



SOUTHERN VIRGINIA COMMITTEE

Electronic Conference Call Meeting

**Friday, January 8, 2021
2:30 P.M.**

If accessing the meeting from the internet via a computer or smartphone, use this link to access the electronic meeting:

<https://virginiatobaccocommission.my.webex.com/virginiatobaccocommission.my/j.php?MTID=m329ba3c2cb02bc71aafc908bdd7c99ed>

If accessing the meeting by telephone dial: 1-408-418-9388 (US toll) and utilize the meeting number: 132 894 5966# and meeting password: acVXJvy2576 (22895892 from phones and video systems).

If you have any access issues at the time of the meeting, contact Jordan Butler via email at: JButler@revitalizeva.org or call 804-894-9652.

Welcome and Call to Order	<i>The Honorable Edward Owens, Chairman</i>
Items Related to Remote Meeting	<i>Andy Sorrell, Deputy Director</i>
Call of the Roll	<i>Evan Feinman, Executive Director</i>
Approval of <u>09/28/20</u> Minutes	<i>(published on website)</i>
Public Comments	
Election of Vice Chairman	<i>Evan Feinman, Executive Director</i>
Extensions & Modifications	<i>Sarah Capps, Southern Regional Director</i>
Other Business	<i>Evan Feinman, Executive Director</i>
Public Comments	
Adjournment	

FY21 Southern Virginia Committee

January 8, 2021

EXTENSIONS AND MODIFICATIONS

Danville-Pittsylvania Regional Industrial Facilities Authority ***Berry Hill Industrial Park – Site Improvements for Project Lignum (#3358)*** **Request for Approval of Change of Scope, Budget Revision and 5th Year Extension to 1/31/2023**

Staff Overview & Comments: In January 2018, the Commission approved a \$2,624,800 grant to fund site development costs needed to create an 80-90 acre pad site on Lot 8 at the Berry Hill Megasite (now named the Southern Virginia Megasite). At the time, an economic development prospect that would create 80 new jobs and \$120 million of capital investment (Project Lignum) was considering locating there, however, Project Lignum did not proceed.

The RIFA is requesting to repurpose the grant to grade a 65-acre site on Lots 1 & 2 at the Megasite to accommodate a new active prospect—Project Cactus. Project Cactus is a recognized national company estimated to result in \$500 million capital investment and 1,100 direct jobs. This site is one of two finalist sites the prospect is considering. Staff supports the RIFA’s decision to focus on Lots 1 & 2 in order to reserve the larger Lot 8 for an even larger, transformative megaproject. Project Cactus’ aggressive timeline required the RIFA to submit permits to DEQ in December 2020. In November 2020, the Executive Director approved this scope change on an interim basis until the Commission could act at the present meeting. In addition, the change to Lots 1 & 2 from Lot 8 requires a budget revision because the site development work will necessarily be different. All funds will be spent to support site development and associated activities at Lots 1 & 2 at the Megasite.

Although the construction schedule targets completion of site work by the end of 2021, the RIFA is requesting a fifth year extension to January 31, 2023 to provide a buffer to allow construction to continue through 2022 in case unanticipated delays associated with permitting, weather conditions or the ongoing pandemic arise.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends approval of the change of scope, budget revision, and fifth year extension to January 31, 2023.

Lunenburg County ***Acquisition and Development New Industrial Park (#3035)*** **Request for Four-Month Extension to 9/30/2021**

Staff Overview & Comments: In May 2015, the Commission approved a \$550,000 grant to support development of a new industrial park in Lunenburg County. The County used \$72,000 of Commission funds to acquire the 20.95 acre property in 2016. Due to a lack of prioritization and changes in personnel at the County, there was very limited activity on the project during the first four years. In June 2019, the Commission approved a sixth year extension, conditioned upon Staff’s approval of a

revised budget, however, the Committee indicated the extension it granted would be the final extension.

Staff recently approved a budget for the \$483,000 balance of grant funds. The County has worked with Timmons to develop an asbestos abatement and building demolition plans and it has received bids from contractors. The County expects to complete the abatement and demolition work by April 2021, however, removal of the concrete pad requires DEQ approval, and Timmons expects this to require an additional four month extension. The County is requesting approval of an additional four months to complete the work and obtain the necessary DEQ permits.

Staff Recommendation: Staff supports approval of a final four month extension to September 30, 2021 to allow time for completion of the abatement and demolition work and receipt of DEQ permits.

Campbell County

2019 Last Mile Broadband Southeast Project (#3524)

Request to Approve Revised Scope and Budget

Staff Overview & Comments: In June 2019, the Commission approved a \$156,313 grant to support deployment of a wireless broadband service in underserved areas of Campbell County. The Commission was aware of challenges the County faced with the internet service provider (ISP) included in the original approved project and the County has since contracted with a new ISP, B2X. The County received CARES Act funding to install broadband in the areas originally targeted by this grant.

Given that the County has completed the scope of work this grant originally contemplated, the County is requesting a revised scope to install broadband in additional unserved areas of the County. The new area proposed to be targeted is around the Concord region and primarily focuses on Mt. Athos Road and Oxford Furnace Road areas. The revised project scope will result in broadband being made available to more households and businesses than the original scope. If approved, broadband will be made available to an estimated 1,485 households and 144 commercial units, a meaningful increase over the 1,419 households and 38 businesses under the original scope.

Staff Recommendation: The County is to be commended for pursuing other funding opportunities to provide broadband service to underserved communities. The requested change of scope will authorize B2X to serve as the ISP, expand on the tower locations and wireless network established with the CARES Act funding, and make broadband available to additional underserved communities in Campbell County. **Staff recommends approval of the revised scope and budget.**