

1                   **TOBACCO REGION REVITALIZATION COMMISSION**

2                                   701 East Franklin Street, Suite 501

3                                   Richmond, Virginia 23219

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8                                   **Full Commission Meeting**

9                                   Wednesday, September 19, 2018

10                                   11:00 o'clock a.m.

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Floyd Event Center

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Floyd, Virginia

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1     **APPEARANCES:**

2     The Honorable Terry G. Kilgore, Chairman  
3     The Honorable Frank M. Ruff, Vice Chairman  
4     Ms. Gayle F. Barts  
5     Mr. Ed Bevins  
6     The Honorable Kathy J. Byron  
7     The Honorable Charles W. Carrico, Sr.  
8     The Honorable A. Benton Chafin, Jr.  
9     Ms. Gretchen Clark  
10    Ms. Becky Coleman  
11    Mr. Joel Cunningham  
12    Mr. Demeria  
13    Dr. Alexis I. Ehrhardt  
14    The Honorable Franklin D. Harris  
15    Ms. Julie Hensley  
16    The Honorable Daniel W. Marshall, III  
17    Mr. Robert Mills, Jr.  
18    The Honorable James W. (Will) Morefield  
19    The Honorable Edward Owens  
20    Ms. Sandy Ratliff  
21    Mr. Cecil E. Shell  
22    Mr. Buddy Shelton  
23    Mr. Robert Spiers  
24    The Honorable William M. Stanley, Jr.  
25    The Honorable Thomas C. Wright

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COMMISSION STAFF:

- Mr. Evan Feinman, Executive Director
- Mr. Andy Sorrell, Deputy Director
- Mr. Timothy S. Pfohl, Grants Director
- Ms. Sarah K. Capps, Grants Program Administrator -  
    Southside Virginia
- Ms. Sara G. Williams, Grants Program Administrator -  
    Southwest Virginia
- Ms. Jessica Stamper, Grants Assistant -  
    Southwest Virginia
- Ms. Stacey Richardson, Administrative Supervisor
- Mr. Jordan L. Butler, Public Relations Coordinator

COUNSEL FOR THE COMMISSION:

- Ms. Elizabeth B. Myers, Assistant Attorney General  
    Richmond, Virginia 23219

1 September 19, 2018

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DELEGATE KILGORE: Good morning, everyone, I  
4 hope everybody enjoyed our meeting last night.

5

Evan, I'll ask you to call the roll.

6

MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Demeria.

7

MR. DEMERIA: Here.

8

MR. FEINMAN: Ms. Barts.

9

MS. BARTS: Here.

10

MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Blevins.

11

MR. BLEVINS: Here.

12

MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Byron.

13

DELEGATE BYRON: Here.

14

MR. FEINMAN: Senator Carrico.

15

SENATOR CARRICO: Here.

16

MR. FEINMAN: Senator Chafin.

17

SENATOR CHAFIN: Here.

18

MR. FEINMAN: Ms. Clark.

19

MS. CLARK: Here.

20

MR. FEINMAN: Ms. Coleman.

21

MS. COLEMAN: Here.

22

MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Cunningham.

23

MR. CUNNINGHAM: Here.

24

MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Edmunds.

25

DELEGATE EDMUNDS: (No response).

1 MR. FEINMAN: Dr. Ehrhardt.  
2 DR. EHRHARDT: Here.  
3 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Harris.  
4 MR. HARRIS: Here.  
5 MR. FEINMAN: Ms. Hensley.  
6 MS. HENSLEY: Here.  
7 MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Kilgore.  
8 DELEGATE KILGORE: Here.  
9 MR. FEINMAN: Secretary Lee.  
10 SECRETARY LEE: (No response).  
11 MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Marshall.  
12 DELEGATE MARSHALL: Here.  
13 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Mills.  
14 MR. MILLS: Here.  
15 MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Morefield.  
16 DELEGATE MOREFIELD: Here.  
17 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Owens.  
18 MR. OWENS: Here.  
19 MR. FEINMAN: Ms. Ratliff.  
20 MS. RATLIFF: Here.  
21 MR. FEINMAN: Secretary Ring.  
22 SECRETARY RING: (No response.)  
23 MR. FEINMAN: Senator Ruff.  
24 SENATOR RUFF: Here.  
25 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Shell.

1 MR. SHELL: Here.

2 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Shelton.

3 MR. SHELTON: Here.

4 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Spiers.

5 MR. SPIERS: Present.

6 MR. FEINMAN: Senator Stanley.

7 SENATOR STANLEY: Here.

8 MR. FEINMAN: Delegate Wright.

9 DELEGATE WRIGHT: Here.

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

11 DELEGATE KILGORE: Do I have a motion we approve  
12 the minutes from May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018?

13 MR. OWENS: So moved.

14 DELEGATE KILGORE: I have a motion and a second.  
15 All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No response).  
16 The minutes are approved.

17 Business Support, Delegate Marshall.

18 DELEGATE MARSHALL: I move that we, I defer to Mr.  
19 Sorrell.

20 MR. SORRELL: The Business Support Committee met  
21 yesterday and reviewed what they've done in terms of working  
22 with our grantees. We talked about a new direction and we  
23 talked with GENEDGE, we talked about commercialization, and  
24 we had, of course, the reps from GENEDGE here, and really  
25 talked about a new direction for the Committee. The Staff is

1 going to be providing the Committee with some new ideas and  
2 what we're planning to do. This will all be centered around  
3 developing a business plan that'll be part of our strategy going  
4 forward. We're looking at a similar arrangement that we have  
5 with GENEDGE now concerning the grantees.

6 I want to emphasize that the Staff is going to be  
7 providing the Committee with some new ideas and what we're  
8 aiming for and reconfigure the role that the Committee will work  
9 along with GENEDGE and looking into applications concerning  
10 small businesses and centered around, like a business plan and  
11 use, in working toward a strategy, et cetera. We're looking at a  
12 similar arrangement we have with GENEDGE now with our  
13 grantees and new grantees and providing them support with an  
14 eye towards entrepreneurship and something where the  
15 Committee can be more involved with working with GENEDGE  
16 along the way.

17 DELEGATE KILGORE: Thank you. Any questions?

18 Next we'll have the Executive Committee, I think we  
19 have some motions coming out of that committee. Senator Ruff.

20 SENATOR RUFF: Mr. Chairman, before I do that, I  
21 want to slip in the Education Committee, and before you is a  
22 recap of what the Centers of Excellence have done, and I'd like  
23 you to take that and review it.

24 Mr. Chairman, I move that the Commission accept the  
25 Executive Committee's recommendation to amend the FY 2018

1 budget to transfer funds from the Prospect Incentive Fund, in  
2 such amounts as are needed to pursue economic development  
3 opportunities within the Tobacco Region, to the Tobacco Region  
4 Opportunity Fund TROF. We have a second. And that's needed  
5 so we can keep these dollars rolling out to the prospects so we  
6 can close these deals.

