

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

TOBACCO REGION REVITALIZATION COMMISSION

701 East Franklin Street, Suite 501
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Education Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 10, 2019
10:00 o'clock a.m.

General Francis Marion Hotel
107 East Main Street
Marion, Virginia

1 APPEARANCES:

2 The Honorable Frank M. Ruff, Chairman

3 Ms. Rebecca Coleman, Vice Chairman

4 Ms. Gayle F. Barts

5 The Honorable Kathy J. Byron

6 The Honorable A. Benton Chafin, Jr.

7 Dr. Alexis I. Ehrhardt

8 The Honorable Franklin D. Harris

9 Ms. Sandy Ratliff

10 Mr. Cecil E. Shell

11 The Honorable Thomas C. Wright, Jr.

12

13 COMMISSION STAFF:

14 Mr. Evan Feinman, Executive Director

15 Mr. Andy Sorrell, Deputy Director

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

17 Ms. Sarah K. Capps, Grants Program Administrator,
18 Southside Virginia

19 Ms. Sara G. Williams, Grants Program Administrator,
20 Southwest Virginia

21 Ms. Stephanie S. Kim, Director of Finance

22 Ms. Michele Faircloth, Grants Assistant
23 Southside Virginia

24 Ms. Jessica Stamper, Grants Assistant
25 Southwest Virginia

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

COUNSEL FOR THE COMMISSION:

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

1 October 10, 2019

2

3 SENATOR RUFF: Good morning, everyone. Welcome
4 to the Education Committee Meeting, and I'm going to ask Andy
5 to please call the roll.

6 MR. SORRELL: Senator Ruff.

7 SENATOR RUFF: Here.

8 MR. SORRELL: Ms. Coleman.

9 MS. COLEMAN: Here.

10 MR. SORRELL: Delegate Byron.

11 DELEGATE BYRON: Here.

12 MR. SORRELL: Senator Chafin.

13 SENATOR CHAFIN: Here.

14 MR. SORRELL: Ms. Barts.

15 MS. BARTS: Here.

16 MR. SORRELL: Mr. Cunningham.

17 MR. CUNNINGHAM: (No response).

18 MR. SORRELL: Dr. Ehrhardt.

19 DR. EHRHARDT: Here.

20 MR. SORRELL: Mr. Harris.

21 MR. HARRIS: Here.

22 MR. SORRELL: Ms. Ratliff.

23 MS. RATLIFF: Here.

24 MR. SORRELL: Mr. Shell.

25 MR. SHELL: Here.

1 MR. SORRELL: Senator Stanley.

2 SENATOR STANLEY: (No response).

3 MR. SORRELL: Delegate Wright.

4 DELEGATE WRIGHT: Here.

5 MR. SORRELL: You have a quorum, Mr. Chairman.

6 SENATOR RUFF: Can I have a motion for approval of
7 our minutes of 5-29-19? They're on the website. Do I have a
8 motion? All right, I've got a motion and a second. It's been
9 moved and seconded. All in favor, say aye. (Ayes). Opposed?
10 (No response). The minutes are passed.

11 MR. SORRELL: The first item of business is the
12 Extension for the Southwest Virginia Alliance for Manufacturing,
13 Southwest Virginia Advanced Manufacturing Center of Excellence,
14 known as SVAM COE, Number 3100. The Southwest Virginia
15 Alliance for Manufacturing Center of Excellence requests an
16 additional one-year extension on the COE grant, extending the
17 grant into a fifth year. Their Executive Director, Stephanie
18 Surrett, is here and has indicated the extension is necessary to
19 fully expend the grant funds for the COE's programming. The
20 current balance of the Tobacco Commission project account is
21 around \$412,000, or 13 percent of the original \$3.1 million grant
22 award.

23 Staff has received the budget detailing the allocations
24 of the remaining funds for the COE activities. With the grant
25 coming to an end, the Alliance has recently worked with

1 GENEDGE to gain further insight on their value to the local and
2 regional manufacturing industry and how the Center of
3 Excellence can continue to grow as an organization and what
4 paths the COE could take to be sustainable past the end of the
5 Commission's funding.

6 The Staff has reviewed the report-out material from
7 the COE's work with GENEDGE and agrees it provides the key
8 information on what steps are needed to take financial
9 sustainability. The information gained from GENEDGE doesn't
10 mean or take the place of an actual plan for how the Center of
11 Excellence will actually be sustainable in the future.

12 In preparing all this, Staff has requested information
13 on how the Center of Excellence plan to implement the
14 recommendations from GENEDGE. Staff has not received the
15 information and feels that the grant should be extended long
16 enough to close out existing Commission-funded programming.
17 The Staff supports approval of the final extension. The Staff
18 expects to have information in the near future on all this. Staff is
19 looking forward to reviewing this and will make any future
20 recommendations.

21 SENATOR RUFF: Any questions or discussion?

22 MR. HARRIS: Recommend we grant the extension to
23 April 1st, 2020, as the Staff has recommended.

24 SENATOR RUFF: Any discussion?

25 DR. EHRHARDT: Has the information been provided

1 that you wanted?

2 MR. SORRELL: Yes, it's been coming in. They're in
3 compliance with that. They're working towards that goal, as I
4 understand it.

5 SENATOR RUFF: I've got a motion and a second, any
6 further discussion? All those in favor, say aye. (Ayes).
7 Opposed? (No response). That motion carries.

8 All right, what's next?

9 MS. CAPP: The next request is from New College
10 Institute, New College Institute Center of Excellence. They're
11 requesting an extension into the seventh year. It's an additional
12 request for one year, Phase I, Center of Excellence grant, and
13 that would extend it into the seventh year.

14 New College Institute's Executive Director indicated
15 the extension was necessary due to unexpected staff turnover
16 during the period. And New College staff changes include a new
17 coordinator for advanced manufacturing, funded by the grant,
18 and a second staff position that is in the process of being filled.
19 That person would be the coordinator of administration funding.
20 Changes in the Executive Director's position, also.

21 This grant was under a freeze for a year, from
22 September of 2017 until October 1 of 2018, with the exception
23 of critical operation costs, including funding of positions being
24 allowed for reimbursement. The freeze coincided with the
25 original grantee, New College Foundation, to New College

1 Institute.

2 And the balance on the Commission account is
3 \$743,000, including \$27,000, a refund payment was issued in
4 October to correct an accounting error. While the \$7,000-plus
5 balance is 38 percent of the original \$2 million grant award, Staff
6 received a detailed project budget with allocations of remaining
7 funds for the Center of Excellence development activities at the
8 New College.

9 There is complexity of development of the Center of
10 Excellence and the freeze that occurred and the changes in
11 personnel. So, the Staff supports approval of the one-year
12 extension to allow additional time to complete this approved
13 work.

14 So, Staff recommends approval of an extension to
15 September 22, 2020.

16 SENATOR RUFF: Any questions? We have a motion
17 and a second. Why don't you restate that motion.

18 MS. CAPPS. It is moved the Commission accept the
19 Education Committee's recommendation to grant a seventh-year
20 extension to September 22, 2020, for Project Number 2882, New
21 College Institute, Center for Manufacturing Excellence.

22 SENATOR RUFF: All right. All those in favor, say aye.
23 (Ayes). Opposed? (No response). That motion passes.

24 All right, that takes care of our business. Is there any
25 public comment, anyone in the public would like to make a

1 comment? If not, all right, we're adjourned.

2

3

PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED.

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

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 Thursday, October 10, 2019, at 10:00 o'clock a.m., at the General Francis Marion Hotel, 107 East Main Street, Marion, 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 30th day of October, 2019.

Medford W. Howard
CCR