

**Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission**  
**Southern Virginia Committee Meeting**  
**The MET, Patrick & Henry Community College**  
**67 Motorsports Drive, Martinsville, Virginia 23112**  
**Wednesday, September 25, 2024**  
**11:00 a.m.**

Commissioners Present

Mr. Walter H. Shelton, Chair	Honorable Thomas A. Garrett, Jr.
Mr. William A. Pace, Vice-Chair	Mr. Richard T. Hite, Jr. (Remote)
Senator Lashrecse Aird (Remote)	Mr. Jay D. Jennings (Remote)
Ms. Gretchen Clark	Delegate Daniel W. Marshall, III
Ms. Amanda Cox	Secretary Caren Merrick
Mr. Joel Cunningham, Jr. (Remote)	Honorable Frank M. Ruff, Jr.
Mr. Watt R. Foster, Jr.	

Absent

Mr. Lee “Randy” Everett	Mr. Arthur “Dale” Moore
Senator L. Louise Lucas	Honorable Gary D. Walker

Staff

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

Counsel for the Commission

Ms. Elizabeth Myers, Assistant Attorney General

Guests

Mr. Lee Cassada, Executive Director, Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex  
Mr. Matt Rowe, Economic Development Director, Pittsylvania County  
Ms. Corrie Bobe, Director of Economic Development and Tourism for the City of Danville

Southern Virginia Committee Chair Shelton opened the meeting at 11:11 a.m. Director Campos called roll. The meeting did not have a quorum at the outset.

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

**Commission Chair Ruff appointed Commissioner Cox to the Southern Virginia Committee for this meeting to achieve a quorum.**

**Commissioner Pace moved to approve the remote participation of Commissioners Aird, Cunningham, Jennings, and Hite; Commissioner Marshall seconded the motion; all members present voted to approve the motion.**

**Pace moved to approve the meeting minutes from May 21, 2024; Marshall seconded; all members present voted to approve the motion.**

Ms. Humphreys provided an overview of Agribusiness projects 4222, 4269, 4270, and 4274. Regarding project 4269, Marshall asked about the population of Cumberland County and whether it has a farmers' market; Commissioner Garrett replied that the population was about 15,000 but he did not know about a farmers' market. Regarding project 4274, Cox asked if TRRC would continue to work on this project in the future; Humphreys answered that if another application with additional information was submitted in the future, it would be brought before the Committee again. Commissioner Foster endorsed project 4270, and Commissioner Merrick inquired about the current visitation numbers and how this proposal would impact those numbers in the future. Lee Cassada of Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex answered that 30,000 visitors are expected, but without the proposed amenities on site, they are not operating at capacity.

**Pace moved that the Committee vote to follow staff recommendations for projects 4222, 4269, 4270, and 4274; Marshall seconded the motion; all members present voted to approve the motion, except for Shelton, who abstained from voting on project 4270.**

Humphreys provided an overview of Business Development projects 4271, 4276, and 4279. Regarding project 4279, Pace and Foster asked if the matching funds will be acquired within the one-year time frame and if the building integrity is strong enough to deem worthy of the investment. Pittsylvania Economic Development Director Matt Rowe answered that the one-year time frame would be enough and that the building has been checked for structural integrity and determined to be sound. Regarding project 4276, Ruff and Merrick asked about monitoring the project and whether it is comparable to other economic development projects in the footprint. Humphreys answered that the project will be monitored by staff and that yes, it is comparable to other projects.

**Pace moved that the Committee vote to follow staff recommendations for projects 4271, 4276, and 4279; Marshall seconded the motion; all members present voted to approve the motion.**

Humphreys provided an overview of Sites and Infrastructure projects 4212, 4272, 4275, 4278, 4226, 4268, and 4224.

Regarding project 4275, Marshall asked why the Commission's funding offer was less than the ask and whether there was a disagreement about the cost of the project. Humphreys responded that the amount was limited in part by the parameters of the grant round. Corrie Bobe, Director of Economic Development and Tourism for the City of Danville, added that this project is part of a larger site and one piece cannot be completed apart from the rest, so the additional cost request comes from considering the site as a whole rather than solely focusing on the specific piece that was addressed in the application. The Committee discussed additional assistance for the project. Pace suggested adding to the staff recommendation "any (additional) remaining allocated Tobacco funds allocated for the City of Danville," inquiring about project 4275.

**Pace moved that the Committee vote to follow staff recommendations for projects 4212, 4272, 4275, 4278, 4226, 4268, and 4224; Marshall seconded the motion; all members present voted to approve the motion, except for Commissioner Clark who abstained from voting on project 4275.**

Humphreys provided an overview of Tourism projects 4277 and 4273.

**Pace moved that the Committee vote to follow staff recommendations for projects 4277 and 4273; Clark seconded the motion; all members present voted to approve the motion.**

Humphreys provided an overview of projects 3289, 3659, and 3663 for extension requests.

**Pace moved that the Committee vote to follow staff recommendations for projects 3289, 3659, and 3663; Marshall seconded the motion; all members present voted to approve the motion.**

Shelton adjourned the meeting at 12:42 p.m.