7 DELEGAGE KILGORE: Now, I've got a motion and a  
8 second. All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No  
9 response). That motion carries.

10 SENATOR RUFF: Mr. Chairman, I move that the  
11 Commission accept the Executive Director's recommendation to  
12 designate funds from the OptiNet transaction to Southwest  
13 Broadband to the R&D Committee for construction, and those  
14 funds will be used for broadband in Southwest Virginia.

15 DELEGATE MOREFIELD: Second.

16 DELEGATE KILGORE: I have a motion and a second.  
17 Any more discussion? All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes).  
18 Opposed? (No response). That motion passes.

19 SENATOR RUFF: Mr. Chairman, I move the  
20 Commission accept the Executive Committee's recommendation  
21 to endorse the transfer of the \$1.5 million loan to the  
22 Commonwealth Center for Advanced Manufacturing from the  
23 Virginia Resources Authority to the Commission.

24 DELEGATE KILGORE: Any more discussion on that? I  
25 have a motion and a second. All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes).



1 Opposed) (No response). That motion carries.

2 SENATOR RUFF: Mr. Chairman, I move that the  
3 Salary Adjustment Committee be charged with the performance  
4 of evaluating the Executive Director. Do I have a second? Any  
5 more discussion? All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed?  
6 (No response). That motion carries.

7 I believe that's all the action we took.

8 DELEGATE KILGORE: All right. Delegate Byron, we  
9 now have the R&D Committee.

10 DELEGATE BYRON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We  
11 discussed several projects and mostly extensions. I move the  
12 Commission accept the R&D Committee's recommendation to  
13 grant an additional year extension request until September 30,  
14 2019 for Grant Number 2698, Evacuation Damage Prevention  
15 Devices, as described on page 30 in your Commission book.

16 DELEGATE MARSHALL: Do I have a second to that  
17 extension? I have a second. Any discussion on that extension?  
18 All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No response).  
19 That motion carries.

20 DELEGATE BYRON: We also had a second one. I  
21 move the Commission accept the R&D Committee's  
22 recommendation to authorize, to unfreeze and approve a revised  
23 budget for Grant Number 3208, based upon the results of the  
24 GENEDGE close-out meeting, and any necessary follow-up  
25 negotiations that may be needed.

1 DELEGATE KILGORE: That's Grant Number 3208, and  
2 I have a motion, and do I have a second? All those in favor of  
3 that motion, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No response). That  
4 motion carries.

5 DELEGATE BYRON: I'd like the record to note that the  
6 R&D Committee did announce we will have a second round of  
7 broadband, and the Staff is going to work on putting out the  
8 details for that, and the deadline would be March 1<sup>st</sup>, and that we  
9 would have an application that'll be discussed at our January  
10 meeting. And then the deadline would be March 1<sup>st</sup>, and then we  
11 would plan on bidding on those projects at a time at our May  
12 meeting.

13 DELEGATE KILGORE: Will we have all of that --

14 MR. FEINMAN: We won't have it all in, but we'll have  
15 scoping at our meeting in January and see what kind of reaction  
16 we receive.

17 DELEGATE BYRON: So when it's available, we'll be  
18 notified?

19 MR. FEINMAN: Yes.

20 DELEGATE BYRON: That concludes the R&D.

21 DELEGATE KILGORE: Delegate Wright, Southside.

22 DELEGATE WRIGHT: Mr. Chairman, Southside  
23 Economic Development, starting on page 23, and the Southside  
24 Economic Development Committee recommendations, and the  
25 grant numbers are 3470, 3469, 3472, 3471, and 3480. I move

1 that the Commission accept the Southside Economic  
2 Development Committee's recommendation to authorize, and I  
3 move that the Commission accept the Southside Committee  
4 recommendations on these projects.

5 DELEGATE KILGORE: We have a motion.

6 MR. OWENS: Second.

7 DELEGATE KILGORE: We have a motion and a second  
8 to accept the Southside recommendation.

9 MR. SHELL: Could you pull out 3472?

10 DELEGATE KILGORE: 3472 is removed from the  
11 block.

12 A COMMISSION MEMBER: Could you remove 3471.

13 DELEGATE KILGORE: 3472 and 3471 are removed  
14 from the block.

15 UNIDENTIFIED: 3480.

16 DELEGATE KILGORE: 3480, now we don't have a  
17 block.

18 DELEGATE WRIGHT: Then I move 3470 and 3469.

19 DELEGATE KILGORE: Two in a block. All those in  
20 favor, say aye. I have a motion you made and seconded that we  
21 approve 3470 and 3469. All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes).  
22 Opposed? (No response). That motion passes.

23 Now back to 3471. Delegate Wright, do you move  
24 that we approve 3471?

25 DELEGATE WRIGHT: Yes.

1 DELEGATE KILGORE: I have a motion and a second.  
2 All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No response).  
3 That motion passes.

4 DELEGATE WRIGHT: The same with 3472.

5 DELEGATE KILGORE: So moved.

6 MR. MILLS: Second.

7 DELEGATE KILGORE: All those in favor of 3472, say  
8 aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No response). One abstention.

9 DELEGATE WRIGHT: The same with 3480.

10 DELEGATE KILGORE: I have a motion and a second  
11 to approve 3480. Those in favor, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed?  
12 (No response). That's approved, one abstention.

13 DELEGATE WRIGHT: That's my report, Mr. Chairman.

14 DELEGATE KILGORE: Thank you. Next is Southwest  
15 Economic Development Committee.

16 MR. PFOHL: There was another matter that hadn't  
17 been voted on yet. That was 3480. That's the Pittsylvania  
18 Transfer of the Inland Port.

19 DELEGATE WRIGHT: I move that the Commission  
20 accept the Southside Economic Development Committee's  
21 recommendation to authorize reimbursement in the amount of  
22 \$140,000 to Pittsylvania County for the Inland Port Study, as  
23 authorized by the Executive Committee two years ago from the  
24 County's Southside Economic Development allocation.

25 MR. OWENS: Second.

1 DELEGATE KILGORE: I have a motion and a second.  
2 All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No response).  
3 That motion passes.

4 DELEGATE WRIGHT: That completes my report.

5 DELEGATE KILGORE: Thank you. Next is Southwest  
6 Economic, Senator Carrico.

7 SENATOR CARRICO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In  
8 my absence, the Committee met this morning. They granted  
9 extensions to Grant Number 2549, Bush Mill Heritage Tourism  
10 Project; Grant Number 2729, Constitutional Oaks Access Road  
11 Development; Grant Number 2739, Expanding the Crooked Road  
12 Brand; Grant Number 2904, Adventure Playground - Expanding  
13 the Regional Footprint of Economic Impact; Grant Number 3192,  
14 LENOWISCO Project Intersection. Those were all granted  
15 extensions and voted on and I would so move.

