

**Minutes**  
**Rural Virginia Action Committee Meeting**  
**Board of Directors of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership**  
**June 11, 2025**  
**12:30 p.m.**  
**One James Center, 9th Floor – Board Room**  
**Richmond, Virginia**

**Welcome and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. by Chair Nick Rush. A quorum was present.

In-person Committee members: Stephen Edwards, Rick Harrell, John Hewa, Connie Loughhead, Secretary Juan Pablo Segura, Nick Rush

Absent Committee members: Nancy Howell Agee, Mimi Coles

Other Board members present: Todd House, Pace Lochte, Will Sessoms

**Public Comment Period**

Chair Rush solicited public comments. There were none.

**Approval of Minutes for March 5, 2025**

Chair Rush requested approval of the March 5, 2025, meeting minutes. Upon motion by Ms. Loughhead, seconded by Mr. Edwards, the minutes were unanimously approved.

**Update: Emergency Committee on the Impacts of Federal Workforce and Funding Reductions (May 12<sup>th</sup> Presentation)**

David Devan, Senior Vice President of Policy and Strategic Partnerships, provided an overview of VEDP's presentation to the Emergency Committee on the Impacts of Federal Workforce and Funding Reductions in Wytheville, Virginia on May 12, 2025. The presentation highlighted past, present, and future investments in economic resilience in the Commonwealth. A copy of the presentation is included in the Committee materials.

**Cardinal News Presentation**

Chairman Rush welcomed guest speaker Dwayne Yancey, Founding Editor of *Cardinal News*, to the Committee meeting. *Cardinal News* is an independent online news site serving southwest and southside Virginia. Mr. Yancey highlighted demographic trends in rural Virginia. A copy of his presentation is included in the Committee materials.

**Adjournment**

The next meeting of the Rural Virginia Action Committee will be held on September 17, 2025. There being no further business, Chair Rush adjourned the meeting at 1:23 p.m.