

**Minutes**  
**Legislation and Policy Committee Meeting**  
**Board of Directors of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership**  
**April 28, 2021**  
**3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**  
**[Zoom Meeting]**

**Welcome and Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Chair Marianne Radcliff, who noted that a quorum was present.

Members present: Chair Marianne Radcliff, Carrie Chenery, Deborah Flippo, Vince Mastracco, and Ned Masee, *ex officio*

Members absent: Bill Hayter and Dan Pleasant

Other Board Members: Secretary Brian Ball, Dan Clemente, and Rick Harrell

VEDP staff present: Lindsay Barker, Vince Barnett, Christine Bell, Jamie Canup, Jason El Koubi, Stephanie Florie, Sharon Grant, Sandi McNinch, Lori Melancon, Debbie Melvin, Stephen Moret, Christy Morton, Jordan Snelling, Tim Stuller, and Carrie Vuori

Guests present: Charles Kennington, Kim McKay, Deputy Secretary Cass Rasnick, and Assistant Secretary Turner Widgen

**Opening Remarks**

Chair Radcliff welcomed guests to the electronic meeting of VEDP's Legislation and Policy Committee. Chair Radcliff shared these remarks: "As you well know, the Governor declared a state of emergency in March due to the potential spread of COVID-19. Because an in-person meeting is unsafe and we wish to discharge our lawful purposes, duties and responsibilities, we are permitted by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, as amended by the State Budget, to meet by electronic means without a quorum of our members being physically assembled at one location.

We are gathered now in a Zoom environment that is open to the public. Should anyone from the public get disconnected from the public Zoom environment and be unable to re-engage, he or she should call (804) 385-3517 and speak to Stephanie Florie. We will do our best to re-engage and will halt the public portion of the meeting until the connection can be re-established.

Here are reminders of a few things that will be different than our in-person meetings:

- Everything on the public Zoom environment will be recorded, and the recording will be posted on VEDP's website.
- All votes will be taken by roll call.

- Please use the mute function unless you are speaking—and remember to unmute at the appropriate time.
- During the public comment period, any member of the public wishing to make a comment may simply unmute and speak at that time or use the Chat function and ask to be given an opportunity to speak.
- Likewise, committee members may simply unmute themselves to speak or use the Chat function during the meeting.”

**Public Comment Period**

Chair Radcliff solicited public comments. There were none.

**Approval of Minutes for March 17, 2021 Meeting**

Chair Radcliff asked for approval of the minutes from the March 17, 2021, meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Chenery and seconded by Mr. Mastracco, and the minutes were approved as presented by roll call vote:

Upon the vote:	Ms. Radcliff	Aye
	Ms. Chenery	Aye
	Ms. Flippo	Aye
	Mr. Hayter	Absent for vote
	Mr. Mastracco	Aye
	Mr. Pleasant	Absent for vote

**Recap of Reconvened Session** – Christy Morton

Ms. Morton began by sharing that the General Assembly reconvened for one day on April 7 to consider the Governor’s amendments to legislation and the budget. She mentioned that overall, there were no significant amendments impacting our economic development work at VEDP.

Ms. Morton mentioned that the most notable amendment approved during the reconvened session was the legalization of marijuana beginning July 1, 2021; initially, set for July 1, 2024. The amendment also included specific language to create a Cannabis Control Authority. Ms. Morton explained that the authority would have the ability to revoke a businesses’ license if they interfere with union organizing efforts or fail to pay a prevailing wage as defined by the U.S. Department of Labor. This provision has a reenactment clause for the 2022 session.

Ms. Morton shared that the General Assembly is likely to return for another special session later in the summer to appropriate any funds the Commonwealth may receive under President Biden’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Ms. Morton explained that the U.S. Department of the Treasury would develop the necessary spending guidance, policies, and reporting requirements for the money to be allocated to the states and localities. The policy framework should be in place by mid-May.

**Upcoming Elections** – Christy Morton

Ms. Morton shared that the top three statewide offices and all 100 House of Delegate seats are up for election this fall. She said the two major political parties had selected different methods to choose their candidates.

Ms. Morton explained that on May 8, 2021, the Republican party would host a nominating convention for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General. She said this convention would be a remote voting convention with several polling locations across the state.

Ms. Morton mentioned that on June 8, 2021, the Democratic party would hold a primary for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General and the House of Delegates. The Republican party will also hold a primary on June 8 for all other House of Delegates districts not previously determined by other conventions.

Ms. Morton said Election Day would be on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. This includes the General Election for Gubernatorial, other statewide offices, and House races.

Ms. Morton then reviewed candidates running for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Attorney General. In addition to statewide offices, Ms. Morton shared that there will be at least four new delegates in 2022, with Delegates Nick Rush, Hala Ayala, Kirk Cox, and Mark Cole not seeking re-election. Ms. Morton said she would provide an update at the June board meeting, following the convention and primaries.

#### **General Assembly Review of Tax Policies** – Christy Morton

Ms. Morton mentioned that this summer, the General Assembly will begin reviewing the Commonwealth's tax policies. She explained there were several items in the General Assembly session that directed the state to reexamine specific tax policies. First, Ms. Morton shared that Senator Howell established a Joint Subcommittee on Tax Policy to evaluate and make recommendations on potential changes to Virginia's tax policies. Next, Ms. Morton mentioned HJ563, directing the Division of Legislative Services (DLS) to establish a group to assess transitioning to a unitary combined reporting system and HJ567, directing the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) to study increasing the progressivity of Virginia's individual income tax system. Finally, Ms. Morton stated that VEDP would monitor the various initiatives and participate as needed.

#### **Open Discussion and Anticipated Topics for Next Meeting**

Ms. Chenery mentioned the Committee should discuss the gubernatorial transition. Chair Radcliff thought Ms. Chenery's suggestion was a good idea, and she suggested the Committee discuss ways VEDP can help communicate the importance of economic development.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Chair Radcliff adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Bell  
Acting Recording Secretary