16 DELEGATE MOREFIELD: Second.

17 DELEGATE KILGORE: Any discussion.

18 MR. PFOHL: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to keep  
19 interrupting you, but just to clarify, the Committee's  
20 recommendation was to amend the original contingency, for the  
21 condition of award on that project. All the others were  
22 extensions, Grant Number 3192 was an amendment.

23 DELEGATE KILGORE: All right. You've got the motion  
24 in front of you and the second. All those in favor of that motion,  
25 say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No response). That motion

1 carries. Thank you.

2 Now, Delegate Marshall.

3 DELEGATE MARSHALL: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Special  
4 Projects met for about two-and-a-half hours. In your books,  
5 page 5 through page 20, though the first motion I move is that  
6 the Commission accept the Special Projects Committee's three  
7 health care grants, totaling \$1,331,562. Those numbers are  
8 3462, 3461, and 3463.

9 DELEGATE KILGORE: Anyone want to pull any of  
10 those out of the block? All right. 3463 is pulled out of the block.

11 So, Delegate Marshall makes a motion to approve  
12 3461 and 3462.

13 DELEGATE MARSHALL: 3462 is \$266,562, and 3461 is  
14 \$565,000.

15 DELEGATE KILGORE: Any discussion on those two?  
16 3462, I have a motion and a second to approve 3462. All those  
17 in favor, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No response). That  
18 motion carries.

19 3461, Virginia Commonwealth University, all those in  
20 favor of that, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No response). That  
21 motion carries.

22 Now, 3463, the Virginia Health Care Foundation.

23 UNIDENTIFIED: Do you need an abstain on 3461?

24 DELEGATE KILGORE: Yes, all right. The next one is  
25 3463. Delegate Marshall, do I have a motion on that?

1 DELEGATE MARSHALL: 3463, Virginia Health Care  
2 Foundation, I move \$500,000.

3 DELEGATE KILGORE: I have a motion and a second.

4 SENATOR CARRICO: Mr. Chairman, we had a  
5 discussion yesterday about that, and in that discussion, we  
6 talked about the million dollars by the State or Department of  
7 Social Services and what they're looking for. And as you look at  
8 the way the application is drawn up and the 600 people that they  
9 estimate to try to help them and this facility, and in that  
10 estimation of those 600 people and whether they're able to fill  
11 out that eight-page document that's required. One of the  
12 objections I have and one of the things that I feel needs to be  
13 done as far as the Tobacco Region is this.

14 In my office, and I'm sure many of your offices get  
15 calls and that aging population is asking for us to help them fill  
16 out these forms. And as a result of hospital stays and medication  
17 changing and how to apply for these things. If we're going to be  
18 on the forefront for these health care initiatives, there's got to be  
19 some way to reach this aging population. I don't think it's fair to  
20 use a half million dollars of Tobacco money for this group of  
21 people for these health care policies and leave the aging  
22 population out. But I think we're leaving part of the population  
23 out.

24 DELEGATE KILGORE: Any more discussion?

25 DELEGATE MARSHALL: I make the motion for 3463

1 for \$500,000.

2 DELEGATE KILGORE: We've got a motion and a  
3 second. All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? No. We  
4 have three nos, so that passes.

5 All right, let's move along then.

6 DELEGATE MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, I move that the  
7 Regional Economic Development request, and I move that we  
8 accept from the City of Emporia, Number 3454 for \$130,000;  
9 3464, the Heart of Appalachia Tourism Authority, \$483,220;  
10 Request Number 3459, Mountain Empire Community College,  
11 \$425,905; Request 3334, Southwest Virginia Workforce  
12 Development Board for \$248,950; Request 3457, Virginia  
13 Museum of Natural History Foundation, \$75,000; 3458, Virginia's  
14 Growth Alliances for \$750,000, and 3475, Virginia Tech Office of  
15 Economic Development for \$138,820.

16 DELEGATE KILGORE: Does anyone need to take  
17 anything out of the block or add anything?

18 A COMMISSION MEMBER: I'd like to move 3334 out  
19 of the block.

20 DELEGATE KILGORE: 3334 is removed from the  
21 block.

22 DELEGATE MARSHALL: Southwest Virginia Workforce  
23 Development Board.

24 A COMMISSION MEMBER: Mr. Chairman, 3464 be  
25 removed from the block.



1 DELEGATE KILGORE: 3464 removed from the block.

2 A COMMISSION MEMBER: 3465 out of the block.

3 DELEGATE MARSHALL: 3465 is referred to the  
4 Education Committee.

5 MR. PFOHL: Clarification, Mr. Chairman. 3458, which  
6 was submitted, that should be Virginia Industrial Advancement  
7 Alliance.

8 DELEGATE KILGORE: Thank you. Left in is 3454,  
9 3459, 3457, 3458, and 3475.

10 DELEGATE MARSHALL: I so move.

11 DELEGATE KILGORE: Do I have a second? All right, I  
12 have a motion and a second. All those in favor of those grants  
13 just announced, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No response).  
14 That motion carries.

15 Now, going back to 3464, any discussion? All those in  
16 favor, Heart of Appalachia Tourism Authority, for \$483,220, say  
17 aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No response). One abstention.

18 Moving along, 3334, Southwest Virginia Workforce  
19 Development Board, that's for \$248,950.

20 A COMMISSION MEMBER: I have a question, Mr.  
21 Chairman. Have we done any investment in this before?

22 MR. PFOHL: We've invested in a similar project like  
23 this one. I cannot tell you what the level of involvement of  
24 Workforce Investment, they were not the grantee. I don't have  
25 that clarity for you, but we haven't granted it directly to

1 Workforce, to my recollection.

2 DELEGATE BYRON: Mr. Chairman, I apologize.  
3 Sometimes we have a meeting in advance of our Full Meeting,  
4 and we've had a pretty full agenda. There's probably still some  
5 we were trying to catch and digest after the meeting was over,  
6 and I had a few questions, and I know the original grant, and I  
7 know some have expanded and doing a great job with promoting  
8 this, as well. I like the idea of, I'm not opposed to what they're  
9 trying to do with the investment, but I think we need to look a  
10 little bit further about Workforce and other groups that are going  
11 to be grantees.

12 DELEGATE KILGORE: Are you suggesting that the  
13 Institute be involved?

14 DELEGATE BYRON: I don't want them to be the  
15 grantee, but we can't change that in the committee meeting, and  
16 if we can, I'd just as soon table it until our next meeting. And I  
17 don't think that would affect the application and give time to look  
18 into it further.

19 DELEGATE KILGORE: I know you've been involved in  
20 this more than most.

21 DELEGATE BYRON: I've been on the Workforce Board  
22 for 20 years, and I know what the structure is like and what  
23 they're trying to do.

