

**RICHMOND REGIONAL PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**February 8, 2018**

**Members and Alternates (A) Present**

Angela Cabell ..... Powhatan County  
Timothy M. Davey ..... Chesterfield County  
Steve A. Elswick ..... Chesterfield County  
Evan Fabricant..... Hanover County  
Gloria Freye..... Chesterfield County  
Jen Giovannitti ..... Powhatan County  
Mike C. Gray..... City of Richmond  
Leslie Haley..... Chesterfield County  
Jimmy Hancock..... Henrico County  
Dorothy Jaeckle, Chair ..... Chesterfield County  
Angela Kelly-Wiecek ..... Hanover County  
Kristen Larson ..... City of Richmond  
Susan Lascolette ..... Goochland County  
Courtney Lynch..... Henrico County  
William Mackey ..... Henrico County  
Sandra Marshall..... Henrico County  
Floyd H. Miles..... Charles City County  
John Moyer..... New Kent County  
Tyrone E. Nelson, Treasurer ..... Henrico County  
W. Canova Peterson ..... Hanover County  
Randy Silber (A) ..... Henrico County  
George Spagna, Secretary ..... Town of Ashland  
Randy Whittaker..... Hanover County  
Christopher Winslow..... Chesterfield County

**Others Present**

Serena Barry ..... GROW Virginia  
Wilson Flohr..... GROW Virginia  
Brendan Hefty ..... RRPDC Legal Counsel  
Molly MacBean..... Van Go  
Paul Rocheleau ..... VCU School of Engineering

**Staff Present**

Martha Shickle ..... Executive Director  
Julie Fry..... Executive Assistant  
Chuck Gates ..... Deputy Executive Director  
Barbara Jacocks..... Director of Planning  
Jin Lee ..... Senior Planner

## **Call to Order**

Chairwoman Jaeckle called the regularly scheduled February 8, 2018 RRPDC meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. in the RRPDC Board Room. She then led members in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

### **I. ADMINISTRATION**

#### **A. Certification by Commission Executive Director of Meeting Quorum**

Ms. Shickle, RRPDC Executive Director, reported that a quorum of members was present.

#### **B. Request for Additions or Changes to the Order of Business**

Chairwoman Jaeckle asked if there were any requests to change the agenda or order of business. As there were no requests to make any changes to the agenda, Chairwoman Jaeckle indicated the agenda would stand as presented.

#### **C. Open Public Comment Period**

Chairwoman Jaeckle opened the public comment period, noting that if anyone wished to address the members, to please stand and provide his or her name, locality of residence, and if appropriate the name of any organization being represented. Chairwoman Jaeckle asked that any citizen speaker please limit comments to three minutes, and organizations should limit their comments to five minutes.

As there were no requests from the public to address members of the Board, Chairwoman Jaeckle closed the public comment period.

#### **D. Chair's Report**

Chairwoman Jaeckle said there are several new members in attendance this morning, and she asked members around the table to introduce themselves for the benefit of the new members.

New members in attendance:

- Courtney Lynch, Henrico County Board of Supervisors (replacing Harvey Hinson)
- Sandra Marshall, Henrico County Planning Commission (replacing Eric Leabough)
- William Mackey, Henrico County Citizen Representative (replacing Jimmy Hancock)

New member not in attendance due to meeting conflict:

- Rodney Hathaway, New Kent County Alternate Voting Member (replacing Kelli Le Duc)

### RRPDC's Future Ad Hoc Committee

Chairwoman Jaeckle asked Mr. Davey to provide an update on the work being completed by the RRPDC's Future Ad Hoc Committee.

Mr. Davey reported that members continue to look at a strategic focus for RRPDC. He said feedback is being collected from partner agencies and organizations to hear their thoughts on the role of RRPDC in the region. A core group of customers has been identified, the jurisdictions' Administrators and Managers, who are actively involved in the process. He said it has been interesting to hear how this core group appreciates the efforts of Ms. Shickle to strengthen the relationship between RRPDC and the jurisdictions.

Mr. Davey said that the Ad Hoc Committee will have an extended work session in March, and it is hoped the committee will be able to present a summary plan to members in the spring. The draft work plan will take a longer range view than the annual work plan. He said he's very proud of the work done so far by the committee and is looking forward to the continued efforts over the next few months.

