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TOBACCO REGION REVITALIZATION COMMISSION

701 East Franklin Street, Suite 501
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Education Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 19, 2017
5:00 o'clock p.m.

The Crossroads Institute
Galax, Virginia

CRANE-SNEAD & ASSOCIATES, INC.
4914 Fitzhugh Avenue, Suite 203
Richmond, Virginia 23230
Tel. No. (804) 355-4335
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1 APPEARANCES:

2 The Honorable Frank M. Ruff, Chairman

3 Ms. Gayle F. Barts

4 The Honorable A. Benton Chafin, Jr.

5 Ms. Rebecca Coleman

6 Mr. A. Dale Moore

7 Mr. Cecil E. Shell

8 The Honorable William M. Stanley, Jr.

9 The Honorable Thomas C. Wright, Jr.

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11 COMMISSION STAFF:

12 Mr. Evan Feinman, Executive Director

13 Mr. Christopher E. Piper, Deputy Director

14 Mr. Timothy S. Pfohl, Grants Program Administration Director

15 Ms. Stephanie S. Kim, Director of Finance

16 Ms. Sarah K. Capps, Grants Program Administrator,

17 Ms. Michele Faircloth, Grants Assistant,

18 Southside Virginia

19 Ms. Sara G. Williams, Grants Program Administrator,

20 Southwest Virginia

21 Ms. Jessica Stamper, Grants Assistant

22 Southwest Virginia

23 Ms. Stacey Richardson, Executive Assistant

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COUNSEL FOR THE COMMISSION:
Ms. Elizabeth B. Myers, Assistant Attorney General
Richmond, Virginia 23219

1 September 19, 2017

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3 SENATOR RUFF: All right, I'm going to call the
4 Education Committee meeting to order, and ask Evan to call the
5 roll.

6 MR. FEINMAN: Ms. Barts.

7 MS. BARTS: Here.

8 MR. FEINMAN: Senator Chafin.

9 SENATOR CHAFIN: Here.

10 MR. FEINMAN: Ms. Coleman.

11 MS. COLEMAN: Here.

12 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Harris.

13 MR. HARRIS: (No response).

14 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Moore.

15 MR. MOORE: Here.

16 MR. FEINMAN: Senator Ruff.

17 SENATOR RUFF: Here.

18 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Shell.

19 MR. SHELL: Here.

20 MR. FEINMAN: Senator Stanley.

21 SENATOR STANLEY: Here.

22 MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Wright.

23 DELEGATE WRIGHT: Here.

24 MR. FEINMAN: You have a quorum, Mr. Chairman.

25 SENATOR RUFF: Thank you. The minutes from May

1 3rd, 2017 published on the website, do we have a motion?

2 MR. SHELL: So moved.

3 SENATOR STANLEY: Second.

4 SENATOR RUFF: It's been moved and seconded you
5 approved the minutes. Any discussion? All those in favor say
6 aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No response). The minutes are
7 approved.

8 We can go into executive session, or do you want to
9 do it now?

10 MR. FEINMAN: We can do it with other business.
11 New College Foundation.

12 MR. PFOHL: Mr. Chairman and members of the
13 Committee. this is regarding two existing grants to establish the
14 New College Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence, Grant
15 Number 2882 and 3098, a \$2 million grant through May of 2014.
16 Has a little over a million dollar balance.

17 The second one is Grant Number 3098, just under
18 \$1.6 million through September, 2015, a million and a quarter
19 remaining.

20 Both grants were made at the time of approval, the
21 New College Foundation, and benefits the New College Institute,
22 and specifically the Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence
23 was created there.

24 At the May meeting, there was some discussion of
25 freezing those funds because of some difficulties in administering

1 the grants between the Foundation and the New College Institute
2 itself. After some meetings and conversation addressing some
3 issues, New College Foundation, which is our grantee, has
4 offered to have these grants reassigned directly to the New
5 College Institute. Staff is recommending Grants 2882 and 3098,
6 originally issued to New College Foundation, be reassigned to
7 New College Institute under new grant agreements.