24 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Chairman, my understanding, if  
25 we're discussing 3334, my understanding is that some of the

1 components or the Staff was initially thinking of referring this to,  
2 and some of the components of the project, and there would be  
3 an impact on the project if we were to table it.

4 SENATOR CARRICO: In listening to the conversation  
5 and the question came up and I know we had a large block of  
6 conversation yesterday, I'll go ahead and make the motion that  
7 we table this until the January meeting so everybody has a better  
8 chance of looking at this.

9 A COMMISSION MEMBER: Is anybody here that can  
10 talk about this?

11 MS. COLEMAN: Well, what's the purpose in delaying  
12 it?

13 UNIDENTIFIED: Well, we have two years to meet the  
14 goal, and there are 14 counties awaiting the opportunity in order  
15 to meet our goal. And without this funding, we couldn't get  
16 started, and we signed up over 40 and we've got projects ready  
17 to go and not just Workforce, but it's an economic factor, and we  
18 do have a certain criteria. But the MPR and some employers  
19 require these certain credentials and we're also trying to recruit  
20 people.

21 MS. MYERS: Mr. Chairman, the motion takes  
22 precedence.

23 DELEGATE KILGORE: Majority vote. We have a  
24 motion to table. All right, motion to table. All those in favor of  
25 tabling this, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? Nos. The nos raise

1 your hand? All right, the motion to table carries. And I might  
2 say Delegate Edmonds planned to be here, but the roads have  
3 been flooding in his area.

4 DELEGATE MARSHALL: So, 3465, Virginia Highlands  
5 Community College Educational Foundation, and that is to be  
6 referred to Competitive Education.

7 DELEGATE KILGORE: I think there's a discussion,  
8 Senator Carrico.

9 SENATOR CARRICO: The Community College is  
10 working toward the technology aspect. And I think they have  
11 \$3 million in commitments right now to this facility and a  
12 competitive education grant.

13 DELEGATE KILGORE: Is that three million --

14 SENATOR CARRICO: That's why I need to find out --

15 DELEGATE KILGORE: What's the timeline? I know  
16 they've got three million, but it gives so much time to build the  
17 building, that I'm not sure what the timeline is.

18 SENATOR CARRICO: If Dr. Couch could address us on  
19 the timeline.

20 DELEGATE MARSHALL: So, 3465, Virginia Highlands  
21 Community College Education Foundation, Special Projects will  
22 refer that to the Education Committee.

23 DELEGATE KILGORE: Before we do that, I think there  
24 is some discussion on that.

25 SENATOR CARRICO: Once again, Mr. Chairman, we're

1 dealing with a community college that's working toward  
2 advanced technology, and Dr. Couch is here, I'd like to hear from  
3 him. And I think they've got right now about \$3 million to do  
4 this for this facility.

5 DELEGATE KILGORE: Is there a timeline on the  
6 \$3 million?

7 SENATOR CARRICO: That's what I need to find out.

8 DELEGATE KILGORE: I know they've got a \$3 million,  
9 but I think they gave so much time to move forward and build  
10 the building.

11 SENATOR CARRICO: If we could get Dr. Couch to  
12 address that.

13 DR. COUCH: I appreciate the opportunity to address  
14 you all. We do have, or we actually got \$3 million on the table  
15 for the project, but the condition is that we move forward within  
16 one year. And the donation was received last December and we  
17 have to use those funds.

18 DELEGATE MARSHALL: Let me ask either Kathy or  
19 Tim a question. What is the Special Projects fund balance if we  
20 approved for this?

21 MR. PFOHL: One million one hundred and forty-five  
22 thousand.

23 DELEGATE MARSHALL: One million dollars.

24 SENATOR CARRICO: Would it also be 372 if it was  
25 tabled?

1 MR. PFOHL: No, that's over and above the 377.

2 SENATOR CARRICO: So, I guess the next question,  
3 Dr. Couch, where could you go with what we have?

4 DR. COUCH: Here is where we are, and obviously  
5 we'd like to receive full funding. And we realize that may not  
6 occur, so we would be delighted to have any and all that --

7 SENATOR CARRICO: So, Mr. Chairman, in order to  
8 move forward with this project, I would just make a motion that  
9 we would, the \$1.7 million in this project and give them the  
10 funds and they can reapply.

11 DELEGATE MARSHALL: Let me just make sure \$1.7.  
12 So, what are you proposing that we --

13 SENATOR CARRICO: Why don't we institute 377 one  
14 point four million?

15 MR. PFOHL: One million five hundred and twenty-two  
16 thousand.

17 DELEGATE KILGORE: What's that number?

18 MR. PFOHL: One million five hundred and twenty-two  
19 thousand and some change.

20 DELEGATE KILGORE: There was some question the  
21 Staff had. I know there were a couple of applications into ARC,  
22 can you tell us how much that is so we can get a ballpark?

23 DR. COUCH: We do have GO Virginia, that application  
24 is \$400,000, and there are two other grants.

25 DELEGATE KILGORE: The question is you've invested

1 in the project, can we assume and hopefully get the remainder of  
2 this from somewhere else. What was the amount you applied for  
3 from EDA and ARC?

4 UNIDENTIFIED: We asked for --

5 DELEGATE KILGORE: Is the limit with ARC \$500,000?

6 UNIDENTIFIED: Yes.

7 DELEGATE KILGORE: That would be the application to  
8 ARC? The question was asked by someone up here how much  
9 was in Southwest?

10 MR. PFOHL: Seven hundred thousand.

11 DELEGATE MARSHALL: What is the motion?

12 SENATOR CARRICO: I want to make it clear what my  
13 motion is. I want to make the motion, and the motion would be  
14 that we appropriate \$1.5 million conditioned on the \$3 million  
15 that's committed.

16 DELEGATE MARSHALL: Mr. Chairman, may I ask the  
17 Senator a question. The problem to me with the million five, and  
18 if we do a million five, my suggestion is, my suggestion a million  
19 and that project we just tabled and ultimately for a year, but,  
20 also, Special Projects will be out of money and we won't have  
21 any funding left to move the project forward if, we won't have  
22 that at the January meeting.

23 DELEGATE KILGORE: Would you amend your motion  
24 to say a million dollars?

25 SENATOR CARRICO: I'll amend my motion for one

1 million.

2 DELEGATE KILGORE: Do I have a second to the  
3 amended motion? Got a second. Any discussion on that? All  
4 right. All those in favor of the amended motion for Grant  
5 Number 3465, \$1 million dollars, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed?  
6 (No response).

