

**Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission**  
**Full Commission Meeting**  
**The MET, Patrick & Henry Community College**  
**67 Motorsports Drive, Martinsville, Virginia 23112**  
**Thursday, September 26, 2024**  
**12:30 p.m.**

Commissioners Present

Honorable Frank M. Ruff, Jr., Chair	Mr. Richard T. Hite, Jr. (Remote)
Delegate James W. Morefield, Vice-Chair	Mr. Jay D. Jennings (Remote)
Senator Lashrecse D. Aird (Remote)	Delegate Terry G. Kilgore (Remote)
Delegate Jonathan E. Arnold (Remote)	Secretary Matthew Lohr
Mr. Edward Blevins	Delegate Daniel W. Marshall, III
Ms. Amanda Cox	Secretary Caren Merrick (Remote)
Secretary Stephen Cummings	Delegate Israel D. O'Quinn
Mr. Joel Cunningham	Honorable William A. Pace
Mr. Lee "Randy" Everett	Mr. Walter "Buddy" Shelton
Mr. Watt R. Foster, Jr.	Mrs. Sarah L. Wilson (Remote)
Delegate Thomas A. Garrett, Jr.	

Absent

Ms. Gretchen Clark	Mr. Arthur "Dale" Moore
Senator T. Travis Hackworth	Senator Todd E. Pillion
Senator L. Louise Lucas	Honorable Gary D. Walker

Staff

Honorable James Campos	Ms. Stephanie Kim
Mr. Stephen Versen	Mr. Jerry Silva
Mr. Jordan Butler	Ms. Roz Stein
Ms. Adrian Chapman	Ms. Emily Van Pelt (Remote)
Ms. Hannah Franke-Fuller	Ms. Sara Williams
Ms. Vicki Humphreys	

Counsel for the Commission

Ms. Elizabeth Myers, Assistant Attorney General

Guests

Dr. Greg Hodges, President, Patrick & Henry Community College  
Mr. Joe Benevento, CEO, Virginia Innovation partnership Corporation

Commission Chairman Ruff opened the Tobacco Commission meeting at 12:31 p.m.

Patrick & Henry Community College President Greg Hodges welcomed the Commission to the campus and expressed gratitude for the Commission's support of the College and surrounding counties, acknowledging the role that its support played in creating The Met, where the meeting was being held. Director Campos presented President Hodges with a plaque honoring the relationship between the Commission and the College.

Campos called roll and confirmed that a quorum was present.

**Commissioner Everett moved to approve the minutes from the previous Full Commission meeting on May 22, 2024; Commissioner Cox seconded the motion; all members voted to approve the motion.**

**Commissioner Pace moved to approve the remote participation of Commissioners Aird, Arnold, Hite, Jennings, Kilgore, Merrick, and Wilson; Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion; all members voted to approve the motion.**

The meeting was opened to public comment, and there was none.

Cox presented an update on the Education Committee's meeting on September 9, 2024, during which the Committee discussed future programming.

Commissioner Shelton presented the report for the Southern Virginia Committee.

**Shelton moved that the Commission accept the Committee's recommendations for Agribusiness projects 4269 and 4270; Marshall seconded; all present voted to approve the motion, except Shelton, who abstained.**

**Shelton moved that the Commission accept the Committee's recommendations for Business Development projects 4271, 4279, and 4276; Commissioner Morefield seconded; all present voted to approve the motion.**

**Shelton moved that the Commission accept the Committee's recommendations for Sites and Infrastructure project 4275; Marshall seconded; all present voted to approve the motion.**

**Shelton moved that the Commission accept the Committee's recommendations for Sites and Infrastructure projects 4212, 4272, 4278, 4268, and 4224; Commissioner Garrett seconded; all present voted to approve the motion.**

**Shelton moved that the Commission accept the Committee's recommendations for Tourism projects 4277 and 4273; Morefield seconded; all present voted to approve the motion.**

**Shelton moved that the Commission accept the Committee's recommendations for extensions and modifications for projects 3289, 3659, and 3663; Marshall seconded; all present voted to approve the motion.**

Marshall presented the report for the Incentives & Loans Committee.