8 Staff recommends the new agreements retain the
9 original start date and that the end date on Grant 2882 be
10 extended to September 23rd, 2019 to allow two additional years
11 of implementation. Staff further recommends that the approval
12 for release of available balances beyond those costs previously
13 identified as eligible under the freeze, be conditioned on the
14 development of two items. Number one, a detailed training plan
15 and partnership agreement, and, number two, revised detailed
16 budget, which clearly aligns project costs to training programs
17 and objectives, to be approved by the Commission's Executive
18 Director. There's a little more description in your handout about
19 the detailed training plan and the revised detailed budget.

20 MR. FEINMAN: I'll just add that the situation
21 regarding the interaction between the Foundation and the College
22 Institute at the Staff level, we endeavored to follow the freeze as
23 requested by the Commission and which led to ultimately with
24 what we think is going to be, it's not a perfect new relationship,
25 but at least side-stepping that relationship and getting the

1 Commission, and we wanted to get involved in it and not
2 navigating that relationship.

3 SENATOR RUFF: Does the czar of the New College
4 Institute.

5 UNIDENTIFIED: I'm here if you have any questions.

6 SENATOR RUFF: No, but thank you for coming.

7 Any other questions? All right, is there a motion?

8 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Chairman, might it be that
9 members of the Committee accept a suggested motion, a motion
10 that might accomplish the goal outlined by Mr. Pfohl accept the
11 Staff recommendations as regards Grants 2882 and 3098,
12 including the giving of authority to the Executive Director to
13 approve two conditions enumerated.

14 MR. MOORE: Second.

15 SENATOR RUFF: Any further discussion on that
16 motion? Hearing none, all in favor, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed?
17 (No response).

18 Evan, you want to lead us in the Financial Aid?

19 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Chairman, regarding the
20 Workforce Financial Aid, the Committee has seen over the last
21 couple of years and across the Commission funding has declined,
22 and, in fact, usage of Financial Aid, Workforce Financial Aid, has
23 been somewhat steady, not in the direction we wanted it to go.
24 Following that, a downward trend in our funding and the Staff is
25 proposing that we reduce Workforce Financial Aid on a per

1 institution basis. From last year's \$250,000 by \$25,000,
2 \$50,000, \$35,000. It's our view that \$50,000 would probably be
3 the proper movement and maintain funding, particularly given
4 that this Committee has directed that we focus more on gifted
5 programs following the lead of the General Assembly, which
6 generally have a lower price tag on a per student basis and will
7 allow us to reach many more people for a lower dollar amount,
8 but we didn't want to remove too much discretion, and we're
9 prepared to move forward on any of those reductions. But to
10 stay within our budget, we do need to come down.

11 SENATOR RUFF: Have you all tried to look at how
12 each of the community colleges that are involved in the Footprint
13 that have dealt with the Workforce training while maintaining the
14 Associate Degree Program?

15 MR. FEINMAN: Kim can give us more specifics. In
16 general, Mr. Chairman, I would say that the directives from this
17 Committee and the Commission are regarded as friendly
18 suggestion as regard restrictions on funding, and the colleges
19 tend to do what they think is the wisest course of action as far as
20 funding priorities.

21 MR. PFOHL: The current Workforce Financial Aid rules
22 that were made in January are funding financial aid for the school
23 years, and we're just a handful of weeks underway, so I think it's
24 early to get a read on what the mandate is for the shorter
25 workforce credentials versus the one or two year program.

1 There are people that can speak better to that than myself and
2 have more up-to-date information than I do. It's difficult to have
3 a read on that this early in the school year.

4 SENATOR RUFF: I'd say any of them might have a
5 biased opinion. Last year, which meeting did we make the
6 decision?

7 MR. FEINMAN: January.

8 SENATOR RUFF: If there's no objection, I would like
9 for us to hold off and look at what's taken place this year, make
10 sure or give them the best dollars return. Any objection?
11 Hearing none, we'll carry this to the January meeting.

12 Other business?

13 MR. FEINMAN: We need to move into executive
14 session to discuss one item that you'll find in back of your
15 handout.

16 SENATOR CHAFIN: Mr. Chairman, I move that we go
17 into a closed meeting for purposes of discussing Economic
18 Development, such as Project Transformer, under Code Section
19 2.23711A5.