7 DELEGATE MARSHALL: So, we have 3457, Virginia  
8 Museum of Natural History Foundation, \$75,000, that was  
9 approved. I move that the Commission accept the Special  
10 Projects Committee's recommendation to grant a fifth-year  
11 extension until September 23, 2020 for Grant Number 3091,  
12 Construction of Poplar Forest Parkway, as described on page 20  
13 in your Commission book. And I so move.

14 DELEGATE KILGORE: All those in favor of that  
15 motion, say aye, for that extension. And do I have a second. I  
16 have a second. All those in favor of that, say aye. (Ayes).  
17 Opposed? (No response). That motion carries.

18 DELEGATE MARSHALL: I move that the Commission  
19 accept the Special Projects Committee's recommendation for  
20 Grant Number 2264, Berry Hill Mega Park, to grant a budget  
21 reallocation request to support road and electric line engineering  
22 and right-of-way acquisition and to grant an additional one-year  
23 extension for a revised project, end date of January 11, 2020, as  
24 described on page 20 in your Commission book. I so move.

25 DELEGATE KILGORE: I have a motion and a second.



1 All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No response).  
2 One abstention.

3 DELEGATE MARSHALL: I move that the Commission  
4 accept the Special Projects Committee's recommendation to  
5 grant a fifth-year extension through January 7, 2019 for Grant  
6 Number 2820, which is the Greensville MAMac Site, and I so  
7 move.

8 DELEGATE KILGORE: We have a motion and a  
9 second. All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No  
10 response). One abstention.

11 DELEGATE MARSHALL: I also move that the  
12 Commission accept the Special Projects Committee's  
13 recommendation to grant an extension through the January 2019  
14 Commission Meeting for the grantee to work with Staff to review  
15 outcomes of the proposed revised budget to insure such  
16 outcomes meet the original intent for Grant Number 2580,  
17 Liberty University Center for Medical and Health Sciences, Phase  
18 II, as described on page 21 in the Commission book, and I so  
19 move.

20 DELEGATE KILGORE: I have a motion and a second.  
21 Any further discussion? All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes).  
22 Opposed? (No response). --

23 MS. COLEMAN: I have a question about using that  
24 three million dollars, it's a long time, six years. That money  
25 could have been used, and the money should have been used by

1 now.

2 DELEGATE KILGORE: I think they're supposed to  
3 report back to Staff and work with Staff. I don't remember the  
4 specific language --

5 MR. FEINMAN: The approval was to work with Staff  
6 to insure that all the \$3 million was to be used to pursue  
7 various --

8 DELEGATE KILGORE: Work with Staff and report  
9 back.

10 MR. FEINMAN: We can approve it if they are or if we  
11 see where it's going and then report back where we are and keep  
12 track of where we are.

13 DELEGATE KILGORE: Did that answer your question?

14 MS. COLEMAN: Not really.

15 SENATOR CHAFIN: Mr. Chairman, I move that we  
16 table 3467.

17 DELEGATE KILGORE: To table it.

18 SENATOR CARRICO: Second.

19 DELEGATE MARSHALL: No action taken.

20 DELEGATE KILGORE: There is a motion to table, and  
21 Senator Carrico, did you second that?

22 SENATOR CARRICO: Yes.

23 DELEGATE KILGORE: All those in favor of tabling  
24 3467, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No response). That motion  
25 to table carries.

1 Is that your report?

2 DELEGATE MARSHALL: That's my report.

3 MR. SPIERS: Mr. Chairman, I find it unfortunate, it  
4 looks like there are many times when we get information and we  
5 don't have time to digest it thoroughly or at the last moment,  
6 and I find that unfortunate.

7 DELEGATE KILGORE: That happens sometimes or we  
8 schedule an action and it doesn't work out exactly, and I think  
9 that's something we'll need to work on and look ahead at that.

10 MR. FEINMAN: If you all would like longer and more  
11 meetings, we can certainly do that.

12 DELEGATE MARSHALL: We've done two things like  
13 yesterday we had the subcommittee, and we took two hours,  
14 probably should have done four hours. And we had a day's  
15 meeting a couple of weeks before, and I'd rather error on having  
16 more time to work these things out.

17 DELEGATE KILGORE: Especially the ones we think  
18 we're going to have a lot of conversation about or like next year  
19 for the May meeting, we'll probably need to set aside, and I'm  
20 speaking of Kathy's R&D Committee, and we'll probably need to  
21 set aside an extra meeting before we meet and not do it the day  
22 before.

23 DELEGATE BYRON: Mr. Chairman, having a meeting a  
24 couple of weeks in advance would give you some time to think  
25 about some of these things, or someone may contact you about

1 something for an upcoming meeting, but maybe we should have  
2 some more and go back to what we were doing before, but  
3 making sure we get the meetings in advance.

4 MR. FEINMAN: We can certainly do that. I would also  
5 encourage the Commission members when you receive your  
6 applications and when you consider deadlines and all that  
7 information is available to Committee members and go over all  
8 the material before the meeting. We try to get them out at least  
9 a week before.

10 DELEGATE BYRON: Mr. Chairman, if we could get  
11 recommendations in advance and we get in these meetings and  
12 get everybody's ideas.

13 DELEGATE KILGORE: We'll work with Evan and the  
14 Staff and try to, especially the projects we know there'll be a lot  
15 of discussion. All right, we'll try to work with Staff and see what  
16 we can do and thank everybody for their comments. All right.

17 The next is the TROF Committee report. The first one  
18 is I move that the Commission accept the TROF Committee's  
19 recommendation for Project H that the Commission approve an  
20 increased loan amount of \$315,000 to allow Staff to work with  
21 VEDP on that Incentive Scenario.

22 DELEGATE MARSHALL: So moved.

23 SENATOR RUFF: Second. Any further discussion on  
24 Project H? All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No  
25 response). That passes.

1 DELEGATE KILGORE: I move that the Commission  
2 accept the TROF Committee's recommendation for Grant 3477  
3 and that the Commission approve guideline incentives and to  
4 allow Staff to work with VEDP on which incentive scenario works  
5 best. That Project 3477 is out of Danville.

6 SENATOR RUFF: We have a motion and a second.

7 DELEGATE KILGORE: Two million thirty-five thousand  
8 TROF grant, and \$2,035,000 TROF loan grant, for a total of  
9 \$4,700,000.

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

12 DELEGATE KILGORE: I move that the Commission  
13 accept the TROF Committee's recommendation to have Staff  
14 review if any changes are needed in the Tobacco Region  
15 Opportunity Fund Formula in terms of loan agreements and  
16 report back the results of this work to the Commission at the  
17 January 2019 meeting.

18 DELEGATE MARSHALL: Second.

19 SENATOR RUFF: You've heard the motion. Any  
20 discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor, say aye. (Ayes).  
21 Opposed? (No response). That passes.

22 DELEGATE KILGORE: This is the last one. I move  
23 that this Committee accept the TROF Committee  
24 recommendation, the revenue return at five percent of the total  
25 taxable ID of the TROF and any additional negotiations and any

1 future negotiations and only relate to the timeframe that meets  
2 the 105 percent of revenue return.

