

**Executive Committee Meeting  
November 25, 2024, at 3:30 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting  
Minutes**

**Committee Members Present**

Delegate James W. Morefield, Acting Chair  
Senator Lashrecse Aird  
Mr. Edward Blevins  
Ms. Amanda Cox  
Delegate Thomas Garrett, Jr.

Senator T. Travis Hackworth  
Delegate Terry Kilgore  
Delegate Danny Marshall  
Honorable William Pace

**Committee Members Absent**

Senator L. Louise Lucas

Mr. Walter “Buddy” Shelton

**Other Commissioners Present**

Ms. Gretchen Clark  
Mr. Watt Foster

Secretary Matthew Lohr  
Delegate Israel O’Quinn

**Staff**

Honorable James Campos, Director  
Mr. Stephen Versen, Deputy Director  
Mr. Jordan Butler  
Ms. Vicki Humphreys  
Ms. Stephanie Kim

Mr. Jerry Silva  
Ms. Roz Stein  
Ms. Emily Van Pelt  
Ms. Sara Williams

**Counsel**

Ms. Elizabeth Myers, Assistant Attorney General

Commissioner Morefield called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

Executive Director Campos called roll. All members of the Executive Committee were present, with the exception of Commissioners Lucas and Shelton.

**Morefield called for the approval of the minutes from May 9, 2024. Commissioner Marshall moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Kilgore seconded; all members present voted to approve.**

Morefield provided opportunity for public comment; there was none.

The group addressed the upcoming election of the Commission’s new Chair and Vice-Chair, which will take place at the full Commission meeting on January 7, 2025. Morefield confirmed that he will entertain a nomination for each role, and the Commission will vote.

Mr. Silva presented a preview of energy grant applications. Morefield asked for the uncommitted balances for energy projects in Southern and Southwest Virginia; Silva estimated that Southwest has almost \$4M and Southern has approximately \$4.5M.

Campos introduced a discussion around grant policy clarification, beginning with his plan to establish a Blue Ribbon Committee tasked with reviewing current grant policies and processes to find enhancements. The group discussed who will sit on this committee; Campos recommended a mix of members and non-members of the Commission. Kilgore asked if the creation of this committee will be approved by the Executive Committee or the full Commission; Campos recommended approval by the full Commission, followed by staff will recommendations of people to join the committee.

Ms. Humphries gave an overview of funding mechanisms. The Commission awards grants to public entities and loans to private entities; currently there is no mechanism for providing direct grants to

private entities. The Commission has a long history of reducing its risk by working through non-profit and governmental entities. Staff members need clear direction from the Commission on the prospect of making direct grants to private entities given that the Energy Ingenuity Fund is attracting interest from private companies.

Kilgore noted that the only way to address the workforce housing issue is through grants to private companies. Ms. Myers confirmed that the code does not define who is eligible to receive a TRRC grant, but the code does require TRRC to follow its strategic plan, which has always defined eligible grantees as localities and non-profits. Marshall suggested that the Commission make loans to localities for projects related to workforce housing, such as infrastructure development, and let the Governor's new workforce housing program make grants to companies from the \$15M per year that will be available through Virginia Housing. Commissioner Foster agreed that TRRC should concentrate on supporting localities that seek to develop the infrastructure that will allow private entities to build housing. Mr. Versen added that, with Virginia Housing in the lead, TRRC can get involved in relevant economic development projects. Marshall suggested reviewing the Governor's plan with an eye toward gaps that TRRC can fill with its funding. Morefield asked whether the ability to award grant funds to private entities would make the pilot program more attractive; Campos said that it will. Morefield suggested that the Strategic Planning Committee could consider addressing the issue in the upcoming strategic plan. Morefield and Versen discussed the need to develop means to support existing businesses and their operations.

Versen continued the discussion around providing grant funds to private entities with a focus on the Energy Ingenuity Fund, which has received such grant applications. Commissioner Garrett noted that the involvement of private entities in these projects is necessary, but because the potential for abuse or the perception of abuse of funds is always a concern, TRRC should maintain arm's length by awarding grant funds to localities or non-profits who then may support projects by private entities in accordance with the terms of their award agreements with TRRC. Morefield added that when a project is in default, the locality is responsible for repaying the funds.

The group discussed changing the Commission meeting schedule from three to four meetings per year, with the fourth meetings being held virtually on a single day during summer. Commissioner Pace inquired how much additional work a fourth meeting would create for staff; Campos said these meetings would be more targeted, with possibly two committees and the full commission meeting, which would increase staff workload but not as much as adding another set of two-day meetings. Morefield added that he is open to adding a fourth meeting; Kilgore agreed. Garrett expressed concern about the additional work a fourth meeting would add for commissioners and asked what we would gain by adding a fourth meeting and what we lost by decreasing the meetings from four to three. Kilgore responded that having four meetings allows the Commission to react more quickly to urgent issues because there is less time between meetings; additionally, the Commission has more going on now than it did when that change was made, such as the energy fund and other new initiatives. Blevins would be in favor of adding a fourth, virtual meeting, adding that we may have missed some opportunities because of the timing of the meetings. Versen added that, if a fourth meeting is added, we could explore ways to adjust our operations, such as moving from annual to six-month or rolling cycles for some programs. Morefield expressed support for a six-month cycle, and Foster expressed support for rolling cycles, both in the interest of not missing opportunities. Marshall inquired how many virtual meetings the code allows; Myers confirmed that fifty percent of the meetings may be virtual, but there may not be two consecutive virtual meetings. Versen is updating the Commission's virtual meeting policy. Morefield acknowledged that, based on this conversation, staff can move forward on a proposal to the Commission.

Morefield asked Campos to clarify the purpose of the new Blue Ribbon Committee. Campos explained that the group will look at the Commission operations to update its processes and to increase its productivity, efficiency, and responsiveness; an assessment like this hasn't been done since 2015.

There was no other business.

Morefield adjourned the meeting at 4:54 p.m.