

**Minutes  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Board of Directors of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority  
September 28, 2022  
3:30 p.m.**

**901 East Cary Street  
One James Center, Katherine Johnson Room  
Richmond, VA 23219**

**Welcome and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 p.m. by Acting Chair Caren Merrick, who noted that a quorum was present.

In person Committee Members: Carrie Chenery, Rick Harrell, and Secretary Caren Merrick,

Committee Members Absent: Secretary Stephen Cummings and Marianne Radcliff

Other Board Members: Mimi Coles, Stephen Edwards, John Hewa, Pace Lochte, Nick Rush, Will Sessoms

In person VEDP Staff Members: Vince Barnett, Nicole David, Michael Dreiling, Jason El Koubi, Stephanie Florie, Jennifer Garrett, Stephen Hartka, Lori Melancon, Lisa Wallmeyer

Virtual VEDP Staff Members: Christy Morton and Carrie Vuori

Guests: Jason Powell and Wyatt Toehlke

**Public Comment Period**

Acting Chair Merrick solicited public comments. There were none.

**Approval of Minutes for June 22, 2022 Meeting**

Acting Chair Merrick asked for approval of the minutes from the June 22, 2022 Committee meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Harrell and seconded by Ms. Chenery and the motion was unanimously approved.

**President's Report**

Acting Chair Merrick introduced Mr. El Koubi to deliver the President's Report.

Mr. El Koubi explained that he would provide a brief overview of his report today and would deliver the full report during the Board meeting on September 29, 2022.

Mr. El Koubi said that VEDP set aggressive goals for this fiscal year. He provided an overview of progress to date in meeting those goals. He noted that VEDP is a little behind on leads generated, as the team started this fiscal year not fully staffed. Now that the full team is in place, he anticipates they will catch up soon.

Mr. El Koubi expressed concern about the power transmission issue in Northern Virginia for data center development. He explained that VEDP will need significant data center investment to meet its capital investment goals this year. He said VEDP is monitoring the situation.

Mr. El Koubi said that Virginia needs to be ready to deliver a clear message about lessons learned and how this type of situation will be prevented in the future.

Acting Chair Merrick provided additional context on the data center issue. She emphasized that Virginia is a leader in the world for data centers and that the localities where these data centers are operating depend on this revenue.

Mr. El Koubi spoke about the robust project pipeline. He said VEDP is on track to meet its goals for the year.

Mr. El Koubi shared information on VEDP's Major Initiatives and said that all are on track.

Mr. El Koubi spoke about the great collaboration that VEDP is enjoying with the Administration and other partners.

Mr. El Koubi shared that there has been steady improvement in site selection consultant perceptions. He noted that Virginia has moved up in the *Area Development* ranking.

Mr. El Koubi spoke about VEDP's efforts in standing up new activities and expanding others. He mentioned General Assembly studies, VEDP's Regional Talent Solutions and Business Outreach, and site development.

Mr. El Koubi shared his top priorities for the next few months. He highlighted finalizing and submitting legislative and budget priorities for the coming year; supporting Secretary Merrick and team in developing the Governor's comprehensive Economic Development Policy for the Commonwealth; and increasing VEDP's focus on lead generation in several high potential sectors, a few of which he noted will be discussed during the Board's closed session its meeting on September 29, 2022.

Acting Chair Merrick suggested adding a presentation at a future meeting on moving projects through the pipeline, including VEDP's most effective and successful methodologies for securing project wins. The Committee supported this idea and VEDP staff committed to adding this topic to a future meeting agenda.

Acting Chair Merrick thanked Mr. El Koubi for his report.

### **Closed Meeting:**

#### **Personnel**

A motion was made by Ms. Chenery and seconded by Mr. Harrell to move into a closed meeting. The motion shown below was unanimously approved by the members.

I MOVE THAT THE EXECUTIVE 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)(1) TO ENGAGE IN A DISCUSSION OR CONSIDERATION REGARDING THE ASSIGNMENT, APPOINTMENT, PROMOTION, PERFORMANCE, DEMOTION, SALARIES, DISCIPLINING, OR RESIGNATION OF VEDP'S EMPLOYEES, INCLUDING PERFORMANCE METRICS AND SUCCESSION PLANNING FOR EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP.

Acting Chair Merrick requested that Mr. El Koubi be allowed to stay for the discussion. The Committee members agreed.

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

WHEREAS, THE EXECUTIVE 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:	Acting Chair Merrick	Aye
	Carrie Chenery	Aye
	Mr. Harrell	Aye

### **Next Meeting and Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be held in December, exact date and time TBD. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole David  
Acting Recording Secretary

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