

**Minutes**  
**Legislation and Policy Committee Meeting**  
**Board of Directors of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership**  
**March 6, 2024**  
**2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

**One James Center, 9th Floor – Board Room**  
**Richmond, Virginia**

**Welcome and Call to Order**

Acting Chair Carrie Chenery called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m. She noted that the Committee did not have a quorum of its members present for the meeting, so no votes would be taken.

In-person Committee members: Carrie Chenery, John Hewa, Steven Stone, and Bill Hayter (ex officio)

Committee members absent: Nancy Agee, Anne Oman, Marianne Radcliff, and Nick Rush

Other in-person Board members: Secretary Stephen Cummings, Rick Harrell, Pace Lochte, Secretary Caren Merrick, and Will Sessoms

**Public Comment Period**

Acting Chair Chenery solicited public comments. There were none.

**Approval of Minutes for December 6, 2023**

Approval of minutes was not considered due to lack of quorum.

**Legislative Update**

Acting Chair Chenery said that since the Committee last met in December, 2023, a special election was held to fill two vacant seats: House District 48 by Eric Phillips and Senate District 9 by Tammy Mulchi.

Acting Chair Chenery introduced Nicole Riley to provide an update on the 2024 General Assembly Session and other legislative highlights.

Ms. Riley provided a recap and statistics from the 2024 General Assembly session.

## **2024 Session Recap**

- 2024 General Assembly Regular Session convened January 10, 2024
- Each Chamber passed their budgets on February 22, 2024
- Sine Die – March 9, 2024
- Reconvened Session – scheduled for Wednesday, April 17, 2024

## **2024 Session Statistics**

- 2400+ Bills introduced
- 6 agency bills
- 198 Bills tracked by VEDP
  - Economic development-driven bills
  - Energy bills
  - Housing bills
- 20+ Legislative Action Summaries

Ms. Riley reviewed the timeline for the end of session. She shared that the General Assembly is scheduled to reconvene on Wednesday, April 17. She explained that this is when General Assembly members will return for a one-day session to address vetoes by Governor Youngkin, amendments to bills, and the Governor's amendments to the budget.

Ms. Riley said that VEDP will be conducting a bill review of final bills and submitting recommendations to the Administration as they work through those bills over the next 30 days.

Ms. Riley provided a thorough review of VEDP's Legislative Proposals and the status of each. She also highlighted several other economic development-related bills and their current status.

Ms. Riley spoke about the Virginia Business Ready Expedited Permitting Program bills which would allow VEDP to designate up to 2 sites and 4 projects to participate in the program. The bills set timelines for agency review, protect public comment, and will sunset after 3 years. Meeting attendees engaged in a discussion about the impacts of the bills.

Ms. Riley spoke about bills that would impact data centers. She said a forthcoming Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission (JLARC) report will take an in-depth look at data centers, including sales and use tax exemptions, environmental impacts, zoning requirements, etc.

Secretary Merrick spoke about the various stakeholders who have been involved in providing information for the JLARC report on data centers. She highlighted the importance of maintaining Virginia's leadership in data centers, so that the Commonwealth may remain competitive for future projects.

Attendees engaged in a robust discussion on data centers, including the energy needs of these projects and how Virginia is planning to meet these needs.

**Closed Session**

A motion was made by Mr. Stone and seconded by Mr. Hewa to move into a closed meeting. The members unanimously approved the motion shown below.

I move that the Legislation and Policy Committee of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership Authority convene a closed meeting to discuss elements of VEDP’s Strategic Plan, Marketing Plan, and Operational Plan pursuant to Subdivision A 50 of §2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, which allows for the discussion of such activities that would reveal to Commonwealth’s competitors for economic development projects the strategies intended to be deployed, thus adversely affecting the financial interests of the Commonwealth.

**Return to Open Meeting, Certification of Closed Meeting – Followed by a Roll Call Vote:**

Ms. Wallmeyer read the following certification and then conducted a roll call vote:

Do you certify, that to the best of your knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of FOIA were discussed in the closed meeting, and (ii) only such matters as were identified in the motion to go into the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered during the closed meeting?

Upon the vote:      Ms. Chenery    Aye  
                              Mr. Hewa        Aye  
                              Mr. Hayter     Aye  
                              Mr. Stone       Aye

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, Acting Chair Chenery adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lesley Brown