20 MS. BARTS: Second.

21 SENATOR RUFF: All in favor, say aye. (Ayes).

22 All right, if everyone would step out except for
23 members of the Commission and Staff.

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1 NOTE: A closed meeting is held, whereupon, the
2 Commission reconvenes.

3 SENATOR CHAFIN: I move that we vote on and
4 record our certification that, to the best of each member's
5 knowledge, only public business matters exempted from open
6 meeting requirements under this chapter and only such public
7 business matters as were identified in the motion, by which the
8 closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or
9 considered in the closed meeting.

10 SENATOR RUFF: That's a roll call.

11 MR. FEINMAN: Ms. Barts.

12 MS. BARTS: Yes.

13 MR. FEINMAN: Senator Chafin.

14 SENATOR CHAFIN: Yes.

15 MR. FEINMAN: Ms. Coleman.

16 MS. COLEMAN: Yes.

17 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Moore.

18 MR. MOORE: Yes.

19 MR. FEINMAN: Senator Ruff.

20 SENATOR RUFF: Yes.

21 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Shell.

22 MR. SHELL: Yes.

23 MR. FEINMAN: Senator Stanley.

24 SENATOR STANLEY: Yes.

25 MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Wright.

1 DELEGATE WRIGHT: Yes.

2 MR. FEINMAN: That motion carries.

3 SENATOR RUFF: Thank you. Ben.

4 SENATOR CHAFIN: Mr. Chairman, I move that we
5 obligate \$1.7 million to Project Transformer, and that is out of
6 Education, conditioned upon the project actually moving forward
7 and being awarded.

8 SENATOR RUFF: Is there a second?

9 MS. COLEMAN: Second.

10 SENATOR RUFF: Properly moved and seconded. Any
11 further discussion? All in favor, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No
12 response).

13 MR. FEINMAN: In the flurry of motions earlier, the
14 Committee did not take action on the requested fifth-year
15 extension for 2583, and the Staff recommends granting that
16 extension.

17 MR. PFOHL: The grant was originally approved to help
18 recent GED recipients move to a community college program,
19 and that would have duplicated our Workforce Financial Aid, and
20 that was targeted at noncredit Workforce Training, like certified
21 nursing assistants, aids, and truck driving, and so forth. Original
22 financial aid wasn't available at the time. There's been some
23 changes your committee approved for additional folks that
24 qualified for funding.

25 Then in the meantime, the Commonwealth's New

1 Workforce Training Financial Aid Programs were created, and
2 some of the original objectives were accomplished. And you see
3 a number of people like powerline workers, commercial truck
4 drivers, and so forth, and completing programs. About 45
5 percent of the grant was left, like \$178,000.

6 The Foundation for Community College Education is
7 optimistic they can draw down the bulk of that grant and they
8 need a fifth-year extension. They have noted that the much
9 discussed DACA students, and they're still not eligible for state
10 and federal financial aid, and they think they could serve some of
11 those students if they have a one-year extension. Staff is
12 recommending a fifth-year extension through September 26th,
13 2018.

14 MS. COLEMAN: I'll make that motion.

15 SENATOR RUFF: Any further discussion? All those in
16 favor, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No response).

17 All right, any other business?

18 DELEGATE WRIGHT: I wanted to make sure the
19 record is clear I voted yes on 2882 and 3098.

20 SENATOR RUFF: Anyone from the public that would
21 like to make any comment at this time?

22 Thank you all for coming. We're adjourned.

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PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED.

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CERTIFICATE OF THE COURT REPORTER

I, Medford W. Howard, Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public for the State of Virginia at Large, do hereby certify that I was the Court Reporter who took down and transcribed the proceedings of the **Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission, Education Committee Meeting**, when held on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at 5:00 o'clock p.m., at The Crossroads Institute, Galax, Virginia.

I further certify this is a true and accurate transcript, to the best of my ability to hear and understand the proceedings.

Given under my hand this 29th day of September, 2017.

Medford W. Howard
Registered Professional Reporter
Notary Public for the State of Virginia at Large

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: October 31, 2018.