

REGIONAL COUNCIL 9

MAY 8, 2020

11:00 AM to NOON

Due to the COVID-19 State of Emergency this meeting was held via Zoom link and conference line. The details were posted with the Agenda and is included herein.

MINUTES

Attending Strike Force Council Members: Jim Cheng, Cav Angels (Chair, Region 9); Ed Scott, EcoSeptix Alliance (Vice Chair, Region 9); Ed Dalrymple, Cedar Mountain Stone; Pace Lochte, University of Virginia Economic Development; Ray Knott, Union Bank & Trust; Tom Click, Patriot Aluminum

Absent Council Members: None

Staff: Shannon Holland

Guests: None

1. Welcome

Jim Cheng opened the meeting at 11:02 am when all members were present and he stated that the meeting was being held electronically via Zoom video and call-in due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor.

2. Public Comment*

Jim Cheng stated the meeting had been publicly noticed and a public comment form was made available. All public comments were to be emailed by 7 am today. Shannon Holland stated that no public comments had been received.

3. Establish Goals

Jim Cheng summarized the reason that the Strike Force had been created by the Council on April 30 stating that the Strike Force was given the authority to review and approve ECB and ERR grants less than \$100,000 in order to be responsive to the economic crisis caused by COVID-19. The Strike Force authority will be on the June Annual Meeting Agenda for review. Jim Cheng asked if there was any discussion. None was offered.

4. Approve ERR and ECB Application Forms

Jim Cheng reminded those attending that the Council had also approved a request from staff to allow simplification of the ERR and ECB grant applications for less than \$100,000. Jim Cheng stated that links to the simplified applications had been emailed with members in the previous week and he asked if anyone had any questions. None were offered.

5. Review Project Pipeline

Jim Cheng asked Shannon Holland to review the project pipeline included in the meeting packet. Shannon Holland stated that there were a few updates to the pipeline including:

- The Fauquier County application was now expected to be around \$100,000 vs \$15,000
- The Fluvanna County website application was now likely not to be submitted
- A new conversation had occurred about a regional connectivity platform with the local tech council
- The VCW-Piedmont application would be a talent development project that would address needs of industry from the perspective of job seekers; whereas, today, the Strike Force might consider an application that would be a talent development project that addressed needs from the view of industry. Ultimately, both projects should dovetail efforts

6. Action Plan

Jim Cheng stated that, in order to promote the ERR grant program, staff had sent out promotional emails to Council, Economic Development Partners and regional stakeholders, emailed a press release to regional media contacts, and shared on the Council's LinkedIn page. Members made additional suggestions for promoting the program, such as local radio shows.

Jim Cheng then began a discussion on how the Strike Force should plan on reviewing and approving projects noting that time was of the essence. Jim Cheng stated that projects were being reviewed weekly at DHCD, therefore a similar model might be considered. The group decided on a standing meeting for each Friday at 11 am during through the COVID-19 crisis.

7. Other Business - Limited to Emergency Items Only

Jim Cheng noted that a time sensitive project application was received and included for review if the Strike Force was amenable to reviewing.

Ed Dalrymple made a motion to review the proposal. Tom Click seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Jim Cheng stated that the Central Virginia Workforce Initiative project requesting \$99,500 in GO Virginia funds was submitted as an ERR-FAST ACCESS application. A robust discussion ensued in regards to the project and whether it could also be considered an ECB project. Shannon Holland stated that the project could qualify for both funding sources because a line of sight to an ensuing implementation project was clear. There were suggestions for more specifics on establishing number of stakeholders engaged, etc. in the grant metrics. Shannon Holland clarified that in ECB grants outcomes would likely be more product based, in this case, the sector strategies.

Ray Knott made a motion to approve this project as an ECB project for less than \$100,000 subject to receipt of Letters of Support and clarification on the line of sight to a subsequent and larger implementation project. Tom Click seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Jim Cheng asked if there was additional Other Business. Ed Dalrymple asked that Region 9 do more to clarify that Lord Fairfax Community College is in our footprint, in addition to Germanna Community College and Piedmont Virginia Community College.

8. Adjourn

Jim Cheng

Ed Dalrymple made a motion to adjourn the meeting Ray Knott seconded the motion. The motion carried.

* Submit Public Comments by completing the attached form to sholland@centralvirginia.org by 7:00 am on Thursday, May 8, 2020. Those received will be read into the record.

Shannon Holland is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Reg. 9 Strike Force - COVID

Time: May 8, 2020 11:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92047069478?pwd=bHhwS1NCS3luUUVnVjZ4VGlsdTJSQT09>

Meeting ID: 920 4706 9478

Password: 937755

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