

**Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission**  
**Southern Virginia Committee Meeting**  
**Inn at Wise, 110 East Main Street, Wise, Virginia**  
**May 21, 2024**  
**3:15 p.m.**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Commissioners Present**

Mr. Walter H. Shelton, Chair	Senator L. Louise Lucas (Remote)
Honorable William A. Pace, Vice Chair	Delegate Daniel W. Marshall, III
Senator Lashrecse D. Aird	Secretary Caren Merrick
Mr. Lee “Randy” Everett	Mr. Arthur Moore
Mr. Watt R. Foster, Jr.	Honorable Frank M. Ruff, Jr.
Mr. Jay D. Jennings (Remote)	Honorable Gary D. Walker

**Absent**

Mr. Joel Cunningham, Jr.	Mr. Richard T. Hite, Jr.
Honorable Thomas A. Garrett, Jr.	

**Staff**

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

**Counsel for the Commission**

Ms. Elizabeth Myers

**Guest**

Mr. David Conmy (Remote), Sussex County Economic Development Director

Southern Virginia Committee Chair Shelton opened the meeting at 3:22 p.m. Campos called roll. Pace moved to approve Commissioner Lucas’s remote participation; Morefield seconded the motion; all members present voted “aye.”

Marshall moved to approve minutes from the previous Southern Virginia Committee meeting on January 8, 2024; Pace seconded the motion; all members present voted “aye.”

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

Capps provided an overview of Agribusiness projects 4216, 4222, and 4225. Ruff moved that the Committee vote to follow staff recommendations for all projects; Aird seconded; all members present voted “aye.”

Capps provided an overview of Business Development projects 4215, 4223, 4217, and 4220. Pace moved that the Committee vote to follow staff recommendations for the whole block of projects; Marshall seconded the motion; all members present voted “aye.”

Jennings arrived late to the meeting remotely. Pace motioned to approve his remote participation; Aird seconded; all members present voted “aye.”

Capps provided an overview of Sites and Infrastructure projects 4212, 4218, 4226, 4219, 4221, and 4224. Aird asked for further clarification for project 4219. Ruff asked for a contingency to be added to project 4221 to include DEQ’s approval for the Sandy River Reservoir in addition to the Town of Farmville water system. Mr. David Conmy, Sussex County Economic Development Director, was present remotely and spoke on behalf of project 4224. Conmy addressed a question from Aird about whether rebranding the grant would change the financial numbers and a question from Marshall about the water usage and population for the site. Pace moved that the Committee vote to follow staff recommendations for projects 4212, 4218, 4226, 4219, and 4224; Ruff seconded the motion; all members present voted “aye.” Pace moved to approve project 4221 with its updated verbiage, and Ruff seconded; all members voted “aye.”

Capps provided an overview of Tourism project 4214. Pace moved that the Committee vote to follow staff recommendation for the project; Aird seconded the motion; all members present voted “aye.”

Capps provided an overview of project 3011 for an extension request. Pace moved that the Committee vote to follow staff recommendation for the project; Ruff seconded the motion; all members present voted “aye.”

Marshall asked for clarification for the following day’s events. Versen explained the Full Commission meeting would be taking place at a secondary location, the DeBusk Veterinary Clinic in Ewing, Virginia. Campos elaborated that the location was encouraging for continued growth and engagement. Shelton adjourned the meeting at 4:19 p.m.