

Minutes
Rural Virginia Action Committee Meeting
Board of Directors of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership
April 28, 2021
12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
[Zoom Meeting]

Welcome and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:31 p.m. by Chair Rick Harrell, who noted that a quorum was present.

Members present: Chair Rick Harrell, Secretary Brian Ball, Carrie Chenery, Stephen Edwards, Deborah Flippo, Secretary Aubrey Layne, and Ned Masee, *ex officio*

Members absent: Dan Pleasant

Other Board Members: Dan Clemente, Marianne Radcliff, and Xavier Richardson

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

Guests present: Nancy Agee, Joshua Lewis, Jill Loope, and Deputy Secretary Cass Rasnick

Opening Remarks

Chair Harrell welcomed guests to the electronic meeting of VEDP's Rural Virginia Action Committee. Chair Harrell shared these remarks: "As you well know, the Governor declared a state of emergency in March 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 Harrell solicited public comments. There were none.

Approval of Minutes for March 17, 2021 Meeting

Chair Harrell asked for approval of the minutes from the March 17, 2021, meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Chenery and seconded by Mr. Edwards, and the minutes were approved as presented by roll call vote:

Upon the vote:	Secretary Ball	Absent for vote
	Ms. Chenery	Aye
	Mr. Edwards	Aye
	Ms. Flippo	Aye
	Mr. Harrell	Aye
	Secretary Layne	Absent for vote
	Mr. Pleasant	Absent for vote

Closed Session

Chair Harrell stated that we will now move into a Closed Session to discuss the Rural and Small Metro Technology Centers Initiative and VEDP's Business Retention and Expansion Strategy. A motion was made by Ms. Chenery and seconded by Ms. Flippo and approved by roll call vote, and the Committee moved into a closed meeting.

I MOVE THAT THE RURAL VIRGINIA ACTION 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:	Secretary Ball	Aye
	Ms. Chenery	Aye
	Mr. Edwards	Aye
	Ms. Flippo	Aye
	Mr. Harrell	Aye

Secretary Layne Absent for vote
Mr. Pleasant Absent for vote

Back in Open Meeting, Certification of Closed Meeting – Followed by a Roll Call vote:
WHEREAS, THE RURAL VIRGINIA ACTION COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP AUTHORITY HAS CONVENED 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 CONVENED WERE HEARD, DISCUSSED, OR CONSIDERED IN THE CLOSED MEETING BY THE COMMITTEE.

Upon the vote:

Secretary Ball	Aye
Ms. Chenery	Aye
Mr. Edwards	Aye
Ms. Flippo	Aye
Mr. Harrell	Aye
Secretary Layne	Aye
Mr. Pleasant	Absent for vote

Open Discussion and Anticipated Topics for Next Meeting

Chair Harrell mentioned we were out of time, and he asked if anyone had suggestions for topics for the next meeting to please email him.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Harrell adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Bell
Acting Recording Secretary