



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
MARY BALL WASHINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

January 17, 2020
Rappahannock Community College
Warsaw, Virginia

MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING: Chair - William Beale, Wally Beauchamp, Lisa Hull

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kim McClellan

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Val Foulds

STAFF: GWRC – Kate Gibson and Jennifer Morgan, **Community Futures** – Neal Barber

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Beale called the meeting to order at 11:05 am with a quorum present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No comment was received.

PRESENTATION REGARDING STRATEGIC DOING

Mr. Neal Barber presented to the Council a proposal to host a regional workforce summit led by the Regional Council and staff. Mr. Barber stated that there is a disconnect on what educators provide and what the business community needs and a conversation to bridge this gap needs to be had. Ms. Hull suggested staff reach out to the Business Services Team in the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula to coordinate this effort. The Council instructed staff to attend the Business Services Team meeting.

NOVEMBER 15, 2019 MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

Mr. Beauchamp moved to approve the November 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes and Ms. Hull seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Morgan presented the financial report for April 2017-November 2019. Ms. Hull moved to approve the financial report and Mr. Beauchamp seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION IN PREPARATION OF COLLABORATION MEETING WITH REGION 5

Mr. Beale introduced to the Executive Committee an upcoming meeting with the Region 5 Chair and support staff, along with partners in the region working in the water management economy to discuss a possible project idea.

DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL INTER-REGIONAL COLLABORATION

Ms. Morgan presented to the Executive Committee two potential inter-regional collaboration projects that have been pitched to Region 6. One on unmanned systems and the other on hemp research and production. The Council instructed Ms. Morgan to peruse the unmanned systems project and to conduct more research on the hemp project.



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DISCUSSION OF STATE BOARD WORKGROUP MEETINGS

Ms. Morgan informed the Executive Committee about upcoming DHCD workgroup sessions to discuss issues around GO Virginia and asked the Council to attend these meetings. The topics to be discussed are on workforce development, match requirements, definition of traded sectors, and rate of investment on GO Virginia projects.

DISCUSSION OF VEDP'S SITE ASSESSMENT AND ROADSHOW

Ms. Morgan informed the Executive Committee that VEDP has requested to work with Region 6 to help localities understand their site characterization assessment from VEDP at a regional summit. Ms. Morgan stated she is in conversations with VEDP and the regional economic development organizations to find a time to host this event.

DISCUSSION OF ACT WORK READY PROGRAM

Ms. Morgan asked the Executive Committee if she should continue researching and pursuing a project around the ACT Work Ready Program. The Executive Committee directed that this is not her role and project development should be done by the applicant.

DISCUSSION OF NEW MEMBER HANDBOOK

Ms. Morgan presented a draft New Member Handbook to help Council members understand their role on the Council.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT APPLICATION PROCESS

Ms. Morgan presented to the Executive Committee a draft new project application form. This form helps clarify questions for project applicants. The Executive Committee discussed rearranging the project application timeline to help applications move faster and have more time for discussion with the Interview Panel. Mr. Beale suggested having the Interview Panel meet at the Executive Committee meeting, one month before the Full Council meeting.

DISCUSSION OF CAPACITY BUILDING FUNDS WITH 50% MATCH

Ms. Morgan reminded the Council that there were still funds that only required a 50% match available and suggested issuing a specific topical RFP to utilize these funds. No decision was made and the Executive Committee agreed to revisit this topic at their next meeting.

DISCUSSION OF AREAS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR REGION 6 GROWTH AND DIVERSIFICATION PLAN

Ms. Morgan reminded the Executive Committee about the 25 priority investment strategies in the Growth and Diversification Plan as areas of priority for the region and potential uses of the 50% match funds.



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PROJECT UPDATES

Ms. Morgan reported that the project pipeline development contracts and all project grantees are on track to meet their deadlines and milestones.

STRATEGIC DOING UPDATE

Ms. Morgan informed the Council that the Strategic Doing project team had met with the table leaders to get an update and that one project will be presented the Council from the Northern Neck, another was presented as an idea today, and a third project is in preliminary development.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Executive Committee will meet the 3rd Friday of the month the full Council does not meet. The next meeting will be March 20th at 11 am at the Rappahannock Community College, in Warsaw, VA.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Mr. Beale moved to adjourn the meeting at 1:25pm. Ms. Hull seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.