Mr. Davey thanked Ms. Shickle, Ms. Busser, and members of the committee for all of their work.

## **II. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. December 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes (Tab 1)**
- B. November and December 2017 Financial Reports (Tab 2)**
- C. Key Staff Tasks Report (Tab 3)**
- D. Revised RRPDC Personnel Policy Update (Tab 4)**

Chairwoman Jaeckle said she would like to pull Item II. D., Revised RRPDC Personnel Policies Manual, from the Consent Agenda for additional discussion as two amendments have been identified.

Chairwoman Jaeckle asked if there was a motion to approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda. Mr. Peterson so moved and the motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hefty said two technical amendments to the Personnel Policies Manual were brought before the Executive Committee this morning – one is a capitalization issue and the other is with regard to an incomplete sentence. The incomplete sentence deals with earned compensatory time needing to be taken by the end of the calendar year in which it was earned or it will be forfeited. The word *forfeited* was inadvertently omitted at the end of the sentence.

Mr. Hefty said the Executive Committee recommends that the Board approve the Revised Personnel Policies Manual with those two corrections.

Mr. Peterson asked for clarification on the Financial Reports included on the Consent Agenda. He noted that on the November Cash Basis report, line 12, it shows 454 percent of the budget used, but on the December Cash Basis report, same line item, it shows 190 percent of the budget used. The November amount shown is \$5,000, yet the December report shows \$7,500. He asked why there is such a large discrepancy.

Ms. Shickle said the budget was amended in December which impacted the revised budget that was approved during the December meeting. Mr. Peterson said that answered his question.

Chairwoman Jaeckle said if there are no questions on the Revised Personnel Policies Manual, she will ask for a motion to approve as amended. Ms. Kelly-Wiecek so moved and the motion was seconded by Dr. Spagna. There was no additional discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

### **III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chairwoman Jaeckle reported there is no Unfinished Business this month.

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. GO Virginia Update**

Chairwoman Jaeckle asked Ms. Shickle to introduce this item and today's speakers.

Ms. Shickle said during the December meeting, a request was made that an update on GO Virginia be provided to members during this morning's meeting. Ms. Shickle reached out to Mr. Wilson Flohr, who is the director of GROW Capital Jobs, the support organization for GO Virginia Region 4. Mr. Flohr will provide an update on GO Virginia as it applies to Region 4, which includes RRPDC and Crater PDC. Additionally, a request has been made of RRPDC that would be presented following Mr. Flohr's update.

Mr. Flohr thanked members for the opportunity to meet with them this morning. He said that work began on this effort about six months ago following the establishment of GO Virginia during the last General Assembly session. He said he would provide some background information and an update on current efforts. Mr. Flohr also noted that the VCU School of Engineering is presenting a project to members this morning that will help commercialize work being done at the School. Mr. Flohr said this commercialization of work being done at universities across the country has become important to economic development.

Mr. Flohr reported that GO Virginia is a business-led initiative to provide state incentives for localities to collaborate to strengthen the private sector economy through increasing the

number of higher paying jobs. During the recession, it became clear that Virginia's economy relied too heavily on the federal government, through the state's military involvement. There are some regions that still have not fully recovered from the recession.

Mr. Flohr pointed out that Virginia's unique local governments, comprised of independent cities, can breed competition but not always cooperation. There is a record showing that financial incentives can change this behavior in order to accomplish economic goals.

Higher paying jobs are a strong economic multiplier that create economic opportunities for more Virginians. Higher paying jobs are defined as those that pay more than the average annual salaries in the region or localities.

The overall purpose of GO Virginia is to create economic growth and opportunity in each GO Virginia region. Region 4 is comprised of the RRPDC and Crater PDC regions. This council has 25 members – 9 from Crater PDC; 16 from RRPDC. Bill Goodwin has been selected to serve as chair of Region 4, and John Luke is serving as vice chair. By law, an organization is required to serve as the fiscal agent for Region 4. That organization is the GROW Capital Jobs Foundation, led by Mark Hourigan (chair) and John Luke (vice chair).

Mr. Flohr said GROW Capital Jobs manages three major tasks for approval by Region 4:

- Develop its Economic Growth and Diversity Plan
- Solicit collaborative projects with two or more localities participating financially
- Monitor project milestones

GO Virginia grants that are awarded must be matched as follows:

- local city and county funds
- federal funds
- private business contributions (tax deductible)
- public and private business and organization foundations
- no state funds can be used as match funds

The Region 4 Council reviews and recommends collaborative regional and multi-regional projects that meet its Plan's strategic priorities. Final approval of the projects is made by the State GO Virginia Board.

