Region 6 Regional Council Meeting
Monday, July 21st, 2025
10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Virtual Meeting Location -
https://zoom.us/j/98992579452?pwd=cnY2em1JRE1XYVFsMDJRTDQ4Mkszdz09
Meeting ID: 989 9257 9452 | **Passcode**: govirginia
To Join by Phone: +1 301 715 8592 | **Meeting ID**: 989 9257 9452 | **Passcode**: 0951530548

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT AND VOTING: Chair – John Anzivino, **Vice-Chair -** Jeff Szyperski, John Bateman, Taryn Brice-Rowland (arrived after roll call), Jan Erkert (arrived after roll call), Vernon Green Jr., Donna Hart, Pete Humes, Monty Mason, Ginni Matern, Joe Syslo, Dr. Kimberly Young.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kyle Allwine, Rene Daniels, Jackie Davis, Dr. Shannon Kennedy, Lindsey Watson

STAFF: GWRC – Cheyenne Courtney, Sarah Oldaker

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Stephanie Heinatz – **Consociate Media**; Billy Gammel, Jack Honig – **DHCD**; Woodie Walker – **Essex County EDA**; Trenton Funkhauser – **Middlesex County EDA**; Mike Purello – **Rivers Region Entrepreneurial Ecosystem**; Melissa Sheffield – **Smurfit Westrock**; Ashley Sharpley, Teresa Sewell Nortillo – **TPMA**; Sabine Rogers – **VASG**; Ernisha Hall – **Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce**; Aaron Finley; Sheila Minor

CALL TO ORDER
Mr. Anzivino called the meeting to order at 10:02 am. Mr. Anzivino asked Ms. Oldaker to take roll. Ms. Oldaker took roll and indicated that an in-person quorum was present.

INTRODUCTIONS
Mr. Anzivino welcomed and introduced Mr. Funkhauser, Ms. Nortillo, Mr. Purello, and Ms. Rogers.

PUBLIC INVOLVMENT
There was no public involvement

CONSENT AGENDA
Mr. Anzivino presented the consent agenda which included the approval of Minutes from April 21st, 2025, MBWRC meeting, Electronic Participation Policy, FY25 DHCD Capacity Building Contract, and the GWRC and Region 6 Support Organization Agreement. Mr. Szyperski made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Green seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT
Ms. Oldaker presented the financial report and took note that the new FY26 Per Capita Funding is included in the report. The council briefly discussed funding for projects in pipeline and projects funded.

PRESENTATIONS
Ms. Sharpley and Ms. Nortillo gave a presentation on the TPMA 2025 Growth and Diversification Plan Update. They covered focus groups, new business survey, and target industries data.

Mr. Purello provided an update on REI. Mr. Purello reported to the council that he is working on a strategic plan and implementation plan which includes equal representation of region 6.

Ms. Rogers gave a presentation on the VASG Coastal Resilience Economy Project Closeout. She discussed challenges and impacts, business support services, overcoming regulatory barriers, and the industry cluster. The Council discussed the future of the program and potential for offshoot pojects.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT (ACTION ITEM)
Mr. Anzivino presented the Executive Committee Report and provided an update on the current council membership. Ms. Oldaker announced that Ms. Gullickson has retired and noted that a replacement is expected to join the council on an interim basis in October.

Mr. Anzivino asked for a motion to approve the membership of Ernisha Hall, Stephanie Heinatz, Cyndi Mack, and Melissa Sheffield for the Go Virginia Region 6 Regional Council. Ms. Matern made a motion. Dr. Young seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Oldaker provided an update on approval of the UMW Practice Management Certification Program Planning application. This is the first Go Virginia grant that has included healthcare.

Mr. Anzivino briefly discussed the selection of a consultant to handle quarterly reports and remittance for Region 6, which led to the FY26 Budget Amendment.

NEW BUSINESS

FY26 Budget Amendment (ACTION ITEM)
Mr. Anzivino presented the FY26 Budget Amendment to council members. The amendments include a decrease in salaries, fringe, and indirect related to staff vacancies and an increase in contract services.

Mr. Syslo made a motion to approve the FY26 Budget Amendment and Mr. Szyperski seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote with 12 ayes.

APPLICATION DISUCSSION AND DETERMINATIONS (ACTION ITEM)

Middlesex County EDA River to Table – Blue Catfish Processing and Marketing Study for the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck
Mr. Anzivino presented the agenda item. He is abstaining from discussion and vote as the chairman of the Middlesex County EDA and asked Vice-Chair, Mr. Szyperski, to lead the conversation.

Trenton Funkhauser provided an overview of the application and answered questions. This project aims to develop a feasibility study for the Northern Neck, Middle Peninsula, and King George on the supply and demand of Blue Catfish harvesting for consumption. The Council had questions regarding duplication of efforts with Maryland's study and potential for Implementation. Mr. Bateman and Mr. Funkhauser both answered Council questions and discussion.

Ms. Brice-Rowland made a motion to approve the application. Mr. Humes seconded. The motion carried by roll call vote with 8 ayes and 3 abstentions.

INFORMATION ITEMS IN PACKET

Ms. Oldaker provided updates on the June 2025 State Board, project pipeline, and 2026 GO Virginia Region 6 Economic Development Summit.

The State Board approved the aquaculture incubator project, and it is currently under contract.

Ms. Oldaker would like to develop a work group to look at other projects in Virginia that can be replicated in region 6. The Regional Entrepreneurship Initiative Implementation is coming in October.

The 2026 GO Virginia Region 6 will be held at the UMW Dahlgren Campus. The goal for this year's summit is to focus on the industry sectors, which will be reflected in the panelist.

For staff updates, the consultants are working on quarterly report remittances. The Virginia Sea Grant and Chamber's Workforce Now Implementation project closes out this month. Ms. Courtney will be assisting with updating GO Virginia Region 6's website and completing meeting minutes.

ADJOURNMENT
Being no further business, Mr. Anzivino adjourned the meeting at 12:04 pm