**Marshall moved that the Commission authorize staff to alter current TROF Guidelines, Policies & Procedures, Grant and Loan Agreements, and other documentation as needed to utilize the method described on pages 37 and 38 of the Board Book for the calculation of performance for the jobs and wages portion of TROF awards; Morefield seconded; all present voted to approve the motion.**

**Marshall moved that the Commission authorize staff, at their discretion, to modify performance agreements to allow for the utilization of reported costs (as evidenced by receipts of capital purchases) of M&T and TPP towards a company's taxable asset obligation, as verified in writing by the local Commissioner of Revenue, in cases where a TROF award is made for an expansion and the depreciation of existing assets does not allow for an accurate performance calculation based on assessed value; Morefield seconded; all present voted to approve the motion.**

**Marshall moved that the Commission approve the Tobacco Region Incentive for Agribusiness Development (TRIAD) grant program as presented in on pages 42 - 50 of the Board Book; Morefield seconded; all present voted to approve the motion.**

Marshall called attention to the Economic Development Workforce Housing Incentive Pilot Program, described on page 39 of the Board book, directing anyone with questions to Versen.

Garrett presented the report for the Energy Committee.

**Garrett moved that the Commission accept the Committee's recommendations for Energy Catalyst Planning Grant projects 4262 and 4281; Commissioner Cunningham seconded; all present voted to approve the motion.**

**Garrett moved that the Commission accept the Committee's recommendations for Energy Execution – Implementation Grant project 4284 for the City of Danville to receive a grant award of \$750,000, and a referral to the TRRC loan program for the additional \$750,000, with the contingency that the project receives approval by the City Council; Commissioner Foster seconded; all present voted to approve the motion.**

**Garrett moved that the Commission accept the Committee's recommendations for Energy Execution – Implementation Grant project 4285 for the Town of Richlands to receive a grant award of \$2,000,000 contingent on securing sufficient funding for the project via revenue bonds within one year of award, and a referral to the TRRC loan**

**program for the additional \$2,000,000; Foster seconded; all present voted to approve the motion.**

Garrett put forward an initial motion regarding the approval of Energy Execution – Implementation Grant project 4286 for the ATIP Foundation/BargerTech Waste to Energy Demonstration Project. Pace and Morefield continued to discuss the project and possible contingencies to make the TRRC investment more secure; Garrett expressed the wish to perform additional due diligence. The group discussed whether or not to approve the project at this meeting, given that no funds would be spent until the company met the contingencies outlined in the agreement, or to wait until the January 2025 meeting to approve. Ms. Meyers clarified that the Commission cannot take an equity stake in this type of business, but that the Foundation for the Advancement of Southern and Southwest Virginia could do so. The group tabled the discussion for the moment and moved to the next Committee report.

Morefield presented the report for the Southwest Virginia Committee.

**Morefield moved to approve the extensions of projects 3191, 3464, 3564, and 3557; Marshall seconded; all present voted to approve the motion.**

Chairman Ruff announced that he needed to depart the meeting, and Morefield took over leading the meeting. With Ruff's departure, the group no longer had a physical quorum. Commissioner Merrick, as an *ex officio* member, would be permitted to assign a temporary voting member and designated Dr. Greg Hodges as a voting member of the Commission for this meeting only. The group welcomed Dr. Hodges to the Commission.

The group returned to discussing project 4286.

**Pace moved that regarding Energy Execution – Implementation Grant project 4286, the Commission authorize Commission staff to work with the company on a mutually agreeable equity stake in the company, on behalf and for the benefit of The Foundation for the Advancement of Southern and Southwest Virginia, subject to the approval of the Executive Director; funding of the project will also be subject to the following contingencies: Finalization of an agreement with the identified dairy farm collaborator; execution of letters of agreement for offtake of the energy and by-products; submission of a detailed budget for all direct costs of the project and the composition and usage of matching funds, to be reviewed by the TRRC Grants Director and the TRRC Regional Energy Director, and signed off on by the TRRC Executive Director; proof of secured financial commitments within one year of award approval date that would satisfy a 1:1 match requirement consistent with TRRC Funding Policies; Marshall seconded; all present voted to approve the motion.**

Commissioner Blevins presented the report of the Strategic Planning Committee, asking Versen to describe the upcoming process, which will be led by Dr. Scott Tate of the Virginia Tech Center for Economic and Community Engagement. As part of the process, Tate and his team will be reaching out to Commissioners for their input.

Campos addressed new business, introducing CEO of the Virginia Innovation partnership Corporation, who described VIPC and its work developing an innovation ecosystem framework and how VIPC and TRRC can partner in the future.

Morefield adjourned the meeting at 1:44 p.m.

## Fall 2024 Tobacco Commission Meeting – Summary of Final Motions

The following tables summarize the actions the Full Commission made at its September 26, 2024 meeting regarding recommendations from the Southern Virginia Committee, Incentives & Loans Committee, Energy Committee, and Southwest Virginia Committee. These tables will be attached to and made a part of the minutes of the meeting.

