER'S KNOWLEDGE, (I) ONLY PUBLIC BUSINESS MATTERS LAWFULLY EXEMPTED FROM OPEN MEETING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE ACT WERE DISCUSSED IN THE CLOSED MEETING TO WHICH THIS CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION APPLIES, AND (II) ONLY SUCH PUBLIC BUSINESS MATTERS AS WERE IDENTIFIED IN THE MOTION BY WHICH THE CLOSED MEETING WAS CONVENEED WERE HEARD, DISCUSSED, OR CONSIDERED IN THE CLOSED MEETING BY THE COMMITTEE.

Upon the vote:	Ms. Radcliff	Aye
	Ms. Chenery	Aye
	Ms. Flippo	Aye

Mr. Hayter
Mr. Pleasant

Absent for vote
Absent for vote

Anticipated Topics for Next Meeting

Ms. Barker mentioned the next committee meeting is on Wednesday, April 28.

Chair Radcliff said at the time of our next meeting we will know the outcome of the reconvened session.

Chair Radcliff asked if any board members have any topics they would like to discuss next time. Ms. Chenery said a simple update would be appropriate.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Radcliff adjourned the meeting at 12:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Bell
Acting Recording Secretary

DRAFT