A project should be designed to generate and attract economic growth through collaborative efforts that will create more higher paying jobs.

There are activities that cannot be funded through GO Virginia:

- incentive grants to private sector companies
- economic development marketing
- trade missions
- quality of life projects

- construction of transportation projects (except site development)

Mr. Flohr said there are three core strategies in the Economic Growth and Development Plan:

- integrate business with education to create a highly qualified workforce
- stimulate growth in life/bioscience, advanced manufacturing, and logistics
- capitalize on region's growing reputation as a center of innovation and entrepreneurship

Projects are evaluated by using the following criteria:

- ensure projects meet strategies from Growth and Diversification Plan
- demonstrate and ensure participation from local jurisdictions
- match dollar for dollar
- demonstrate sustainability of project
- show project return on investment

Mr. Flohr said he'd be glad to answer any questions. Chairwoman Jaeckle thanked Mr. Flohr for his presentation and asked if anyone had questions for Mr. Flohr.

Ms. Lascolette said she would like more information on the slide that showed projects GO Virginia will not fund. Mr. Flohr said that basically, GO Virginia cannot fund any projects that receive funding from other state agencies or departments. Projects should emphasize workforce and shovel ready sites.

Ms. Giovannitti asked if a locality donated land to a project that was shovel ready whether that would qualify for funding. He said that could be considered an in-kind contribution.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek noted that the Greater Richmond Partnership (GRP) does not provide economic development incentives. She said GRP goes out to attract businesses to the region but does not offer any type of incentive.

Mr. Winslow asked why RRPDC is being asked to provide funding for a project. Chairwoman Jaeckle said this question will be answered following Mr. Rocheleau's presentation on the project in question.

Chairwoman Jaeckle asked for clarification on the transportation site development bullet point. She asked how two or more jurisdictions could work on that type of project. Mr. Flohr said another jurisdiction may want to participate because it sees long-range economic benefit to the region as a result of the project.

Chairwoman Jaeckle invited Mr. Rocheleau to make his presentation.

Mr. Rocheleau provided background information on the VCU School of Engineering and his involvement with the School. He also provided information on the roles of the localities

in the creation of the School, in addition to a brief history of its alumni since the School's inception.

Mr. Rocheleau noted that the School provides great academics to a business-oriented, experimental environment, and co-ops to create access to unlimited opportunity for creative and motivated students from all walks of life. He noted that 90 percent of the School's students come from Virginia and over 75 percent stay after graduation. There are plans to grow the number of students enrolled from 2,000 to 3,500.

The School's Centers of Excellence were reviewed for members, and Mr. Rocheleau said that the Pharmaceutical Commercialization Program impacts all of the Centers of Excellence. Technologies have been developed that reduce the capital and operating costs of drug manufacturing and will drive new competition that can produce drugs in "distributed" locations. Long term goals of the project will be technology/innovation workforce; pharma "systems" manufacturing; advanced sensors and controls; advanced transactional networks; personalized health care technologies; and new pharmaceutical manufacturing platforms.

Mr. Rocheleau reported that over 80 percent of pharmaceutical active ingredients are produced off shore. The project's goal is to bring new pharmaceutical manufacturing platforms to the country through advanced technology. Seed money in the amount of \$60 million for the project has been provided by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and other donors.

GO Virginia funding for this project will help bring Bright Path (commercialization partner) to the region and support for an existing business (AMPAC) in Petersburg. Bright Path has been working with the City of Richmond to secure space for its operations.

Mr. Rocheleau said that RRPDC is being asked to contribute \$30,000 toward the project in order to meet GO Virginia's local match requirement.

Mr. Rocheleau reviewed the milestones for the project over the time period 2018 – 2020. Release of funding is contingent upon reaching each milestone and will require contracts and leases to be signed with partners. He asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Elswick said the highest percent of funding from RRPDC will technically come from Chesterfield County as it has the largest population. However, the Bright Path facility will be located in the City of Richmond. He asked if consideration had been given to other locations in the region. Mr. Elswick noted Chesterfield County will benefit from the project if those involved live in the County. He said it is important for workers to live and work in all areas of the region. These types of projects will be better accepted if the benefits are distributed around the region.

