

Virginia Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission
Southern Virginia Committee Meeting
Hilton Richmond Downtown
501 E. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219
Monday, January 6, 2025
2:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present

Mr. Walter H. Shelton, Chair	Delegate Thomas A. Garrett, Jr. (Remote)
Mr. William A. Pace, Vice-Chair	Mr. Richard T. Hite, Jr.
Senator Lashrecse Aird (Remote)	Mr. Jay D. Jennings (Remote)
Mr. Wayne Carter	Senator L. Louise Lucas (Remote)
Ms. Gretchen Clark	Delegate Daniel W. Marshall, III (Remote)
Mr. Joel Cunningham, Jr.	Secretary Caren Merrick
Mr. Randy Everett	Mr. Arthur “Dale” Moore
Mr. Watt R. Foster, Jr. (Remote)	Mr. Hampton Wilkins

Staff

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

Counsel for the Commission

Ms. Elizabeth Myers, Assistant Attorney General

Southern Virginia Committee Chair Shelton opened the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Commissioner Pace moved to approve the remote participation of Commissioners Aird, Foster, Garrett, Foster, Jennings, Lucas, and Marshall; Commissioner Cunningham seconded the motion; all members voted to approve the motion.

Director Campos called roll and determined that a quorum was present.

Pace moved to approve the minutes from the previous Southern Virginia Committee meeting on September 25, 2024; Cunningham seconded the motion; all members voted to approve the motion.

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

Ms. Van Pelt presented an extension request for project #3590.

Marshall moved to approve the staff recommendation for a final, one-year extension to the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research for project #3590, Controlled Environment Agriculture; Increasing and Diversifying Agribusiness in Southern Virginia Pace seconded the motion; all members voted to approve the motion.

Deputy Director Versen brought forth new business.

Ms. Humphreys presented information about a grant proposal from the Small Business Development Center, who wanted the proposal to be considered out of cycle, to establish a technical assistance program for companies that are engaging in the development of intellectual property in the tobacco footprint. The program would be based primarily in the Southern Virginia region and led by the Longwood Small Business Development Center. Humphreys brought up the proposal because it may be considered out of cycle.

Commissioner Hite spoke about the wish to present before the Commission a migrant workforce housing program that will help facilitate improving already-built housing or building new construction. Ms. Capps suggested leaving it open to staff to develop a proposal or to work with another organization to do so. Jennings would like to see a proposal move forward and noted that the last draft proposal on this topic was worked on two years ago without resolution. Shelton suggested that Hite work with staff and act as a liaison between TRRC's Southern office and the industry.

Shelton adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m.