3 DELEGATE MARSHALL: Second.

4 SENATOR RUFF: This is a change, which it was 15  
5 percent.

6 DELEGATE MARSHALL: It's five percent of that  
7 particular project taxable amount, not five percent of the  
8 county's taxable amount.

9 SENATOR RUFF: Any further discussion? Hearing  
10 none, all those in favor, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed? (No  
11 response).

12 DELEGATE KILGORE: Now, we have a TROF update.  
13 Andy.

14 MR. SORRELL: This is page 36 of your book. I'll give  
15 you a brief update on where we're at with the TROF. Page 36 of  
16 your book, and there's a handout there, but the bottom line is FY  
17 18 we had a significant uptake in the TROF awards of 15 percent  
18 increase over FY 17, 32 versus 20. And of the 32 TROFs, 7.8  
19 million were grants and 4.3 were loans, for a total in FY 18 of  
20 \$12.2 million.

21 In FY-17, had some 20 TROFs awarded, and the grant  
22 amount was \$3.17 million. We'll have an update on the amount  
23 of loans we had. I just wanted to give you that brief update.

24 You can also see from your handout that in FY-19,  
25 we're working on some.

1           Now, I'll give you a quick update on the planning  
2 process. You'll recall in the summer of 2017, the Commission  
3 started a planning process for the COEs and, as you know, with  
4 Martinsville and Southwest Virginia and Southside Virginia. The  
5 outcome of that last summer was \$30,000-plus and there was  
6 some changeover of staff. Earlier this summer, we worked out  
7 some goals, and along with that, we're working on objectives and  
8 strategies so we can accomplish our goals. Earlier this summer,  
9 we had some feedback and a Monday meeting in Martinsville to  
10 work out the direction that we're going. We're going to review  
11 the draft plan on Monday, and we're working on all that.

12           Are there any questions about the Strategic Plan?  
13 You'll also see there's an update on the Credentials Training, and  
14 that involves the vocational training at community colleges. Over  
15 a thousand students earning credentials in FY-18. You'll notice in  
16 your handout a summary, and I've got a summary for each COE,  
17 and I can provide that at any time to you.

18           At this point, if there aren't any questions, I'm going  
19 to ask Betty Adams to address you.

20           DR. ADAMS: Good afternoon, I'm Betty Adams,  
21 Executive Director of the Southern Virginia Higher Education  
22 Center in South Boston, Virginia. We have the COEs at our  
23 center, and we call that the Center of Excellence. We want to  
24 thank you for the opportunity to share some of our progress  
25 today and my fellow COEs have asked me to provide some

1 observations that we have done over the last three-and-a-half  
2 years working together. I'll start with this year's observation.

3 This has been an incredibly ambitious project, and all  
4 three of the Centers have embraced that. We've worked with  
5 building up the technical training capacity in Southern and  
6 Southwest Virginia and we're also working very hard on these  
7 advanced manufacturing goals. That's ultimately increasing the  
8 number of credentials in preparing for industry, and that's got to  
9 be suitable and attractive for the advanced manufacturing  
10 industries. That's the ambitious part. The Commission has had a  
11 position to use nontraditional approach in our centers, and the  
12 Commission chose to work outside that system. And I'll be  
13 honest, there were some doubters in the beginning and rightly  
14 so, and that made some of the early work difficult. We have a  
15 great staff and we believe that all three centers believe that this  
16 decision to innovate has proved to be correct.

17 For the Southern Virginia Higher Education Center, it's  
18 been an extension of some of the work that we've already  
19 started in short term, and that involves credential training. Our  
20 long-term partners, like local Virginia colleges and Danville  
21 Community College, they've been a partner for us for years.  
22 That comprises a pretty big geographic area. Our concept was to  
23 develop a hub to leverage expertise and resources. For DCC,  
24 that was machine, and for Southside that was welding, and the  
25 Higher Ed Center, electronics.



1           This past year, we've presented a total of almost 700  
2 credentials, and that includes DCC's precision machining. We've  
3 also provided customized training for various industries in the  
4 region and engaged more than 5,000 participants. I'd also like  
5 to say we're very pleased and proud with the outcomes that  
6 these folks have been completing and all of the technical training  
7 programs that have been offered. We have a very high  
8 completion rate, an 87 percent job employment rate. One of our  
9 partners, Southside Virginia Community College, has expanded  
10 to the east, and that's probably one of the least served areas,  
11 but they are helping in places like Emporia to serve various high  
12 schools. It also supports the Fort Lee Transition Training  
13 Program.

14           We, in South Boston, are very proud of the fact that  
15 we have helped launch a career academy and this is in  
16 collaboration with two community colleges and with three public  
17 school systems, Charlotte, Halifax, and Mecklenburg County. We  
18 have juniors and seniors from those public schools coming to the  
19 Higher Ed Center working towards certificates and also receiving  
20 industry-approved credentials in advanced manufacturing and  
21 information technology.

22           We believe also that this investment helps other  
23 projects, including the GO Tech Project, which stands for Growing  
24 Opportunities and Technical Engineering Careers. And that's  
25 funded through GO Virginia and backed up by Danville

1 Community College.

2 We are a partner with NCI, another COE on that  
3 project, three higher ed. centers, three community colleges, and  
4 we're expanding actually into middle schools across region three.  
5 Phase II of the project is actually reaching into other regions. At  
6 the Southern Higher Education Center, we're also working with  
7 NCI and Averett University, where we're developing instructional  
8 dynamics for technical trainer's course, and that includes five  
9 definite areas and focusing on technical aspects. And there's a  
10 great demand for that.

11 Our shared observations include the following. When  
12 we started this project, the intent was the community college  
13 partners to focus on the foundational level of credentials and for  
14 the Centers of Excellence to work on credentials. The reality is  
15 that we're all at the foundational level. You can't have advanced  
16 without having the foundation. So, we're beginning to see the  
17 demand for advanced credentials grow. I think we also  
18 underestimated the demand by industry for trained workers in  
19 these types of fields, and especially in the technical aspect and  
20 sending workers to these credential-based programs. But they  
21 need to get those fires put out and that's why we have the COE.

22 Now, Megatronics has initially been a hard sell, but as  
23 folks continue to come in and through the colleges, we're seeing  
24 interest in that improve. We just see overall an increase in  
25 technical education. And public schools are getting involved in it.

1 Because of our public schools now putting more emphasis on  
2 career technical education, the COEs or it's improving our  
3 awareness and increasing demand.

4 I also want to comment on the workforce initiative.  
5 These are vital to at least two of the Centers of Excellence, but  
6 COEs in the Southwest does not receive support for that, but the  
7 new Workforce Development Program that the Commission has  
8 supported, we wouldn't have access to these programs.