Mr. Rocheleau said discussions have been held with Mr. Casey, and Chesterfield County has great resources to draw on as needed. There will be a need for a larger scale facility as the project moves forward, and other sites can be investigated at that time.

Ms. Giovannitti said the regional benefit is clear to her. She said RRPDC can provide strategic updates to the localities as the project moves forward in order to be prepared to take on some of the regional benefits. Localities will need time to prepare in such areas as broadband and transportation in order to be competitive for other aspects of the project.

Mr. Rocheleau said that as work with AMPAC moves ahead, other localities will be brought into the process for such things as housing when AMPAC brings in its out of state staff to assist with the set up.

Ms. Giovannitti said she appreciates the potential for benefits to all of the localities.

Ms. Haley reported that when Myland Pharmaceuticals formed its partnership with West Virginia University, it was transformational to the entire area. Expansion of generic drugs at a time when no one else was manufacturing them provided tremendous economic benefits to the area. She said the growth occurred very quickly and brought value to other businesses as well as the University. Ms. Haley said it is a great opportunity for the region to be on the forefront of a similar enterprise.

Mr. Rocheleau said they hope to go beyond what Myland has done.

Ms. Lascolette asked for a project timeline with regard to receipt of the requested funding from RRPDC. Mr. Rocheleau said it is hoped GO Virginia will approve the project during its meeting next week if all of the pieces are in place. He said funding from RRPDC will help the project move forward as other funding comes in.

Ms. Lascolette said she'd asked if there is a timeline for the specific use of the RRPDC's contribution of \$30,000. She asked if the funding needs to be in hand by a certain date. Mr. Rocheleau said it is hoped the funding will be available by March 1. He said if the funding is not available, other sources of funding will need to be identified. GO Virginia wants all of the localities to participate as other philanthropic investors will ask about the involvement of the localities.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek said she has no objections to the project itself. She said her concern is that RRPDC is typically involved in long-term planning – land use, regional assets, etc. RRPDC is currently going through a process to determine in what areas the agency should be involved. The clear message has been that the agency should not be involved in economic development efforts as there are other organizations doing this type of work. Many localities have staffs who specifically evaluate these types of proposals and help elected officials understand the benefits of such transformational experiences for the locality and the region.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek asked if every project to move forward will come to RRPDC for its endorsement or regional consent. She said this will put RRPDC into an economic development role which is not where the agency's strengths lie.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek added that it appears two localities are already closely aligned with the project – the City of Richmond and the City of Petersburg. She asked if this involvement meets the benchmark of having two localities cooperate together.

Mr. Rocheleau said the project needs the requested \$30,000 to meet the local match threshold. Ms. Kelly-Wiecek said she thought a waiver on the local match threshold had been requested. She said she heard this morning that the project development has been underway since the fall and now funding is being requested by March 1. She asked if any of the localities had been contacted directly for support.

Mr. Rocheleau said they have been very involved with the City of Richmond and the City's Building Inspector's office.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek asked if other localities had been contacted to see if they would be interested in investing in the project. Mr. Rocheleau said his team has been in touch with the City of Petersburg and in some of the localities, such as Chesterfield and Henrico Counties, and will be meeting with Mr. Harris in Hanover County later today.

Mr. Flohr said GO Virginia wanted more local participation. He said it was more time efficient to come directly to RRPDC, which represents nine localities, instead of going to each one individually.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek said members understand that the locality and business budget cycles run on different schedules. She said that's why each jurisdiction has local economic development funds and staffs in order to evaluate these sorts of requests. She said she's surprised the requests weren't made directly to the local economic development offices.

Mr. Miles said he noticed none of the smaller jurisdictions is involved with GO Virginia or sit on the Region 4 Council. The smaller jurisdictions basically have no voice in this effort.

Mr. Rocheleau said Ms. Shickle is on the Council to represent PDCs and the Chairman of Crater PDC is also on the Council. He said it's difficult to touch each of the different sectors of the two combined PDCs. Mr. Miles said he thought there should be at least one member to represent the more rural communities. He said the smaller jurisdictions are being asked for funding but have no voice in the process.