Unless otherwise noted, all motions were unanimously accepted by the Commission.

### Southern Virginia Committee

The Commission took the following actions based on the recommendations of the Southern Virginia Committee:

Req #	Organization	Project Title	Requested Amount	Recommended Amount	Commission Decision
<b>Agribusiness</b>					
4222	Buckingham Cattlemen's Association	Parking expansion of the BCA BARN facility and Beef Hub	\$90,000	Withdrawn	No action taken
4269	Cumberland County	Cumberland County Agricultural Economic Development Plan	\$20,000	\$20,000	Grant award up to \$20,000 for 50% of contractual expenses to complete an Agricultural Economic Development Plan contingent on acquisition of at least 1:1 matching funds.
4274	Franklin County	Harvesting Success: Markets for All	\$10,000	No Award	No Award
4270	Olde Dominion Agricultural Foundation	Enhancements to benefit co-mingling cattle sales and campsite visitors	\$350,128	\$350,128	Grant award up to \$350,128 for 50% of equipment and construction costs contingent on securing 1:1 matching funds within one year of award.
<b>Business Development</b>					
4271	Town of Halifax	Halifax Exxon Redevelopment Project	\$305,000	\$285,729	Grant award up to \$285,729 for site improvements and associated PDC services.
4279	Pittsylvania County	Revitalization of Hurt's Staunton Plaza	\$700,000	\$610,257	Grant award of up to \$610,257 for 43% of the roofing costs contingent on securing commitments at least 1:1 matching funds within one year of award.
4276	Virginia's Gateway Region	Regional Economic Development Marketing Support for Dinwiddie & Sussex Counties	\$75,000	\$75,000	Grant award up to \$75,000 for up to 50% of lead generation and marketing materials contingent upon a yearly travel plan being approved and documentation provided of companies met with during travel.

Sites and Infrastructure					
4212	County of Bedford	New London Phase 2.1	<del>\$ 1,107,500</del> \$750,000	\$750,000	Grant award up to \$750,000 for roadway construction and utilities.
4272	Brunswick County Industrial Development Authority	Greenhouse Project	\$208,820	\$96,910	Grant award up to \$96,910 for 50% of the purchase of nutrient, stream, and wetland credits for Project Greenhouse, contingent on securing 1:1 match funding.
4275	City of Danville	Coleman Site Graded Pad	\$4,018,375	\$1,500,000	Grant award of \$1,500,000, as well as the \$833,055 remaining in the City's allocation, contingent on matching funds being identified for the remaining part of the project.
4278	Dinwiddie County IDA	Dinwiddie County Innovation Park	<del>\$3,117,940</del> \$2,500,000	\$1,617,940	Grant award of \$1,617,940, which is the amount left in the county's allocation, for the acquisition of 300 acres of surplus land from the Dept. of General Services, contingent on the purchase taking place within one year and at least 1:1 Matching funds being secured.
4226	Franklin County	Increasing Sewer Capacity for Summit View Business Park, Franklin County	\$1,500,000	Withdrawn	No action taken
4268	Greensville County	FASTA Tier 5 Project	\$1,150,000	\$1,150,000	Grant award up to \$1,150,000 for up to 50% of contractual and site construction costs.
4224	Sussex County	Sussex Green Enterprise Park: Infrastructure Planning & Design	<del>\$1,929,372</del> \$406,250	\$406,250	Grant award up to \$406,250 for contractual expenses.
Tourism					
4277	Dan River Basin Association	Marketing and Infrastructure Planning for the Southern VA Blueways System	\$147,500	\$107,250	Grant award up to \$107,250 for master planning, upgraded promotional materials and access point signs contingent on at least 1:1 matching funds being secured within one year of award.
4273	Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation	Highway Signage to Promote Tourism for Red Hill & Quarter Place	\$86,250	\$81,250	Grant award up to \$81,250 for up to 50% of the cost of Supplemental Guide Signs and an expanded parking lot.

The Commission took action on three project extension requests from the Southern Virginia Committee:

Item	Commission Approved Action
South Boston IDA John Randolph Hotel Redevelopment Project (#3289)	The Commission approved a final extension to September 30, 2025, to complete renovations to the John Randolph Hotel.
Pittsylvania County SVMP Site & Grading Improvements Lot 2 (#3659)	The Commission approved a one-year extension to September 30, 2025.
City of Danville SVMP Site & Grading Improvements Lot 2 (#3663)	The Commission approved a one-year extension to September 30, 2025.