9 In closing, I'd like to say that while each of the COEs  
10 is a little different, we are completely united in our mission to be  
11 a dynamic network of Advanced Manufacturing Resources for  
12 supporting industry by trying to develop an exceptional  
13 workforce. Thank you again for this opportunity, and I'll now  
14 turn it over to another COE director.

15 SENATOR RUFF: Before you leave, are students  
16 enrolled and students completing the various programs?

17 DR. ADAMS: The difference between students  
18 enrolled and students completing, and I'll ask Andy to come in if  
19 he has anything to say. Of course, everyone enrolled does not  
20 always complete the program and don't pretend to say so.

21 SENATOR RUFF: What's the reason for that?

22 DR. ADAMS: I think each of us might have a different  
23 answer for that, but we find some of our students or some of our  
24 trainees have so many other things going on in their lives, trying  
25 to work, trying to take care of their family, so going to school

1 with all that going on becomes overwhelming.

2 At the Higher Ed Center, we have a literacy program,  
3 and we're using that in trying to help people.

4 DELEGATE BYRON: Mr. Chairman, I'm trying to  
5 understand Senator Ruff's question, because I know we get  
6 figures like this coming in all the time about workforce grants  
7 and the enrolled and then the completion rate, and there may be  
8 other reasons they haven't completed the certification program  
9 and just like the credentials rate, may not be exactly in line with  
10 how many are enrolled. Is this dealing with the grant or our  
11 scholarship fund, what does that mean?

12 MR. SORRELL: That's coming from the quarterly  
13 report that each of the COEs submit to the Staff, and we pull that  
14 together and make the report. That's the format that describes  
15 the foundational programs that they offer for the community  
16 colleges, as well as the COEs.

17 DELEGATE BYRON: I think we talked about that a  
18 year and a half ago, and I think that you need to revisit that  
19 because I don't know whether that aligns with each one of those.

20 MR. SORRELL: That's something we can definitely do  
21 in the future in working through this process.

22 MS. BLEVINS: Good afternoon, my name Leanna  
23 Blevins, I am the Executive Director of the New College Institute  
24 in Martinsville. Before I start addressing the question that  
25 Senator Ruff brought out, what we do is we start a program and

1 they complete the training hours, and then if they choose not to  
2 complete the credential, obviously, they don't get that credential,  
3 but they have to complete the training hours.

4 Dr. Adams talked about what the COE program has  
5 been doing, but I want to go through a couple of examples about  
6 how we are the current and anticipated industry and finding  
7 relevant programs and also making sure that the pipeline of  
8 students who are interested in the program.

9 Right now, we have every eighth grader in Martinsville  
10 coming to the New College and they're seeing what we're doing  
11 and they're really having fun and they're able to talk with all our  
12 partners and everyone is there to help them answer questions  
13 and give any kind of direction. And if they show interest, which  
14 they do, this is a wonderful opportunity for them.

15 Of course, everyone is interested in what jobs we  
16 have in our region and what it takes to get those jobs and what  
17 it'll be in the future, and that's happening all over. The  
18 community colleges are also partners in what we're doing. Last  
19 week, we had a seminar, and individuals from six different states  
20 and from five different companies, including General Motors and  
21 representatives from Newport News and Martinsville, they were  
22 there 8:00 to 5:00 every day, including some hurricane weather,  
23 and there from 8:00 to 5:00 every day demonstrating training  
24 and showing what it entails. Besides sitting in a lecture hall, also  
25 some demonstrations. They just don't sit all day, they actually

1 participate. We have an attitude of hands-on. We are the  
2 industry niche that provides not only the lectures, but the hands-  
3 on aspect, as well.

4 We're getting feedback about what we've been doing  
5 and about the national and international training to maximize the  
6 efficiency. This has not only helped the company Eastman grow,  
7 but in Kingsport and in Martinsville, but all over Southern  
8 Virginia. We, of course, are always interested in growing our  
9 operation, and we're really invested in this, just as you are. We  
10 also have some top-of-the-line equipment and we're always  
11 interested in adding more and we're planning to do that this fall  
12 so that we'll have the latest equipment and facilities available.

13 And now I'll turn it over to Stephanie.

14 MS. SURRETT: I'm Stephanie Surrett, and I am in  
15 Southwest Virginia in Abingdon. We've been interested and  
16 there seems to be an interest in manufacturing careers. We  
17 have 17 school districts in Southwest Virginia, and we're trying to  
18 get the word out and show the future students what we have and  
19 how we're doing it and try to peak their interest in this. We're  
20 always interested in manufacturers and what they need, but we  
21 can offer these programs to prospective students. We have a  
22 transition program, and we just completed our pilot project in the  
23 Town of Coeburn, and that seems to be working very well. This  
24 has helped us transition in another county. We have a student  
25 that did this and he completed additional training, and now that's

1 up to \$20 an hour. We're trying to train people so they can be  
2 able to get these jobs and are well-paying jobs and stay in the  
3 area. We're working together with other schools and trying to  
4 create interest.

5 As I said, we're trying to transition some of these  
6 programs and get this information out to students and the  
7 general population, as well. And we've been trying to do that.

8 We also have some alternative programs because we  
9 can't always line up exactly what we want and what the students  
10 want as far as when they can get there and what they can  
11 contribute.

12 Of course, with the eye towards employment, we're  
13 working as hard as we can.

14 As far as advanced manufacturing, we have the level  
15 one and level two, and one of the things that I want to mention  
16 is our instructors have to have a certain level of certification in  
17 order to teach, and many of those instructors are also working  
18 full-time. And so it's important that we try to keep a line of  
19 people available that can do this. We currently have three  
20 instructors, and we do have some on-line capabilities, also.

21 We also can customize, so to speak, some of this  
22 training. We're also in contact with the apprenticeship program  
23 in connection with the Department of Labor. Today, we are  
24 having a two-year anniversary. We're just busy trying to create  
25 and think of ways to make our program more available to the

1 general population and especially the young students.

2 We also established the first local, and this is in  
3 connection with the community colleges, and we've started a  
4 program like that. And we feel very fortunate to be able to do  
5 this. We're working with several companies. We, of course,  
6 want to keep our eye on advanced manufacturing in Southwest  
7 Virginia.

8 That's just some of what we're working on. I can go  
9 into it further, but I suppose time is a factor, but that's what  
10 we're working on and we have some very good goals that we're  
11 trying to work with.

12 DELEGATE KILGORE: Thank you. Any questions? All  
13 right, thank you all for that update. We appreciate all the work  
14 you're doing.

15 MR. FEINMAN: Mr. Chairman, back on this project,  
16 we made our first sales pitch, and we feel pretty good about it.  
17 And we're going to start out with some organizations where we  
18 have some contact and I anticipate getting a couple of wins  
19 within the year and we've gathered with some of these  
20 organizations where they could consolidate and support  
21 operations and urban areas to some lower cost areas and  
22 suitable areas in the Southwest.