Mr. Rocheleau said it is important for all areas of the region to be represented. He said the effort wants to create an opportunity for all students in the region to participate.

Mr. Moyer said he worked in the pharmaceutical field for many years. He said he's never heard about issues with regard to making the actual pills. He said it's the bottle that incurs the costs. He said the problem is there's no negotiation with Medicare which means the manufacturer can sell the drug for any cost they choose. He said if he was a pharmaceutical manufacturer and had a problem with production, then he'd change that. He asked exactly what costs would be impacted with completion of this project.

Mr. Rocheleau agreed that the cost to make the actual pills is very small. The value will be the capability to install better equipment to expedite the chemical ingredients into the pills. This will simplify the process and improve doing business.

Ms. Larsen said she sits on Richmond City Council and is not familiar with this project. She said she would like to have more time before she needs to make a decision. She said she's open to the project, but she can't provide any feedback until she can receive more information on the project. Mr. Rocheleau said much of the information shared with the City's economic development office has been confidential in nature as they worked to find out if there was a suitable location.

Ms. Larsen asked if discussions have been held with the City's economic development office or the EDA. Mr. Rocheleau said he's been working with Betty-Anne Teter, in the Economic and Community Development Office, the building inspector's office, and the fire marshal's office among others. He said they wanted to find out if there was a location that will accommodate the facility before broadening the conversation.

Mr. Winslow asked if this was the first time the agency has been approached for funding for a GO Virginia project. Ms. Shickle said that was correct. Mr. Winslow asked if there is process in place at this time to evaluate such requests. Ms. Shickle said there is not. She said the RRPDC is not a funder and noted this request is unique.

Mr. Winslow said while he agrees the project is worthwhile, he wonders about the precedent of granting funds to GO Virginia without a process or procedure in place that has been agreed upon. He said the agency needs every dollar it has, but he understands members are being challenged to take a long range look at the benefits. The issue is that the agency really does not have any surplus funds to contribute, and he wonders if this is the right body to ask for funding without any sort of procedure in place. Mr. Winslow said he's concerned that there will be another unique project next month that will require funding and so forth.

Mr. Nelson asked what will happen if the RRPDC does not allocate the funds being requested. He said Henrico County does, in general, support the project.

Mr. Rocheleau said the project was begun in December. When it was submitted to GO Virginia for consideration, it was deferred until more information on the business plan could be provided and until the \$100 thousand local match could be secured.

Mr. Nelson asked again what will happen to the project if the \$30,000 is not allocated.

Mr. Flohr said he's not certain. He said GO Virginia said they wanted more local participation. In discussions with Mr. Vithoukas, it was determined that the best way to obtain support from all of the local jurisdictions was to come to RRPDC for funding. If RRPDC does not approve the funding request, Mr. Flohr said Region 4 will go back to the GO Virginia board to let them know that only \$70,000 in matching funds is available. It

will be up to the GO Virginia board to decide if the project will move ahead with only that amount.

Mr. Peterson said he believes all of the members agree that if one jurisdiction wins, everyone wins. He said in looking at the chart that shows how the \$30,000 will be distributed among the jurisdictions, the amount listed for Hanover County is well within the limit available through the County's local economic development office. He said if this is the same in the other localities, the funds could be secured in short order by making a few phone calls. He said RRPDC is not an economic development organization. From what he's heard this morning, he believes members are ready to give unanimous support to the project, but not to the funding.

Chairwoman Jaeckle said she knows this is new territory for RRPDC, and there is no process in place to act on such a request. She pointed out that GO Virginia is also new and has been tasked with having regions work together on economic development projects. She said she's been opposed to GO Virginia because of the additional layers of bureaucracy that have been added. She said she can understand why RRPDC was approached because there are elected officials from nine jurisdictions in the same room.

Chairwoman Jaeckle said her concern is that it will not look good for the region as a whole if GROW Capital Jobs goes back to GO Virginia and reports that the region was not willing to participate.

Ms. Haley said she'd be interested in hearing from the smaller jurisdictions. The four large jurisdictions would be the obvious choice to approach for this type of funding. Asking RRPDC gives everyone the opportunity to be invested in the project and to have a voice at the table. She said it brings value to show that everyone is participating. If requests had been made to only the four large jurisdictions, the funding would be secured, but then the small jurisdictions would not have the opportunity to participate in bringing value to the region.