## Incentives & Loans Committee

The Commission took the following actions based on the recommendations of the Incentives & Loans Committee:

Item	Commission Approved Action
Method for Calculating Jobs/Wages Performance for TROF Awards	The Commission authorizes staff to alter current TROF Guidelines, Policies & Procedures, Grant and Loan Agreements, and other documentation as needed to utilize the method described on pages 37 and 38 of the Board Book for the calculation of performance for the jobs and wages portion of TROF awards.
Alternate Method for Calculating Capital Investment Performance for TROF Awards	The Commission authorizes staff, at their discretion, to modify performance agreements to allow for the utilization of reported costs (as evidenced by receipts of capital purchases) of M&T and TPP towards a company's taxable asset obligation, as verified in writing by the local Commissioner of Revenue, in cases where a TROF award is made for an expansion and the depreciation of existing assets does not allow for an accurate performance calculation based on assessed value.
Tobacco Region Incentive for Agribusiness Development (TRIAD) Program	The Commission approved the TRIAD program as presented in on pages 42 - 50 of the Board Book.

## Commission Action on Energy Committee Recommendations:

The Commission took the following actions based on the recommendations of the Energy Committee:

Req #	Organization	Project Title	Requested Amount	Staff Recommendation	Commission Decision
<b>Energy Catalyst – Planning Grants</b>					
4262	Edtunity Institute	The Next Military EV Education	\$50,000	Tabled	No action taken
4281	Town of Wytheville	Energy Action Plan	\$50,000	\$50,000	Grant award up to \$50,000 for 50% of third-party contractual expenses to complete an Energy Action Plan contingent on acquisition of at least 1:1 matching funds.
<b>Energy Execution – Implementation Grants</b>					
4287	Appalachian Voices	Energy Storage and Electrification Manufacturing Jobs Project	\$2,825,000	Tabled	Table
4261	Brunswick County	LNG Storage Project	\$1,000,000	Tabled	Table
4284	City of Danville	900 Mount Cross Road Battery Energy Storage System	\$1,500,000	\$750,000 grant/ \$750,000 loan	Grant award of \$750,000, and a referral to the TRRC loan program for the additional \$750,000, with the contingency that the project receives approval by the City Council.
4285	Town of Richlands	Town of Richlands Energy Diversification Project	\$4,000,000	\$2,000,000 grant/ \$2,000,000 loan	Grant award of \$2,000,000 contingent on securing sufficient funding for the project via revenue bonds within one year of award, and a referral to the TRRC loan program for the additional \$2,000,000.

4283	Downtown Wytheville, Inc.	Downtown Heritage Greenway Trail Demonstration EV Charging Station	\$15,000	Tabled	Table
4282	Town of Wytheville	Replace Aeration Blowers Energy Efficiency Project	\$592,000	No Award	No award
4286	ATIP Foundation, LLC	ATIP Foundation/ BargerTech Waste to Energy Demonstration Project	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	Grant award up to up to \$1,000,000 funding with the following contingencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalization of an agreement with the identified dairy farm collaborator;</li> <li>• Execution of letters of agreement for offtake of the energy and by-products;</li> <li>• Submission of a detailed budget for all direct costs of the project and the composition and usage of matching funds, to be reviewed by the TRRC Grants Director and the TRRC Regional Energy Director, and signed off on by the TRRC Executive Director;</li> <li>• Proof of secured financial commitments within one year of award approval date that would satisfy a 1:1 match requirement consistent with TRRC Funding Policies; and</li> <li>• Commission staff to work with the company on a mutually agreeable equity stake in the company, on behalf of the Foundation for the Advancement of Southern and Southwest Virginia, subject to the approval of the Executive Director.</li> </ul>

### Southwest Virginia Committee

The Commission took action on four project extension requests from the Southwest Virginia Committee:

Item	Commission Approved Action
Floyd County EDA Floyd Regional Commerce Center Phase II Development (#3191)	Commission approved a one-year extension through December 31, 2025.
Heart of Appalachia Tourism Authority Coalfield Regional Tourism Destination Project (#3464)	Commission approved a one-year extension through September 30, 2025.
Southwest Regional Recreation Authority Creating a Sportsman’s Economy for Southwest Virginia (#3564)	Commission approved retroactive extension, beginning August 1, 2024 and ending September 20, 2025.
Tazewell County IDA Cultural Arts of Southwest Virginia Corporation (#3557)	Commission approved a one-year extension through October 31, 2025.