23 As far as the legislation, if anybody here deals with  
24 legislators, you've got to put in some and a mission --

25 DELEGATE KILGORE: With an eye towards



1 investment?

2 MR. FEINMAN: I'll accept that from any legislative  
3 member.

4 DELEGATE MARSHALL: Can the Governor do that  
5 through the budget?

6 MR. FEINMAN: I don't know if the Governor can deal  
7 with it yet. That would last two years, but our enabling statute,  
8 that's where we'd have to refer to, and I think that would limit  
9 the usefulness if somebody else were to do it, given the time.

10 Now, we will have a reception in our January meeting,  
11 and it'll be a larger reception than usual. All members and  
12 friends of the Commission are encouraged to attend and bring  
13 others and families, because this is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the  
14 Commission. We'll be doing a summation of the work of the  
15 Commission, and we'll have some of the county members there,  
16 former directors and staff. It'll be a good time and it'll be a time  
17 to talk about 20 years of the Commission's work and the total  
18 good we've done across Southwest and Southside. I certainly  
19 want to encourage everybody to look forward to that and we'll  
20 get this information out.

21 Finally, we're going to do something a little unusual.  
22 We have a late-breaking Economic Development matter that  
23 needs to be discussed in closed session, and we'll do that closed  
24 session over where we're going to eat lunch. And so the folks  
25 who are not Commission members or staff, we'll technically

1 reopen on a single TROF.

2 DELEGATE KILGORE: Then let's go ahead and do that  
3 now. Is there anyone that wants to make a public comment,  
4 please come forward.

5 UNIDENTIFIED: I'm a farmer and I've worked in  
6 agriculture all my life, and I'm talking about the Blue Ridge  
7 Plateau. You have information before you.

8 MR. BOYER: I'm Danny Boyer, and working with Blue  
9 Ridge Plateau in Floyd, Carroll, and Grayson, and in many, many  
10 other adjoining areas. We did not have an application in to the  
11 Tobacco Commission for Phase I startup, and this is a structure  
12 that's missing in Southwest Virginia and the whole region around.  
13 We have done due diligence, and thanks to the Tobacco  
14 Commission and ARC, we have a grant and we have plans.

15 The thing that was mentioned in the beginning, and  
16 we know that there is a market for red meat, chicken, goats.  
17 Now, we have anchor businesses that are all ready, but do not  
18 have a facility in our state that they can process these animals  
19 and don't want to send it to Kentucky like a six-hour drive one  
20 way, and we want to get an operation in Grayson County. We  
21 know there's a tremendous need and we've got a feasibility study  
22 of the Grayson Plan, we have a business partner, financial  
23 planner, and with a capital campaign that was upgraded. We  
24 have asked, and thanks to the Tobacco Commission for help a  
25 feasibility study, and this has been a few years ago. We've put a

1 lot of work into it.

2           There is an opportunity for the red meat industry in  
3 our region and with what we've got and the amount of water and  
4 the availability in this area and we can make a difference for  
5 agriculture in the entire region. There's been very few built, I  
6 think there's one in Monterey built several years ago, and that  
7 location is not conducive to all the other, for people coming in the  
8 general area. We've worked with Carroll County and with the  
9 Industrial Park right along 77 and when you consider our  
10 feasibility study, this is a recommended location. There's like 50  
11 to 60 percent with all this traffic, and we have some inroads and  
12 passing by this facility all the time.

13           When you consider all this together, we have the  
14 property to build the facility on and a facility for everyone in our  
15 region to utilize that, and farmers will have an opportunity and  
16 they can join people already marketing, they can come up with  
17 their own. I've had people say we just don't have a place to  
18 process it.

19           So, this is where we are and we've gotten everything  
20 together and we want to get this off the ground. We'd appreciate  
21 any consideration. Not only are we looking at the nonprofit, but  
22 we want to look at the agriculture infrastructure and the  
23 economic development that comes from that.

24           So, we're ready, and we need some assistance, if  
25 possible. If you have any other questions, please let us know.

1 So, we're ready to break ground on the facility to start Phase I.

2 The other thing we've done, and you'll see that in the  
3 little handout, the medical research, and a company in New  
4 England, they're selling the packaging and that explains it a little  
5 bit in there. In Grayson County, we've had 200 of these lambs  
6 that have been born and they're using them in medical research.  
7 There's a tremendous market, but in the end, we need a final  
8 secure facility.

9 So, there's a lot of things going on from the  
10 standpoint of agriculture, and we would appreciate any  
11 consideration. If you have any questions, we'll have our contact  
12 information, how to get in touch with us. And thank you for  
13 allowing us to speak here today.

14 DELEGATE KILGORE: Thank you very much.

15 MR. SPIERS: Does he have a grant application before  
16 us?

17 DELEGATE KILGORE: Do you have a grant application  
18 in yet?

19 MR. BOYER: We did have one for Phase I. I think it  
20 was back in May. We also have one in with ARC and GO Virginia.  
21 We need someone to help us out.

22 DELEGATE KILGORE: Thank you.

23 MS. MARTIN: I'm Ladenna Martin, I'm representing  
24 Floyd County, and I've seen many of you at the meetings, and I  
25 want to thank you for coming here and all the great work you do

1 and I hope you enjoyed your stay here. Thank you all.

2 DELEGATE KILGORE: Thank you and the folks at this  
3 facility. We had a great time last night. Thank you folks.

4 Now, we'll go into executive session, but we'll have to  
5 move across the hall.

6 DELEGATE MARSHALL: I move we go into a closed  
7 meeting, in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information  
8 Act. The purpose of this closed session is to discuss a project in  
9 Southwest Virginia. The subject of this closed session is to  
10 discuss confidential information subject to Section 2.2-  
11 3711(A)(43).

12

13 NOTE: The Commission reconvenes across the hall  
14 from the current meeting room. Whereupon, the closed session  
15 is reopened.

16

17 DELEGATE KILGORE: It's been moved, and we have a  
18 second that we reconvene in open session. We're back in open  
19 session, and we've come out of the executive session.

20 Evan, do you have a motion?

21 MR. FEINMAN: This motion is as a result of the closed  
22 session. The motion is that we will be discussing in the future to  
23 authorize the Executive Director to negotiate the issues involving  
24 the TROF grant and any agreement with the City with a  
25 guaranteed performance whether the subject company is in

1 Washington County or elsewhere.

2 DELEGATE KILGORE: All right, we're now 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, Full Commission Meeting**, when held on Wednesday, September 19, 2018, at 11:00 o'clock a.m., at the Floyd Event Center in Floyd, 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 27<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2018.

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

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: October 31, 2018.