Ms. Giovannitti said the regional benefit of this agency is clear and she understands the lack of process and potential of setting a precedent. RRPDC is also a long-range planning group that can assist with other aspects of the project. She said she views this as an investment in human capital as students graduate and stay in the region. RRPDC can help with long-range planning on such issues as transportation, broadband, and schools. Powhatan County wants to be sure its schools continue to attract new residents.

Ms. Cabell said she thinks of the down-stream economic benefits that will play out from this project. She said Powhatan County appreciates the opportunity to participate.

Mr. Fabricant asked about the letter included in the agenda packet. He said the letter included was written as if the funding had already been awarded. Mr. Rocheleau said they had to submit a summary of what was being done to move the project forward. He said with a contribution from the City of Petersburg, the match funding is now over \$100,000.

Mr. Rocheleau said it was known that RRPDC was required to obtain approval from its Board before the funds can be allocated. He said the letter can be corrected if needed.

Ms. Shickle referred members to the Financial Report as there has been a question on where the funding will come from if approved. In the December report, the total fund balance is about \$1.6 million. The proposal is that the funds would not come from the operating budget but from the designated reserve fund balance. No programs will be cut.

Mr. Davey said he does agree that the timing of the request should be different so a procedure could be in place. He said he sees this is a great opportunity to provide seed money to a GO Virginia project. He said he does want to emphasize that this cannot be seen as setting a precedent for additional requests.

Mr. Silber said he agrees the process has not been optimal but it can be improved going forward. This is the region's first opportunity to participate in a GO Virginia project. It's important that as a region, members should support the project. An evaluation needs to be undertaken in how similar projects are brought forward. It should not be a precedent setting action. Going into the fund balance to support these types of projects is not sustainable.

Ms. Larsen asked if the Board could delay action until March and if GROW Capital Jobs would accept the funding at that time if it's approved. She said she needs more time to learn about the project.

Mr. Flohr said the GO Virginia board will meet next Tuesday to make recommendations on projects.

Mr. Nelson said the discussion on this topic has been going on for over an hour, and he would like a vote to be taken.

Ms. Haley made a motion to approve the request as presented and that a procedure be developed and implemented to use going forward for similar requests.

Mr. Nelson said he has some language for a motion that he'd like to offer in place of Ms. Haley's motion. Ms. Haley said she will agree to the substitute motion.

Mr. Nelson moved that pursuant to the proposal from the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Engineering, via GROW Capital Jobs, the Region 4 GO Virginia Council, staff should be directed to work with staff of GROW Capital Jobs to develop a grant agreement for purposes of supporting the VCU Pharmaceutical Commercialization Project with the VCU School of Engineering; and, to appropriate RRPDC reserve funds in the amount of \$30,000 to support this initiative, said agreement to be executed and the funds made available only in the event that the project is approved by the Commonwealth of Virginia's statewide GO Virginia Council and state and local matching funds from the City of Richmond are made available to support this initiative. It is further requested that Henrico County provide staff support to RRPDC staff for this project. The motion was seconded by Ms. Giovannitti.

Ms. Angela Kelly-Wiecek said she would ask that some wording be included to prevent other entities from coming to RRPDC for funding.

Ms. Shickle asked if a second motion should be made to give her direction, as the representative to the GO Virginia Council, to work with Mr. Flohr on improving the process on how to engage with localities to support these types of projects. This may or may not include RRPDC participating in the effort.

Mr. Peterson said regardless of any motion, this will be a precedent and he does not want to set any precedent to allow other organizations to approach RRPDC for funding.

Ms. Lascolette requested a roll call vote on the first motion.

Chairwoman Jaeckle said she asked staff to send a reminder out to members prior to the meeting to encourage everyone to read the background material as there was going to be a vote requested. She said it is important for members to read their packet materials and to ask their local staffs or RRPDC staff for clarification if needed prior to the meetings.

Mr. Elswick asked which motion was on the floor for a vote. Chairwoman Jaeckle said it was the motion made by Mr. Nelson. He asked if Mr. Nelson could read his motion again. After the motion was read for a second time, Mr. Nelson asked Ms. Shickle if she approved RRPDC staff involvement. Ms. Shickle said she would be the only staff member involved. Mr. Elswick asked if Henrico County was agreeable to provide staff assistance. Mr. Nelson and Mr. Silber both agreed this help will be provided.

Ms. Lascolette asked about the cost involved for Ms. Shickle's participation. Ms. Shickle said her time is not calculated in the same manner as time for staff. Legal counsel is on retainer, and Mr. Hefty said assistance will be within the parameters of that retainer.

Ms. Shickle said she will realign her priorities to ensure the money is allocated by the March 1 deadline if the motion is approved.

Ms. Lascolette clarified that after March 1, no RRPDC staff time will be allocated to this project, other than Ms. Shickle's time as a member of the Region 4 council. Ms. Shickle said that was correct.

Mr. Rocheleau said that if the project is approved by the GO Virginia board, the contract will be between RRPDC and GROW Capital Jobs Foundation, which will receive the funding. It is hoped this will mitigate any precedent for other groups to approach RRPDC for funding.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek said she wants to be clear that she supports the goals of the project brought forward and she sees the potential benefits for the region. She remains concerned that this is not the right body or place for such a request. The timing has not been good. In addition, the member from the City of Richmond is not familiar with the project. She said she would like to speak with Mr. Flohr and Mr. Rocheleau after they meet with Mr.

Harris in Hanover County today. She said she does not see this as not participating as a region if the funding is not approved.

Ms. Lynch said she sees this as a question of pace – the entire world is confounded by the pace of change – the speed of government, the speed of business, the speed of academia – where will they intersect, will they ever intersect. She said she understands all of the frustrations that have been expressed today on the timeliness and the precedent this may set. Risk comes with a price and she feels the opportunity to participate comes at a relatively low risk and cost. It provides the value of a chance to stand together as a region. She agrees that a strategy needs to be put into place. Ms. Lynch said she believes the chance needs to be taken and then procedures put into place should there be a next time. She believes this also provides an opportunity to be a better organization.

Ms. Lascolette said there is broad support for the project, and the localities are willing to discuss contributions to the project. With a few phone calls, funding could be secured. She pointed out that RRPDC was not created to be an economic development organization. This is not part of RRPDC’s mission, and this is the wrong place to come for such funding. Ms. Lascolette said she believes this is a huge mistake for the RRPDC to make.

Chairwoman Jaeckle said she sees this as more than economic development. She sees it as an investment in human capital. She said she’s seen first hand the benefits of having the VCU School of Engineering as part of the community.

Chairwoman Jaeckle asked Ms. Fry to proceed with the roll call vote.

Those members/alternates voting Aye: (15)

Ms. Cabell	Ms. Lynch
Mr. Davey	Mr. Mackey
Ms. Freye	Ms. Marshall
Ms. Giovannitti	Mr. Moyer
Mr. Gray	Mr. Nelson
Ms. Haley	Mr. Silber
Chairwoman Jaeckle	Dr. Spagna
Mr. Miles	

Those members/alternates voting Nay: (7)

Mr. Elswick	Mr. Peterson
Mr. Fabricant	Mr. Whittaker
Ms. Kelly-Wiecek	Mr. Winslow
Ms. Lascolette	

Those members/alternates Abstaining: (1)

Ms. Larsen

Chairwoman Jaeckle declared the motion passed on a vote of 15 Aye, 7 Nay, and 1 Abstaining.

Ms. Kelly-Wiecek made a motion that the RRPDC Board authorize the Executive Director to work with the GO Virginia Council on how to better engage with local governments on future projects and requests. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Shickle said she would like for the Executive Committee, as a Standing Committee, to engage in this process after the Ad Hoc Committee disbands. Members agreed by consensus to this request.

**V. OTHER BUSINESS**

Cancellation of March 8, 2018 Meetings

Chairwoman Jaeckle said staff is recommending that the Executive Committee and full Board meetings scheduled for March 8, 2018, be cancelled unless agenda items needing immediate attention are identified. Mr. Nelson so moved, and the motion was seconded by Ms. Lascolette. There was no additional discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

No other business was identified to be brought before the Board.

Mr. Rocheleau thanked members for their deliberation during this morning's discussion and for their support in principal of the VCU Pharmaceutical Commercialization project. He invited members to visit the VCU School of Engineering.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no additional business to bring before the Board, on motion duly made and seconded, Chairwoman Jaeckle adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:00 a.m.

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Martha Shickle  
Executive Director

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Dorothy Jaeckle  
Chair